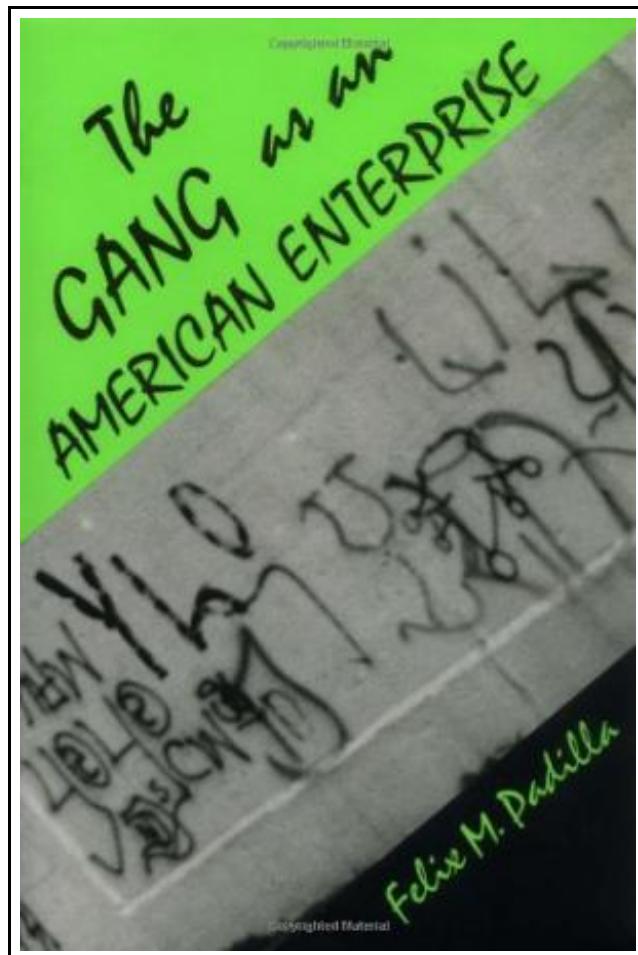


The Gang as an American Enterprise



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Rutgers University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 214 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.6in. Padilla writes with earnestness and concern . . . the author never exploits or sensationalizes the kids he has written about . . . this is vastly preferable to other recent titles on this timely subject. - Publishers Weekly This is the most thorough look at the operation of a violent street gang. - Library Journal Makes a unique contribution to the literature on Puerto Rican ethnicity, a turf already centrally occupied by the author. - Jeffrey Fagan, Rutgers University Padilla has dealt with gang drug dealing-one of the more sensationalized features of urban life-in a down-to-earth and realistic fashion. The reader begins to understand poor minority adolescents in a broad sociological context. This book is a significant contribution to urban ethnography. - Joan Moore, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee The Diamonds are a Chicago street gang whose members are second-generation Puerto Rican youths. For Felix Padilla the young men who join the Diamonds have made a logical choice. The gang is an alternative and dependable route to emotional support, self-respect, material goods, and upward mobility. Although Padilla shares the same ethnic background as the gang members and also grew up in a Chicago barrio, gaining the trust of the Diamonds was not easy. But eventually he was able to get close enough to the members to interview and observe them. Padilla shows us the process behind the decision to join the Diamonds. From early childhood, boys develop positive images of the gang. They realize that the dominant culture promises mobility, but that their paths to the mobility are blocked. By joining a gang they can creatively oppose the dominant culture. Padilla does not paint a romanticized picture of the Diamonds. Some members come to understand that when they sell...

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