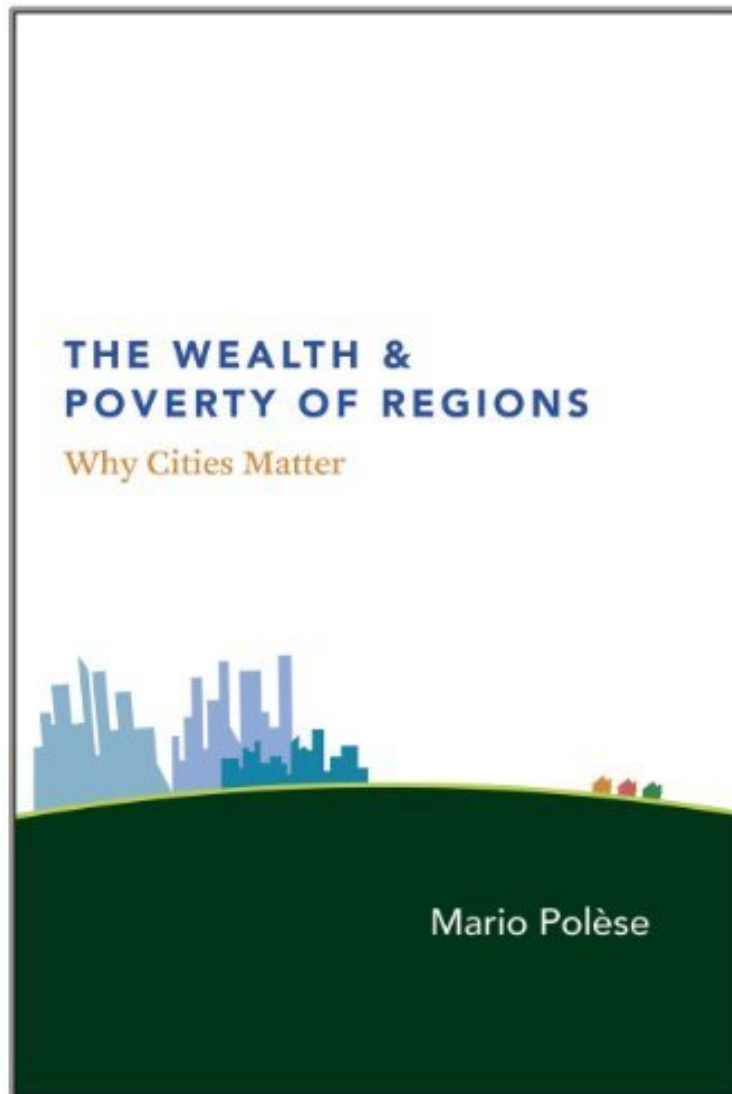


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The Wealth and Poverty of Regions: Why Cities Matter

Mario Polegrave;se

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Mario Polegrave;se : The Wealth and Poverty of Regions: Why Cities Matter before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wealth and Poverty of Regions: Why Cities Matter:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Centrally Thought UrbanismBy Michael BrownA very well paced, readable text, which while academic, rather than popular in tone, does not get lost in statistics as many other texts on the topic area often do. The author takes an interesting, more centrist approach towards the study of urban regions and the periphery. He acknowledges, without a race to judge, the urbanist and economic literature from a more leftist or rightist perspective. The title of the book is the focus of the entire text and the author develops and proposes how the

inverse is equally as applicable. His thought is of a general skepticism towards all-encompassing economic and urbanist theories and is willing to highlight exceptions and the very unpredictability of success. Still, he successfully points to most likely outcomes as regards the generation and maintenance of wealth and economic viability. I only include one substantial criticism: the author should seriously revise his editing skills or fire his editor, as there are many strange and embarrassing misspellings in the latter half of the text! One can overlook an occasional word, but after so many it begins to detract from the otherwise excellent text.

As the world becomes more interconnected through travel and electronic communication, many believe that physical places will become less important. But as Mario Polegrave;se argues in *The Wealth and Poverty of Regions*, geography will matter more than ever before in a world where distance is allegedly dead. This provocative book surveys the globe, from London and Cape Town to New York and Beijing, contending that regions rise;or fall;due to their location, not only within nations but also on the world map. Polegrave;se reveals how concentrations of industries and populations in specific locales often result in minor advantages that accumulate over time, resulting in reduced prices, improved transportation networks, increased diversity, and not least of all, "buzz";mdash;the excitement and vitality that attracts ambitious people. *The Wealth and Poverty of Regions* maps out how a heady mix of size, infrastructure, proximity, and cost will determine which urban centers become the thriving metropolises of the future, and which become the deserted cities of the past. Engagingly written, the book provides insight to the past, present, and future of regions.

This is one of the most original books in the subject area that I have read in yearsthe nearest is Jane Jacobs, forty years ago. It is remarkable in the way it combines depth and breadth, all presented in a jargon-free, almost conversational style. Sir Peter Hall, The Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, University College London -- Sir Peter Hall (01/28/2009) Writing with flair and insight, Polese blends economics, geography, and history to explain why some places grow and others do not. In this highly readable account, Polese unwraps the patterns and processes, and the commonalities and nuances, of both rich and poor places to outline which cities will prosper in the twenty-first century. Drawing on examples from several continents, he tells a story in which many forces change while others continue to be influential. Ed Malecki, Ohio State University -- Ed Malecki (08/10/2009) For the first time in history, more than half the human population now lives in urban areas. Although economists and other social scientists have paid a considerable attention to the unequal development of nations, much less is known regarding the magnitude of spatial inequalities within countries as well as to the role and strength of urban agglomeration economies in driving regional economic development. In the wake of new economic geography and modern urban economics, Mario Polese has succeeded in providing a masterful synthesis of the various roles played by cities in the process of regional growth. Thanks to a magnificent and reader-friendly exposition, the material presented in this book is made available to a broad audience of scientists and decision makers. Jacques-Francois Thisse, CORE, Universit Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) -- Jacques-Francois Thisse (07/13/2009) "This is one of the most original books in the subject area that I have read in years--the nearest is Jane Jacobs, forty years ago. It is remarkable in the way it combines depth and breadth, all presented in a jargon-free, almost conversational style." --Sir Peter Hall, The Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, University Col (01/28/2009) "For the first time in history, more than half the human population now lives in urban areas. Although economists and other social scientists have paid a considerable attention to the unequal development of nations, much less is known regarding the magnitude of spatial inequalities within countries as well as to the role and strength of urban agglomeration economies in driving regional economic development. In the wake of new economic geography and modern urban economics, Mario Polese has succeeded in providing a masterful synthesis of the various roles played by cities in the process of regional growth. Thanks to a magnificent and reader-friendly exposition, the material presented in this book is made available to a broad audience of scientists and decision makers." --Jacques-Francois Thisse, CORE, Universit Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) (07/13/2009) "Writing with flair and insight, Polese blends economics, geography, and history to explain why some places grow and others do not. In this highly readable account, Polese unwraps the patterns and processes, and the commonalities and nuances, of both rich and poor places to outline which cities will prosper in the twenty-first century. Drawing on examples from several continents, he tells a story in which many forces change while others continue to be influential." --Ed Malecki, Ohio State University (08/10/2009) About the Author Mario Polegrave;se holds the Senior Canada Research Chair in Urban and Regional Studies and is professor at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) in Montreal. He is coauthor of, most recently, *Connecting Cities with Macroeconomic Concerns*.