

Book Review

June 2014

CITY BUILDING IN A HOT, FLAT AND CROWDED POST-AMERICAN WORLD

Three Views of Governance in the 21st Century: Fukuyama, Zakaria and Freidman

Overview

Cities survive and prosper, or not, within the context of the world and its global systems; always have and always will, even when the connection is hard to find. In order to form a more perfect community, the experiences and premises that form the world's best systems offer useful lessons. The three books reviewed here, written by three outstanding systemic thinkers, present a contextual picture of fundamental socio-political principles that can guide cities, large and small, to be successful economic and social systems.

- ***Hot, Flat and Crowded, Why We Need a Green Revolution – And How It Can Renew America***, Thomas L. Friedman, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.
- ***The Post-American World***
Fareed Zakaria, W.W. Norton & Company, 2008.
- ***State-Building, Governance and the New World Order in the 21st Century***, Francis Fukuyama, Cornell University Press, 2004.

[Overview](#)
[Implications](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Published Reviews](#)
[Commentary](#)
[Related Readings](#)

Implications for the American City

So what do global principles have to do with the future of American cities? These three books, read concurrently and supplemented through the media by Messrs. Zakaria and Friedman, provide a global message that resonates for local governments. Though their frame of reference is the world and its geopolitical systems, their conclusions and proposals apply to city governance and management.

Isolationism and separation from global and regional issues is not a good option for local governments. As we travel through time, the American city is headed into a multi-cultural, resource limited, instantly communicative, intimately connected world where individuals are, in many ways, as powerful as great nations, states and cities. Individuals compete with everyone else in the world. Every city has competitors, not just next door, but throughout the globe.

So, we are on this journey and our companions are of all sorts; the trails are not marked; the terrain is expected to be rough; and our destination is unclear. Yet we go. As we contemplate the next leg of our adventure into the future with global cities, we consult the three authors who have thought deeply about the trip we are taking. Though the path is uncharted, the three authors have looked for signs and questioned travelers who have made similar trips. They have advice that applies to cities and towns:

Book Review

June 2014

- **Build Institutions** - Mr. Fukuyama concludes that institutions are the vehicle to support civilization. As cities continue on the multi-cultural path of globalization and instantaneous communication, he believes the central global project for contemporary international politics translates directly to local politics; how to promote trusted and transparent governance, improve democratic participation, and strengthen self-sustaining institutions. The chief issue of global and local politics will not be on how to cut back on government programs, but how to tailor them to meet our needs. If we are to make the demanding voyage of transformational change as proposed by Mr. Friedman, we need a dependable delivery vehicle, namely an effective public sector with its supporting institutions and non-governmental organizations.
- **Strengthen Regional and Multi-Jurisdictional Institutions** - Professor Fukuyama gives us a handbook for building our vehicle of government based on institutions. He tasks us to make them work, not discard, decimate or demonize them; just as Mr. Zakaria suggests, our institutions need expansion and repair, not dismantlement. So the vehicles that have brought us here remain useful; they need to be re-furbished and re-designed for the next leg of the trip; strengthened, made faster, stronger and more agile, but they are still fundamentally sound.
- **Articulate and Commit to the Destination** - Thomas Friedman quotes from the movie *The Leopard*, "If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change". He sketches a vision of our destination, a world in which we remain free, prosperous and secure. Visioning at the neighborhood, town center and municipal level gives us directions for how to use transformational change to reach our destination. While the final destination may not be agreeable to all the travelers, they are welcome to ride as far as they want to go towards the American destination of a civil, pleasant and prosperous world, reliant on sound institutions, centered on order, security, law and property rights.
- **Take Heart for the Voyage** - Mr. Zakaria, knowing the fears and insecurities that haunt travelers along the path of multi-jurisdictional cooperation; he encourages us to make the trip. He has surveyed the territory and gives directions to the drivers and a pep talk to bolster our confidence; he encourages us to invite others to join the expedition. The use of our power, and its perpetuation, is best applied by welcoming neighbors to join our caravan with cities serving as the host, the facilitator, the source of intellectual inspiration and the leader to pursue economic prosperity, environmental integrity and social justice.
- **Trust Innovation to Deliver** - Once we leave the tenuous security of the present, the path is based on a vision-driven strategy using long-term, comprehensive thinking and doing. Mr. Friedman is correct, the only way to reach a successful future... "is to mobilize the most effective and prolific system of transformational innovation and commercialization of new products and services ever created on the face of the earth – the U.S. marketplace." The role of cities is to enable entrepreneurs, businesses and institutions to collectively succeed.

