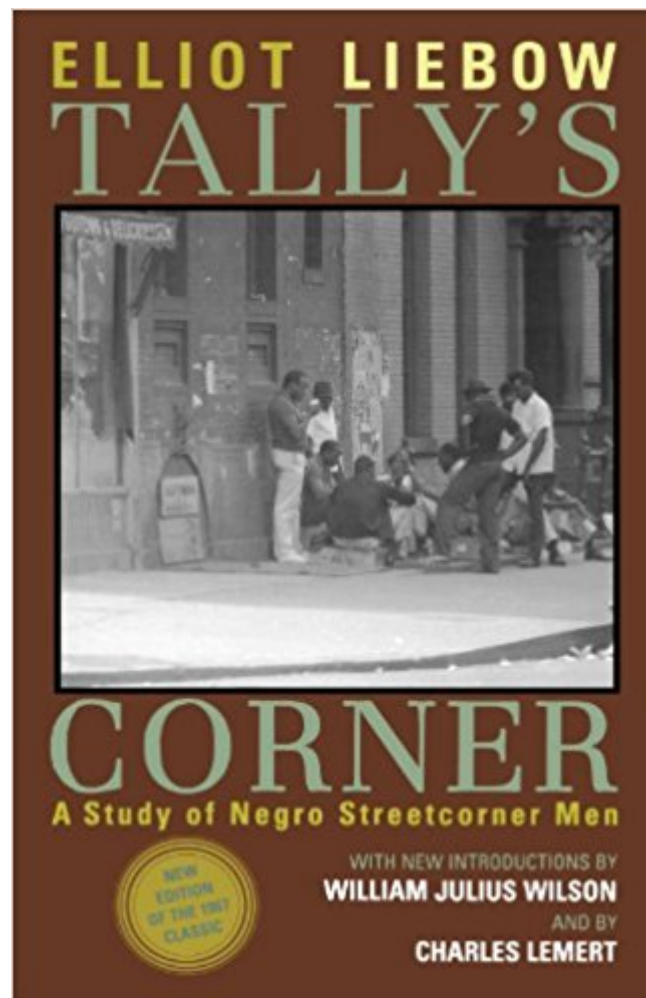




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Tally's Corner: A Study Of Negro Streetcorner Men (Legacies Of Social Thought Series)



Synopsis

The first edition of Tally's Corner, a sociological classic selling more than one million copies, was the first compelling response to the culture of poverty thesis—that the poor are different and, according to conservatives, morally inferior—and alternative explanations that many African Americans are caught in a tangle of pathology owing to the absence of black men in families. The debate has raged up to the present day. Yet Liebow's shadow theory of values—especially the values of poor, urban, black men—remains the single most parsimonious account of the reasons why the behavior of the poor appears to be at odds with the values of the American mainstream. While Elliot Liebow's vivid narrative of "street-corner" black men remains unchanged, the new introductions to this long-awaited revised edition bring the book up to date. Wilson and Lemert describe the debates since 1965 and situate Liebow's classic text in respect to current theories of urban poverty and race. They account for what Liebow might have seen had he studied the street corner today after welfare has been virtually ended and the drug economy had taken its toll. They also take stock of how the new global economy is a source of added strain on the urban poor. Discussion of field methods since the 1960s rounds out the book's new coverage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tally's Corner is an important book for anyone seeking to understand America. (Herbert Gans, author of Democracy and the News) Whenever and wherever people come out of the dark to face

the shadow of America's befuddled relation to the Black man of the city, Tally's Corner is somewhere on the penumbra of consciousness, serving as a lifeline against the currents of ill-informed racist blather about urban poverty. . . . The story of the Black man of the city is ultimately the story of the modern city itself, and in turn of the postmodern global economy. It is a story that is nowhere near its final chapter. (Charles Lemert, Andrus Professor of Sociology, Wesleyan University)

