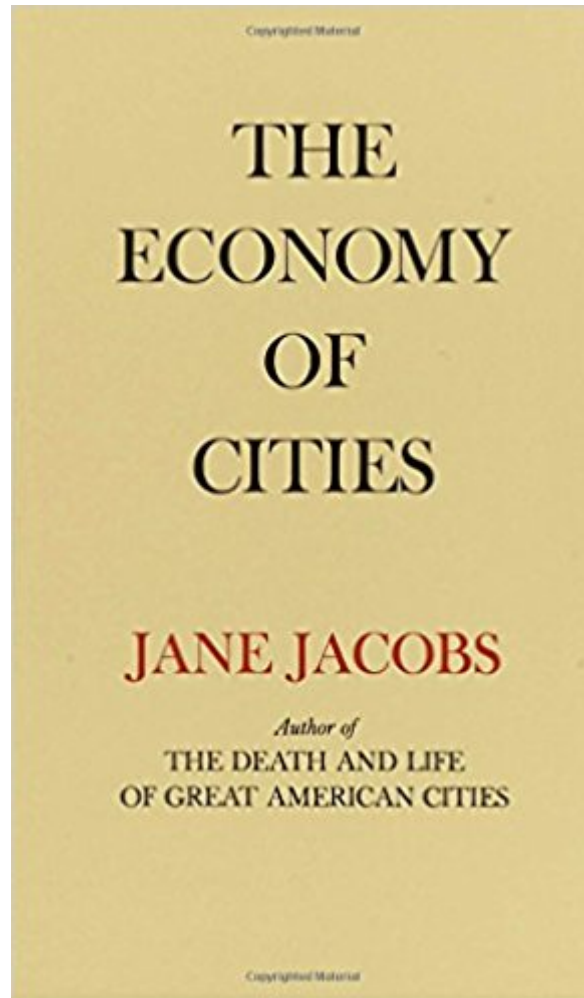




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The Economy Of Cities



Synopsis

In this book, Jane Jacobs, building on the work of her debut, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, investigates the delicate way cities balance the interplay between the domestic production of goods and the ever-changing tide of imports. Using case studies of developing cities in the ancient, pre-agricultural world, and contemporary cities on the decline, like the financially irresponsible New York City of the mid-sixties, Jacobs identifies the main drivers of urban prosperity and growth, often via counterintuitive and revelatory lessons.

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Vintage; First Pr. edition (February 12, 1970)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039470584X

ISBN-13: 978-0394705842

Product Dimensions: 4.3 x 0.6 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #76,010 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics > Urban & Regional](#) #185 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban](#) #234 in [Books > Business & Money > Biography & History > Economic History](#)

Customer Reviews

"The Economy of Cities is an astonishing book. It blows cobwebs from the mind, and challenges assumptions one hadn't even realized one had made. It should prove of major importance."-- Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*"This book is radiant with ideas about what makes cities rich or poor, how cities grow, and how city growth affects national economies."-- *The New Yorker*"What Mrs. Jacobs has done ... is to begin to formulate a badly needed urban myth for our now almost urbanized society...."-- Herbert J. Gans, *New Republic*"The book is... timely, and if it will irritate some of the experts it will also help bring some neglected issues and theories into public focus. This ... has always been Mrs. Jacobs' most notable talent and her most constructive contribution."-- Charles Abrams, *The New York Times Book Review*

"An astonishing book. It blows cobwebs from the mind, and challenges assumptions one hadn't

even realized one had made."--The New York Times

The title of this book is slightly misleading, because the thesis of the book is that cities play an essential role in the process of economic development. Although its anecdotal style gives this book a disarmingly unsystematic appearance, this is a profound book. It is easily one of the most important books written during the 20th century. Economic development is something about which conventional marginal utility economics has very little to say. The Economy of Cities, therefore, fills a kind of void. It stands to conventional economics in much the same position as quantum physics stands to classical physics. A simply wonderful book. Lancelot Fletcher lrf@aya.yale.edu

This book teaches economics and also teaches about how to write an idea. In both dimensions it is really great. The economics of the city described taking the work as unit of analysis is a very creative approach. Starting from this simple idea you can write an excellent book. Jacobs shows us how to do it.

Nice book

City Planning, a dismal field dominated by craven kleptocrats, shifty real estate developers, sleazy lawyers and lazy desk jockey bureaucrats, gets a much needed upgrade here. From the outset, Jane Jacobs makes it clear that this is an attack on City Planning as it's done by most city governments. It's almost Jeffersonian in its recommendations: the cities that are the most livable are those which are the least planned by top-heavy, over-managed bureaucracies. Like all whose insights are brilliant, Jacobs' observations and recommendations are deliberately distorted or totally ignored by those who are actively involved in "city planning" in nearly every American City. THE ECONOMY OF CITIES and Jane Jacobs' writings generally, serve to illustrate the major problems for those with brilliant insights, sagacious advice, and great wisdom: the people who should be the prime audience are not interested.

Clearly written. compelling argument for cities as creators of the wealth of nations. An argument for small government allowing individual freedom to innovate. Government planners and company towns do not create important replacement wealth.

An amazing book by an amazing author! She completely blows conventional urban theory out of the

water!

One of the most important books I've ever read. We need more economic histories of urban development.

Excelent product!

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