Book Review

June 2014

YouTube: Check out the author's presentation.

- ***The World is Flat***, not his "Flat, Hot and Crowded" book, but a window into Mr. Freidman's initial thinking.



YaleUniversity

Uploaded on Apr 29, 2009

Thomas L. Friedman explains how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53vLQnuV9FY>

- ***The Post-American World***



Uploaded on Dec 16, 2010

Speaker: Fareed Zakaria

Chair: Professor David Held

This event was recorded on 30 June 2009. In this lecture, Fareed Zakaria will expound on The Post-American World; a world in which the United States no longer dominates the global economy, orchestrates geopolitics or overwhelms cultures.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zs4zw1O_MYE

- ***State-Building: Governance and World Order in the 21st Century*** –
Ebook - Free Download [PDF,ePub,Mo]



Wiglaf Gabriel

Published on Feb 5, 2014

State-Building: Governance and World Order in the 21st Century

Author: Francis Fukuyama

Global HR Forum 2013 | S-1 : "*Speaking of Future*" by Francis Fukuyama

Published on Jan 27, 2014

Special Session 1 : "Speaking of Future" by Francis Fukuyama

Francis Fukuyama is one of the most influential social & political philosophers of our time.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQWWGrs6xGI>

Book Review

June 2014

Published Reviews

- ***Hot, Flat and Crowded, Why We Need a Green Revolution – And How It Can Renew America***, Thomas L. Friedman, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

The New York Times

[Sunday Book Review](#)

By JONATHAN FREEDLAND

Published: October 3, 2008

Excerpt: “The environmental movement reserves a hallowed place for those books or films that have stirred people from their slumber and awoken them to the fragility of the planet: Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring,” [Bill McKibben’s](#) “End of Nature” and, most recently, [Al Gore’s](#) Oscar-winning documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth.” Thomas L. Friedman’s new book, “Hot, Flat, and Crowded” may lack the soaring, elegiac qualities of those others. But it conceivably just might goad America’s wealthiest to face the threat of [climate change](#) and do something about it.”

- ***The Post-American World: Release 2.0***

An updated and expanded version of the original ***Post-American World***.

Fareed Zakaria, W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

From Amazon: “A relentlessly intelligent book.” —Joseph Joffe, *New York Times Book Review*

“This is not a book about the decline of America, but rather about the rise of everyone else.” So begins Fareed Zakaria’s blockbuster on the United States in the twenty-first century, and the trends he identifies have proceeded faster than anyone anticipated. How might the nation continue to thrive in a truly global era? In this fully updated 2.0 edition, Zakaria answers these questions with his customary lucidity, insight, and imagination.”

- From: **npr books**

Listen to the Story, Fresh Air from WHYY

What Does A 'Post-American World' Look Like?

June 30, 2011 9:40 AM

Excerpt: “Zakaria, the host of CNN’s Fareed Zakaria GPS and an editor at large for Time magazine, charts the fall of America’s dominance and the simultaneous rise of the rest of the world in his book ***The Post-American World: Release 2.0***, which shows how the collapse of communism and the Soviet empire — as well as the rise of global markets — has leveled the playing field for many other countries around the world. The United States has always had a

Book Review

June 2014

strategy for defining and advancing America's interests within the context of the world. Our nation started with a declaration based on principles of independence and freedom. President Washington articulated a specific approach for dealing with the world and avoiding foreign entanglements. But as we grew in strength and stature, our destiny became inextricably linked to the world, its peoples and its governments."

- ***State-Building, Governance and the New World Order in the 21st Century***, Francis Fukuyama, Cornell University Press, 2004.

Edmund Fawcett

[The Guardian](#), Friday 16 July 2004

Edmund Fawcett finds prescriptions for regenerating 'failing states,' in **Francis Fukuyama's** State Building

Excerpt: *"Among foreign-policy thinkers, Francis Fukuyama is a puzzle. At times he sounds like a genuinely bold and original mind, with an eye for the unfamiliar contours of a world turned upside down and a knack of writing in ways that demand attention. At others he comes over as a cautious think-tanker drafting memos in the dialect of social science."*

TheAmericanCity.org's Commentary

And so it is today; and tomorrow. The questions are, and will continue to be, about:

- America's immediate and long term interests, domestically and globally;
- America's influence and how best to use it for the betterment of mankind and our citizens;
- America's tolerance for differing views and the objectives of the post-American world; and
- America's capacity to learn, lead and partner?

