

***Making Cities Work: Prospects and Policies for Urban America* by Robert Inman (ed.). Princeton University Press, 2009. Pp. 378. \$31.95 (Hardcover). ISBN: 9780691131054**

Reviewer: Greg Beach¹

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We are living in the century of the city. Over the course of just a few generations, our population has shifted from one that resided in the outskirts to one that seeks the city lights. In 1950, only 29% of people lived in cities. Today, over 50% of the global population resides in urban areas and this number is expected to grow substantially in the next few decades. By 2050, it is estimated that 70% of the global population will be city dwellers. This enormous structural shift presents innumerable opportunities and challenges, which, if left unaddressed, could ultimately end the glorious urban experiment and turn cities into sinkholes.

To address these problems and to effectively utilize the immense human capital concentrated in cities, policymakers of all stripes must contribute their expertise and energy to the greater good of a sustainable urban system. *Making Cities Work*, a non-fiction book centered on precisely that, successfully embodies this multidisciplinary problem solving perspective. Editor Robert P. Inman has compiled a comprehensive collection of essays that address the various sectors of urban policy, such as education, crime, housing, and transportation, in extensive detail. The arguments made by the contributors are thoughtful and data-driven, with the authors employing statistics deftly to drive their narrative.

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