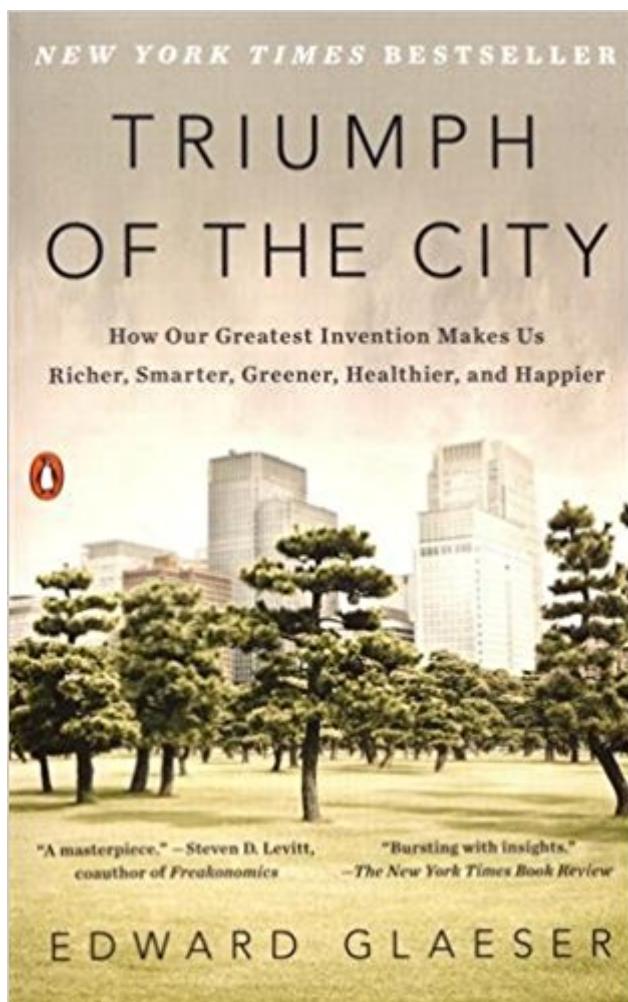


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# Triumph Of The City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, And Happier



## Synopsis

A pioneering urban economist presents a myth-shattering look at the majesty and greatness of cities. America is an urban nation, yet cities get a bad rap: they're dirty, poor, unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly . . . or are they? In this revelatory book, Edward Glaeser, a leading urban economist, declares that cities are actually the healthiest, greenest, and richest (in both cultural and economic terms) places to live. He travels through history and around the globe to reveal the hidden workings of cities and how they bring out the best in humankind. Using intrepid reportage, keen analysis, and cogent argument, Glaeser makes an urgent, eloquent case for the city's importance and splendor, offering inspiring proof that the city is humanity's greatest creation and our best hope for the future. "A masterpiece." -Steven D. Levitt, coauthor of *Freakonomics* "Bursting with insights." -The New York Times Book Review

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (January 31, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143120549

ISBN-13: 978-0143120544

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 145 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,234 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Urban & Regional #4 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography #26 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban

## Customer Reviews

Glaeser's academic specialty, urban economics, informs his survey of how cities around the world thrive and wither. Using a range of expository forms—history, biography, economic research, and personal story—he defines what makes a city successful. That changes through time, and a flourishing Industrial Age model may not work in the service-age economy, as rust-belt towns like Detroit have learned. One thing constantly attracts people to one city rather than another—how much housing construction is permitted. Restrictive places, such as New York City, coastal California, and Paris, have a tight housing supply with prices only the wealthy can afford. Hence, middle-class people move to the suburbs or cities like Houston. Other features of

metropolises— their incidences of poverty and crime, traffic congestion, quality of schools, and cultural amenities— also figure in Glaeser’s analysis. Whatever the city under discussion, Mumbai or Woodlands, Texas, Glaeser is discerning and independent; for example, he believes that historic preservation isn’t an unalloyed good and that bigger, denser cities militate against global warming. Thought-provoking material for urban-affairs students. --Gilbert Taylor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A masterpiece." -Steven D. Levitt, coauthor of *Freakonomics*"Bursting with insights." -The New York Times Book Review

No more timely a book could be read during the summer than this one. With the obvious schism between the urban and the rural becoming of greater and greater import, learning as much as you can about the city as the engine of economic change and drive is even more critical.

Good to read for political science or urban studies students. I recommend reading "Planet of Slums" by Mike Davis to compare the two.

A very thoughtful discussion of urban development, import, poverty and prosperity. Professor Glaeser takes us through history, psychology, policy, environmentalism, and economics. You will not agree with the author on every point, but an honest reading will force any reader to recognize the thought, passion, and hard work behind Professor Glaeser's views. In the end, most of us will recognize that the good professor is right most of the time. The book is entirely narrative, so there is no math or quantitative skills required (for those who have read or are aware of the author's academic work and are worried). Certain parts are repetitive but overall a great read that will challenge preconceived notions and leave you with a better appreciation of both cities and the author.

I thought this book presented the case for cities well in that they're the economic engines that drive nations and the entire world for that matter.

Let me preface this review by saying that I am no expert in urban planning and policy - just a very interested party who loves urban spaces and economics. I really enjoyed the introduction to the book, and I was eager to listen further and learn more about the topic in depth. There were a lot of

great points made, but it began to feel very repetitive and poorly organized. I'm interested to see what other literature there is on trends in urbanization and its benefits/disadvantages, but based on this book, I'd like to see something from another author. My conclusion is that I'm left feeling like I got an overview rather than an in-depth analysis, but I'd still recommend listening to / reading this book.

The medical chart that could be called "the Urban Law" refers to the set of indicators that allow us to measure how sustainable is the relationship of the city with the region; how efficient and how vulnerable to the effects of climate change has been the urbanization process; how firms and households access to networks of basic services and grids that distribute electricity, provide mobility and deliver social and financial services (Ricardo Hausmann, 2014. Eduard Gaesler, 2013). Finally, the urban indicators should give a good idea of the quality and standards of the built environment and the housing stock.

Excellent book explaining the inner city opportunities.

Glaser offers good insights into what makes a city tick and how cities can grow. Based on his own research, he writes clearly and intelligently about the many issues that surrounds cities.

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