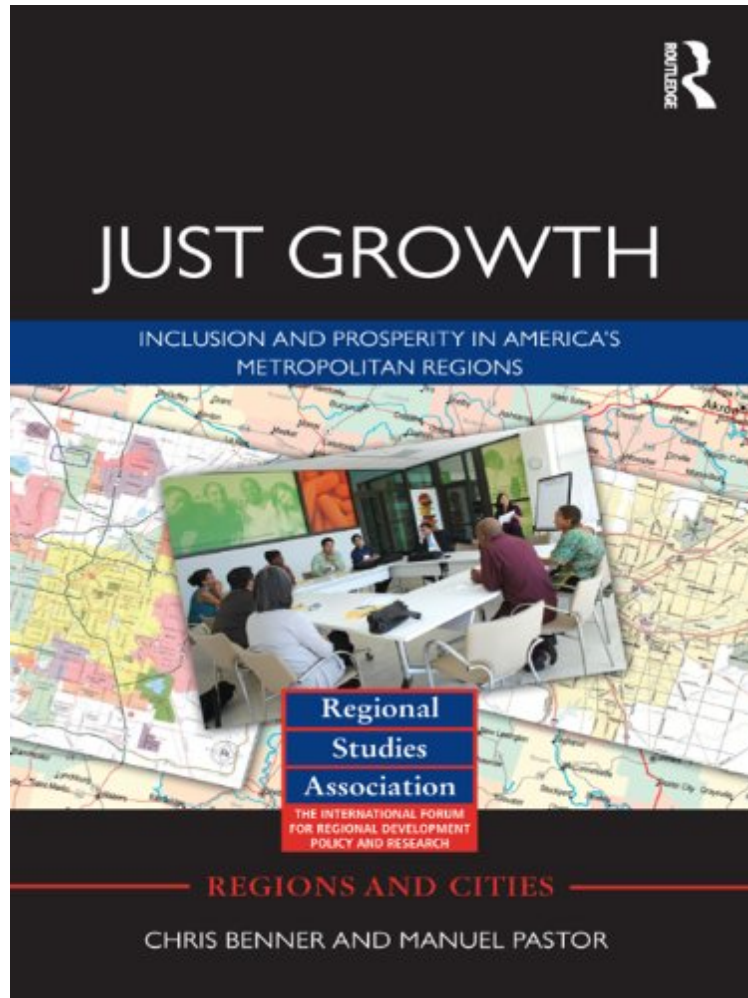


[Mobile library] Just Growth: Inclusion and Prosperity in America's Metropolitan Regions (Regions and Cities)

Just Growth: Inclusion and Prosperity in America's Metropolitan Regions (Regions and Cities)

Chris Benner, Manuel Pastor

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Chris Benner, Manuel Pastor : Just Growth: Inclusion and Prosperity in America's Metropolitan Regions (Regions and Cities) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Just Growth: Inclusion and Prosperity in America's Metropolitan Regions (Regions and Cities):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Does a Rising Tide Really Float All Boats? By Cindy Individualism posits that the interests of the individual take precedence over the interests of a group. Conversely, collectivism emphasizes the interdependence of people. Leaving aside the negative connotations 'collectivism' has gathered in recent decades, the reader of this book should at least be open to the idea that there might be some truth to the idea that groups of people can improve their circumstances by working together toward a common goal. As good

researchers, Benner and Pastor are clear about the limits of their research—and also about surprising findings. Ideologues will only find traction by ignoring the authors' frankness. This book considers what constitutes economic development and some of the factors that can hinder or help. The authors argue that if income inequality played a role in the "Great Recession" (significant wealth accumulation by the wealthy led to highly speculative investments) and that addressing income inequality will help economic recovery. While this might be achieved through regulations, the authors suggest that growth that targets inclusion and equity at the regional level can play a role—and they provide statistical evidence that racial inclusion and efforts to reduce the gap between rich and poor has a strong correlation with economic growth. To this end, they evaluate almost 200 metropolitan areas to develop a final list of seven areas that are analyzed in depth, both statistically and qualitatively. These areas are generally characterized as growth with equity (consistently above median performance in both metrics); slip-back (a period of growth with equity, followed by a period of below-median performance); bounce-back (below-median performance followed by a period of above-median performance); and stuck-back (consistently below-median performance). Many of the lessons drawn from the seven case studies can be applied in various ways in regions seeking to improve their economies, but there is no single "fix" that can be applied. As always, reality is complex. Regional collaboration and cooperation and civic engagement across varied constituencies provide means to identify both problems and solutions. A diversified economy builds resiliency against economic shocks. Build or expand a middle class, especially in minority communities and promote education, especially higher education. My own northern San Joaquin Valley area would do well to take these lessons to heart.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. Should be read by all local leaders. By William C. Kennedy

The correlation between sustained economic growth and equity is strong. Benner and Pastor examine the links between equitable policies and sustained growth in scores of regional economies. You don't have to care about those who are marginalized to see that inclusive policies help us all. By application of Nobel prize winning economist Amartya Sen to regional American economies we see the wisdom of inclusion. Great book. Should be read by all local leaders.

Breaking new ground in its innovative blend of quantitative and qualitative methods, the book essentially argues that another sort of growth is indeed possible. While offering specific insights for regional leaders and analysts of metropolitan areas, the authors also draw a broader—and quite timely—set of conclusions about how to scale up these efforts to address a U.S. economy still seeking to recover from economic crisis and ameliorate distributional divisions.

'Among the major findings were that regional government has value, economic diversity was a benefit, educational institutions can be an anchor, and a strong black middle class is beneficial. Economic development, not workforce development, is a key factor. In conclusion, regional equity needs ties to bind people together; sustained growth requires a diverse employment base; and growth and equity require inclusive leadership. This ambitious work covers new ground. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate level and up.' - E. C. Erickson, California State University, Stanislaus

About the Author: Chris Benner is Associate Professor in the Human and Community Development at the University of California Davis, USA. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Geography and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California and Director of the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, as well as co-Director of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration