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Robert P. Inman, ed. *Making Cities Work: Prospects and Policies for Urban America.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2009. 382 pp.

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Making Cities Work, edited by Robert P. Inman, is an excellent book that provides an understanding of what is required for becoming a successful city in today's world. Reflecting the ideas of well-known scholars on urban American life, the book, a collection of eleven essays, is an updated version of *The Metropolitan Enigma* published in 1968. While the previous collection portrayed the economic anxiety accompanying the decline of cities in the 1960s, this book focuses on the currently promising future of American cities. Containing much detailed sociological research, it not only analyzes the reasons for growth and prosperity in outstanding cities, but also considers the causes of urban failure. It brings new perspectives to the best ways of using city resources and of making urban economies work.

Turning cities into success stories is surely not an easy process, but the efficient policies described in this book can greatly assist in the effort. The articles here compare the economic development processes and urban origins of such cities as Boston, New York and Chicago. For example, Edward L. Glaeser in "The Death and Life of Cities" considers cities as centers of production, modernization, and consumption—which is to say that cities flourish mainly as centers of manufacturing. He then devises an economics theory that demonstrates the relationship between job skills and the urban success that occurs as a result of individual choices. If a skilled individual decides to stay in a given place for life, it means actually that his income is adequate to his needs, which means further that his productivity is sufficient. For Glaeser this also implies a proximity of natural resources.

Proximity is in fact a key concept for Glaeser. He goes on to explore the close relationship between population growth and housing needs. Here, a proximity between home and workplace is highly valued because it cuts transportation costs. Desirable urban growth, as opposed to urban sprawl, comes about as a consequence of the availability of a highly educated labor force and the proximity of workers to each other. Amenities such as restaurants, theaters, and shopping malls, as well as eye-catching architecture, also help attract residents

to the city, consequently aiding development. In short, it is important to make cities attractive places to live if they are to succeed. To maintain their dynamism in this regard they need effective public services and transportation, as well as security and sanitation. As long as people want to move into the city, new businesses will flourish.

That the United States is an immigrant country cannot be denied. Highly skilled immigrants have contributed immensely to the economies of new cities. Despite general assumptions, however, low-skilled immigrants are not perceived as a burden by these scholars. On the contrary, such a labor pool relieves highly skilled workers from daily routine work and saves them time and energy. Poverty, on the other hand, is seen as a major handicap for some city dwellers because it is closely related with poor education and higher rates of urban crime. Taxes are another dilemma: if they are too high, they cripple productivity; if too low, the city cannot afford adequate police, firefighting, and health-care services.

Dealing with issues such issues as these, *Making Cities Work* lays out creative solutions and presents new data that encourages cities to take innovative steps. It is a valuable source for people interested in the future of cities, and should prove quite useful to public officials responsible for turning cities into better places to live. It is my firm opinion, for example, that if the ideas presented here were seriously taken to heart by such disorganized cities as Istanbul, which has long suffered from poor management of transportation and housing and a lack of planning in general, the inhabitants would have much better lives. And future generations, perhaps, would be spared the errors and hazards committed in the past.