

A ride along Chicago's red line

Several passengers in one carriage of an “L” train, rattling south on the underground line to Chicago metro station, are **unmistakably bourgeois**. A grey-haired woman **squints** at a book of 501 French verbs. Some seats on, an artist **doodles** on his pad.

unmistakably 清楚地; 明白地

bourgeois 中产阶级

squint 斜视

doodle 涂鸦

Many **well-heeled** occupants get off the Red line — a rail service running north-south for 23 miles — at Streeterville, a district where signs of **prosperity abound**.

well-heeled 富有的

prosperity 富有; 繁荣

abound 大量存在; 充满

demolish 拆除; 破坏

Return to the train and much changes the farther south you ride. Passengers are younger, less **ostentatiously** set on self-improvement. A guard in a stab-vest, his hand on a **canister** of pepper **spray**, steps in. He confides that he is tracking a suspect. At Roosevelt station, the Red line runs outside, giving glimpses of a changing city that grows **noticeably** poorer.

ostentatiously 招摇地; 炫耀地

canister 筒; 罐

spray 喷雾

noticeably 显著地; 明显地

In the south passengers step out to **exhaust fumes** and noise. Leave with them and you can spend an afternoon in depopulating Englewood, seeing a **crumbling** city that is **strikingly** different from the prosperous one 20 minutes to the north.

exhaust fume 尾气; 废气

crumble 崩溃; 粉碎

strikingly 显著地; 突出地

ghetto 贫民区

The differences in life expectancy between rich, white northern districts and black southern ones are mostly a reminder that Chicago never broke up its racial “**ghettoes**”, says Rob Paral, a demographer. Poor and black residents were shuffled to the south when the city **demolished**

public housing in the 1960s and 1970s. Now black folks are being squeezed again from places like Englewood as people flee violence, poverty and broken housing, often leaving the city entirely.