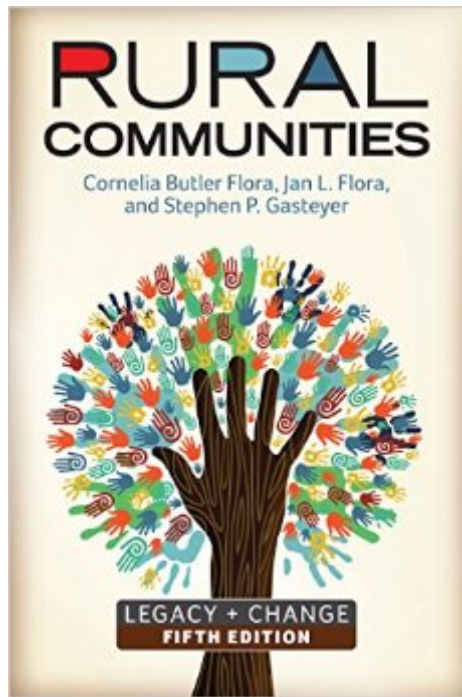


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# Rural Communities: Legacy + Change



## Synopsis

Communities in rural America are a complex mixture of peoples and cultures, ranging from miners who have been laid off in West Virginia, to Laotian immigrants relocating in Kansas to work at a beef processing plant, to entrepreneurs drawing up plans for a world-class ski resort in California's Sierra Nevada. *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change* uses its unique Community Capitals framework to examine how America's diverse rural communities use their various capitals—natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial, and built—to address the modern challenges that face them. Each chapter opens with a case study of a community facing a particular challenge, and is followed by a comprehensive discussion of sociological concepts to be applied to understanding the case. This narrative, topical approach makes the book accessible and engaging for undergraduate students, while its integrative approach provides them with a framework for understanding rural society based on the concepts and explanations of social science. This fifth edition is updated throughout with 2013 census data and features new and expanded coverage of health and health care, food systems and alternatives, the effects of neoliberalism and globalization on rural communities, as well as an expanded resource and activity section at the end of each chapter.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here's an example of business butting heads with government; a rancher gets fed up with Colorado elk damaging his fences, but the state wildlife authorities always say the same thing; no shooting! He organizes a conference with the authorities, local hunters, ranchers, farmers, and whether they're invited or not, the tree huggers. Both sides dislike each other; the ranchers think of environmentalists as a nuisance, and the environmentalists regard the ranchers as resource-raiders. They do have something in common, in that they both want the elk to live. Without the elk, there won't be any hunting. But at the same time, without the rancher's cows, there won't be any burgers, and the meat industry will lose jobs. The conflict between the rancher and the wildlife authorities is one of many examples that the author gives in his book. Rural Communities discusses how far flung and remote communities can collectively effect change, but it requires a great deal of grass-roots effort. Unenlightened about progressive ways, the locals, whether rich or poor, can have a tough time working together to achieve goals. If a town depends on a coal mine for jobs, and the people want something done about pollution, there will be conflict. In the chapter Culture Capital and the Family, we see how the rural working class miners, loggers, and farmers clash with the educated residents. The working classes may view the more educated ones as an adversary, but at the same time, the farmers will suffer if mine tailings pollute the water. If the forest is logged down to stumps, there won't be any deer hunting. If the water is silted from strip mining, you can forget about fishing. Another issue in this book with regard to economics is the conflict between industry and education.

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