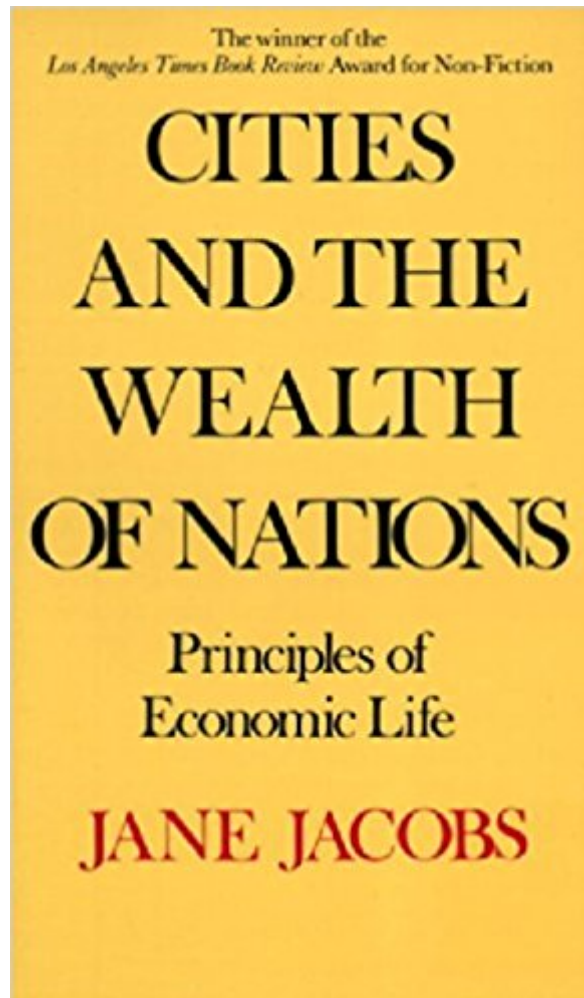




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Cities And The Wealth Of Nations: Principles Of Economic Life



Synopsis

In this eye-opening work of economic theory, Jane Jacobs argues that it is cities—not nations—that are the drivers of wealth. Challenging centuries of economic orthodoxy, in *Cities and the Wealth of Nations* the beloved author contends that healthy cities are constantly evolving to replace imported goods with locally-produced alternatives, spurring a cycle of vibrant economic growth. Intelligently argued and drawing on examples from around the world and across the ages, here Jacobs radically changes the way we view our cities—and our entire economy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Review Award for Non-Fiction "Learned, iconoclastic and exciting . . . Jacobs' diagnosis of the decay of cities in an increasingly integrated world economy is on the mark."—The New York Times Book Review "Jacobs' book is inspired, idiosyncratic and personal . . . It is written with verve and humor; for a work of embattled theory, it is wonderfully concrete, and its leaps are breathtaking."—Los Angeles Times "Not only comprehensible but entertaining. . . . Like Mrs. Jacobs' other books, it offers a concrete approach to an abstract and elusive subject. That, all by itself, makes for an intoxicating experience."—The New York Times

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I just love Jane Jacobs' viewpoints. She has so much common sense and she is able to cut through long-held misconceptions concerning the ways cities generate wealth. This otherwise boring topic takes on real life in this book. Although she passed away in 2006, her ideas span time. This book in particular examines the ways nations acquire wealth. According to Jacobs it is generated on a very basic, local level and percolates to the top. The top-down theory doesn't work. It has never worked. This book points out the fallacies of some of the most common ways municipalities attempt to pump life back into an ailing economy. These downfalls are unremitting military production, unremitting subsidies to poor regions, and heavy promotion of trade between advanced and backward economies. These three things have been the undoing of every major empire from the Roman empire onward to today. This book was a real eye-opener for me on many levels. It changed the way I think about the way cultures thrive or fail.

Jacobs contends that cities, not nations are the most active and important economic entities. This is the only book I have read that gives a rational explanation to why Mississippi is always poor, whereas the Northeast is consistently prosperous. If you are interested in the economic health of small, local economies, this is an excellent antidote to nation-based macroeconomic theory.

This is an fascinating book on the one fact that most economists overlook: economies are centered around cities and their immediate hinterlands, not around larger territories such as states, provinces, countries, or continents.

The late Ms. Jacobs is the bedrock for understanding our still-misguided "classical" macroeconomics.

Jane Jacobs is a genius. She is one of the most original and creative minds I have ever encountered. The future is with her thinking, if there is to be one.

Enlightening

Enjoyed reading this classic on capitalism, we have come a long way from the principals in this book, Capitalism works

I read this in 1984. It is one of the five best non-fiction books I have read. Really. It forced me to reconsider some long-held notions about the economic role of individuals, and their environments, in society.

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