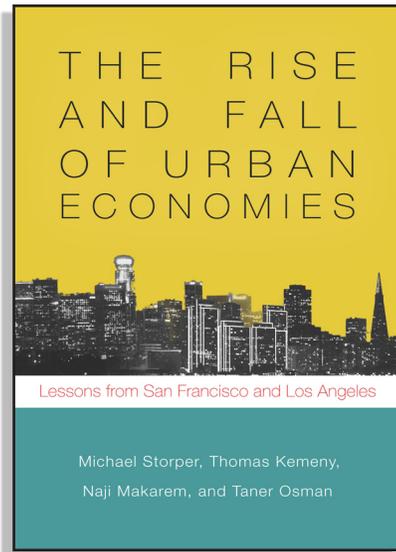


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The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies

Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles

by MICHAEL STORPER, THOMAS KEMENY,
NAJI MAKAREM, and TANER OSMAN

“This is a very serious new book about economics and policy. . . But it is written in a very accessible style, using the structure of a scientific detective story. And it is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of California and cities more broadly.”

—Jon Christensen, *SFGate*

Today, the Bay Area is home to the most successful knowledge economy in America, while Los Angeles has fallen progressively farther behind its neighbor to the north and a number of other American metropolises. Yet, in 1970, experts would have predicted that L.A. would outpace San Francisco in population, income, economic power, and influence. The usual factors used to explain urban growth—luck, immigration, local economic policies, and the pool of skilled labor—do not account for the contrast between the two cities. So what does?

The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies challenges many conventional notions about

economic development. The authors argue that it is essential to understand the interactions of three major components—economic specialization, human capital formation, and institutional factors—to determine how well a regional economy will cope with new opportunities and challenges. They argue that the economic development of metropolitan regions hinges on previously underexplored capacities for organizational change in firms, networks of people, and networks of leaders. By studying San Francisco and Los Angeles in unprecedented levels of depth, this book extracts lessons for the field of economic development studies and urban regions around the world.

Michael Storper is Professor of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles. **Thomas Kemeny** is Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Southampton. **Naji Makarem** is Lecturer in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London (UCL). **Taner Osman** is an instructor in the Department of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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