

**The World  
Transformed**

## **The Urban Housing Crisis**

### **Overview:**

'The housing market has in recent years become one of the central pillars of global financial capitalism.' – Raquel Rolnik

In these politically uncertain times, the housing crisis has become a key driver creating and fuelling the inequalities of a divided nation.

The post-war social contract has broken down and market led approaches to public goods have accelerated. While sheer wealth is accumulated at the top, genuinely affordable housing is destroyed. This has led to the displacement of communities, increased incidence of mental health problems, and a loss of lives.

These resources show how housing has been transformed from being a social good to a means of capital accumulation around the globe.

**Have a look at LBC's guide to organising your own reading group to find out how to do your own.**

### **Questions for your discussion:**

- What do people mean when they say that the housing crisis is about inequality rather than supply/demand?
- Why did the emphasis shift from 'use-value' to 'exchange-value' in relation to housing?
- How have housing and real estate become some of the main processes driving contemporary capitalism?
- How do we reclaim housing for the many, not the few?

### **Key Resources to discuss:**

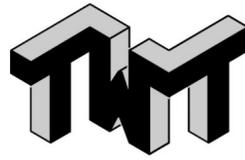
'The Permanent Crisis of Housing' by David Madden and Peter Marcuse (Article):

<https://bit.ly/2LPzZTX>

'A Housing Economy for the Many' by Elizabeth Capelle (Article): <https://bit.ly/2KENEWj>

'A Tale of Three Cities' by David Harvey (Article): <https://bit.ly/2GsDe0l>

'Real Estate Capitalism and Gentrification with Samuel Stein' (Podcast): <https://bit.ly/2Z833ZH>



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## Optional:

'Big Capital: Who Is London For?' by Anna Minton (Book): <https://bit.ly/2z8DLjj>

'Urban Warfare: Housing Under the Empire of Finance' by Raquel Rolnik (Book):  
<https://bit.ly/2KQvVAo>

'All That Is Solid: The Great Housing Disaster' by Danny Dorling (Book): <https://bit.ly/2KS4ZjW>

'The Right to the City: A Verso Report' (eBook): <https://bit.ly/2NgSVeW>

'Interview with Guilherme Boulos, leader of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Teto (Homeless Workers Movement) or MTST' (Article): <https://bit.ly/31NuSbc>