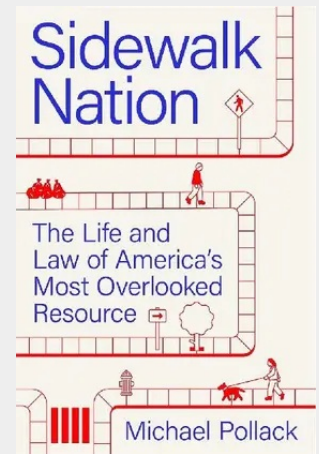


Sidewalk Nation

An illuminating ramble along the American sidewalk: routinely unnoticed, yet central to daily life, neighborhood vitality, and significant legal controversies. Public infrastructure is as essential to our communities as it is easily overlooked. A case in point is the humble sidewalk: constantly taken for granted, yet linked to nearly every pressing issue of local governance in urban, suburban, and even rural areas. From commerce, taxes, and property rights to policing, homelessness, and surveillance; from free speech and socioeconomic equity to public health and climate resilience—sidewalks, surprisingly, are at the core of numerous major debates. *Sidewalk Nation* offers a vivid travelogue spanning more than a dozen cities and towns across the United States to show how diverse communities are grappling with big challenges. Some are prosaic, if critical: How do we ensure that sidewalks facilitate mobility for disabled people? Whose job is it to clear snow from public space? And some touch on the most profound issues in law, including our rights under the First and Fourth Amendments. While traversing the country, Michael Pollack provides expert insight into the property, tax, and zoning laws that shape sidewalk management and land use more broadly. Offering a holistic vision for improving a vital resource, Pollack argues for reforms to ensure that local governments have both the obligation and the funding needed to give due attention to sidewalks and all that they offer. Whether elected officials, civil servants, engineers, developers, or voters, everyone has a stake in the question of where sidewalks should be placed and how they should be used. Indeed, as *Sidewalk Nation* makes clear, what's under our feet should be at the front of our minds as we decide how to build, regulate, and protect our neighborhoods.



33,00 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

*vorbestellbar, Erscheinungstermin ca.
Juni 2026*

Artikelnummer: 9780674296411
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-0-674-29641-1
Verlag: Harvard University Press
Erscheinungstermin: 02.06.2026
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2026
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 699 g
Seiten: 344
Format (B x H): 156 x 235 mm



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14.09.2026 | 01:11 Uhr

