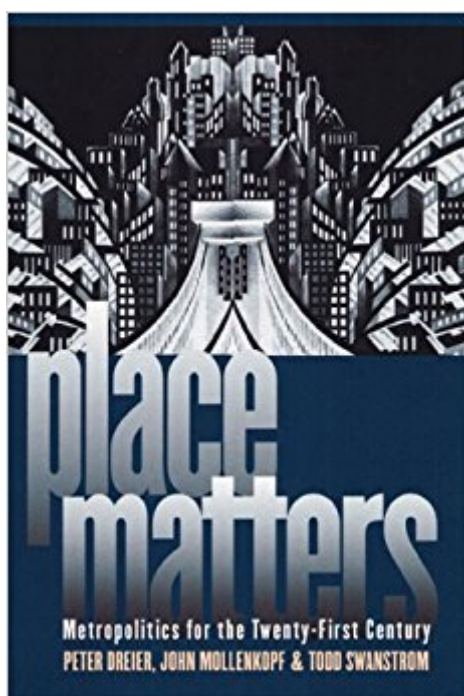


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Place Matters: Metropolitics For The Twenty-First Century (Studies In Government And Public Policy)



Synopsis

Three distinguished scholars challenge us to put the urban crisis back on the national agenda, both as a moral challenge to our conscience and an economic challenge to America's prosperity and our families' pocketbooks. Focusing on the growing concentration of poverty in our cities and older suburbs and the mounting costs of suburban sprawl, they argue that these problems have political origins and can thus be resolved through political means -- but only if we fully understand the power of place. Despite modern telecommunications -- faxes, linked computers, etc. -- where we live shapes our lives and fortunes as much as ever. Place affects our access to jobs and public services (especially education), our access to shopping and culture, our level of personal security, the availability of medical services, and even the air we breathe. Economic segregation is increasing in American metropolitan areas -- the rich and poor continue to move apart from one another. This has devastating effects on those who are forced to live in areas of concentrated poverty. But it also imposes costs, often unrecognized, on middle class and rich families who in their effort to escape the problems of concentrated poverty, undermine the quality of their own lives by suffering the effects of unrestricted sprawl. The central thesis of *Place Matters* is that economic segregation between rich and poor and the growing sprawl of American cities and suburbs are not solely the result of individual choices in free markets. Rather, these problems have been powerfully shaped by short-sighted government policies. The first order of business must be to overhaul those policies. In the process, both urban and suburbancitizens will gain a keener awareness that they are all ultimately bound by common interests and share a common fate. Not simply another polemic on the plight of the inner-city poor, *Place Matters* provides a practical road map for reform based on penetrating analyses of economic and demographic trends, voting patterns, and congressional politics. While "sounding the alarm", it also provides guidance and hope for elected officials at local, state, and federal levels, as well as policy makers, scholars, teachers, community activists, business leaders, economists, social workers, and the urban clergy.

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Customer Reviews

"A brilliant and important piece of work. Deeply informed, penetrating in its analysis of the problems of economic segregation and spatial inequalities, and bold yet practical in its search for solutions and proposals for reform. Place Matters is one of the best books of applied social science I have ever read and is certain to have a major impact on thinking and discourse about urban problems over the next generation." Richard Edward DeLeon, Author of *Left Coast City: Progressive Politics in San Francisco, 1975-1991*

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I really liked this. I am a Community Engagement and Education major who dabbles in Urban Studies. I firmly believe that educational policy and housing are intersecting issues. I live in Milwaukee where it is majorly segregated. In fact, most big cities I have lived in or visited are segregated. This book helped me understand more about zoning and urban planning politics and how they affect low-income people.

For Urban development and theory this book is about as fresh and interesting as you will find. The studies are in great detail and provides for an interesting read.

Excellent book. no problem

This book is very in depth and a good read; however, the obvious political bias toward progressive ideas (of which there is not a bad thing to say), and strong negativity and, at times, dishonesty about conservative ideas actually made my stomach turn. I am reading it for a summer graduate course, and based on what I've learned so far, typically policy analysis is supposed to be completely unbiased. I do not think I have a personal political lean in either direction, but I would like to read a book about policies that worked or didn't work and this book is greatly lacking in that respect since the writers seemed to have unwavering praise for one side and seething disgust in the other side (with sketchy references in some sections). It's unfortunate because the writing is good and the idea behind the book is great, but because of the obvious bias it loses a lot of its usefulness.

This book details in stark clarity the dilemma facing our urban environment today. We ignore it's lessons at our peril. Place Matters shows how we have systematically set up a system of the haves and have nots. Literally a tale of two cities. It is crucially important that we involve ourselves in the electoral process because who we elect most definitely determines how wealth and power are distributed in the United States of America. This book is a cogent coherent collection of mind blowing data about discriminatory social engineering against our urban environment.

This book is very much an academic book. Some of the recommendations are very mainstream that cities are doing already. Many cities are dedensifying the inner cities to spread the poverty around. (I think that is likely a good thing--it has a good chance of reducing spatial mismatch.) However, their plan for diversifying suburbs with minorities and women who will likely vote democratic because more people in the suburbs vote than in inner cities . . . and therefore congress will be predominantly democratic and voting for those policies favorable to cities . . . is not exactly absurd, but it is a bit forced.

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