From Reviews of the First Edition: Elliot Liebow is an honest and talented anthropologist who can see clearly, feel unashamedly, and write a straight lively sentence. His book, Tally's Corner . . . emerges as a valuable and even surprising triumph. *—* Sunday New York Times This is a sharp, hard-hitting observation of a segment of life and society in action. *—* Washington Star Nothing short of brilliant *—* a work of importance *—* Daniel Patrick Moynihan

The true mark of a classic book is whether it can withstand the test of time. [Liebow's] arguments concerning the work experience and family life of black street-corner men in a Washington, D.C. ghetto still ring true today. . . . In the last three decades, low-skilled African-American males have encountered greater difficulty gaining access to jobs, even menial jobs. (William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Harvard University)

From Reviews of the First Edition: Elliot Liebow is an honest and talented anthropologist who can see clearly, feel unashamedly, and write a straight lively sentence. His book, Tally's Corner . . . emerges as a valuable and even surprising triumph. *—* Sunday New York Times This is a sharp, hard-hitting observation of a segment of life and society in action. *—* Washington Star Nothing short of brilliant *—* a work of importance *—* Daniel Patrick Moynihan

It's a remarkable book, an academic work - it grew out of Liebow's doctoral thesis - that isn't dry or boring. It's an in-depth look at a group of men who routinely hung out on a Washington street corner in the early 1960s. These are poor men, flawed men, unemployed and underemployed men. But they are treated with respect. And although Liebow used pseudonyms, giving the men such names as Tally, Sea Cat, Richard and Leroy, they come across as flesh-and-blood individuals. When Tally's Corner was published in 1967, the New York Times called it "a valuable and even surprising triumph." The late senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) called it "nothing short of brilliant." (The Washington Post)

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Elliot Liebow (1925-1994) served as chief of the Center for the Study of Work and Mental Health of the National Institute of Mental Health. Liebow wrote *Tally's Corner* as his Ph.D. dissertation at the Catholic University of America. He also published *Tell Them Who I Am*, a study of homeless women in America, in 1993.

As an immigrant from UK, and unfamiliar with the topic from any angle whatsoever, this small book was packed with extraordinary observations I found to be exceptionally informative, helping me to overcome misinformation and prejudices I didn't even know I had. It was humbling and necessarily so. It speaks clearly to the intensely conflicted dilemma of chronically poor black men and their families during the fifties but has relevance in understanding the continuing dilemma of the great number of still struggling black families of today and it is a sad fact that there still seem to be so many. The study is rich with little known facts (to me and others like me) about the economic realities and struggles of black people caught in circumstances beyond their control and the various coping behaviors that at times were so utterly self defeating. If nothing else, my heightened awareness of the complex variables that come into play in the experiences of suffering in any marginalized group, made it worth reading. A fine study, should be required reading for high school students, particularly those in privileged private settings, who might become aware of their own sense of entitlement and how that impacts race relations. It provides a rare inside glimpse to a minority experience most of us will never ever be able to comprehend, though we need to make the effort. Ignorance is no excuse for prejudice but it is the main cause of it.

Elliot Liebow's *Talley's Corner* looks into the lives of a collection of poor black in Washington D.C. It is dated. When this was written, in the 1960's, there was no AIDS, minimum wage was around a dollar, most of the Vietnam war was in the future, as was LBJ's the 'War on Poverty'. Even so, Liebow's insights into human relations transcend race, poverty, location, and time. This very readable little book should be on the reading list of all students of the human condition.

One of the many results of being disfranchised.

Read it in college in the '60s. Good for a reread. Every Republican should but won't read it. Timeless.

This work, aside from all useful insight into inner city culture, is able to offer the perspective

qualitative research a good example of how to construct observation and insider knowledge into one. When writing-up qualitative research it is often hard to determine what balance between observation and insider language must be presented to convince the reader. This book, by its example, provides a very successful model that can be used by almost anyone. Simply stated, you must get this book in order to improve your qualitative research. Good luck!!!

Excellent insight into the thoughts and behavior of poor black men.

A book that needs to be revisited.....the status of these men have not improved....we can't afford to let out of sight out of mind run our actions.

This is an excellent piece of literature for all readers especially African Americans especially. This book tells of our heritage and struggled in the inner city.

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