We are fortunate to have many smart and well-intentioned people worrying about the future of our world and our nation; many of whom are writing thoughtfully about our prospects. Three such people are Thomas Friedman, Fareed Zakaria and Francis Fukuyama. Their individual books, when taken together, paint a coherent picture of a successful future. Each suggests attitudes and actions to take to secure our collective and individual survival and prosperity.

Thomas Friedman quotes from the movie *The Leopard*, "If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change". A great summary of our situation; a challenge to the things we value and want to preserve. What confronts us is a void. We have yet to re-state our fundamental values as a people in the post-Cold War period. We have yet to find our next destination and the path towards it; and the world is not waiting for us.

Book Review

June 2014

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S FOUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Our First President articulated our relationship with the world in four foundational principles which guided us for a century. President Washington told us to build a uniquely good society [the city on the hill], to contract alliances with other countries only on a temporary basis, to expand within the western hemisphere [Manifest Destiny], and to forbid European states from expanding in the western hemisphere [The Monroe Doctrine].

With the end of post-Civil War Reconstruction, the first phase of the continuing American Revolution was concluded. The final piece of business started by The Founders was achieved, freedom for all was established as a national principle and constitutional right, even if it was not universally accepted. This hard-won achievement complemented our strategy of avoiding world entanglements, expanding to the Pacific, ousting European powers from our shores and constructing a good society.

THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

With the closing of the American frontier in 1890 and exuberance of the Gilded Age, **Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt** fostered our active participation in the world. America became a world force, a “super power”; solidified by our participation in World War I sadly followed by our rejection of **President Wilson’s** global view. Our isolationism and our rejection of a global leadership role eliminated our ability to help Europe avoid the continuation of the First World War into the Second.

But, the balance of the powers of nations throughout the world became irrevocably important to the United States. With the end of the “hot” European war in 1945 came the “cold war” and our 50 year national policy of constraining the growth of communism through “containment”; supplemented with the **Truman Doctrine** that promoted democracy throughout the world.

The second phase of American Revolution was achieved generally consistent with President Washington’s four principles: the U.S. was roundly regarded as a good society, with a few exceptions we had no permanent alliances that limited our ability to protect domestic interests and control our international commitments, continental expansion was complete and the European powers were excluded from the Americas.

The United States solidified its position as the world’s single super power with the fall of communism. Democracy, capitalism and the rule of law had prevailed; even in a world far more complex than the Founders could have possibly imagined. The 20th century was America’s from the sailing of the “White fleet” in 1907 to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Book Review

June 2014

THE AMERICAN PURPOSE

So what? What has this all been about? Do we have a destiny greater than the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in America? Can we have happiness and prosperity in America if we are inextricably connected, in a very intimate way, with a world that is unhappy and poor?

Messrs. Friedman, Zakaria and Fukuyama all start from the point that, in recent history, American society has been as close to perfect as any society can be. The authors would not use those words, but we had a base condition in the second half of the 20th century that commanded global respect. Having opened our society and economy to all peoples, having put the world's environment on the agenda, having come face-to-face with the dysfunctional global financial system, having faced global terrorism, having survived the first shock wave of the destructive 24/7 "talking heads"; we continue on a globally connected path of improving health, safety, civility and prosperity in the U.S. and beyond.

The 21st century present is different from the 20th century past. Much is changing, rapidly. To paraphrase *The Leopard* quoted by Mr. Friedman, in order to stay American, America will have to change. As the melding and churning of world cultures inexorably marches on, America needs to continue to be "America", and be a leader in a partnership of the world community to achieve a healthier, safer global society that is increasingly civil and prosperous. Messrs. Friedman, Zakaria and Fukuyama each present a compelling view of a desirable future.

PILLARS OF A SUCCESSFUL STATE

Francis Fukuyama, in his previous work *The Great Disruption*, enumerates the three pillars of a successful state, and society. These three pillars apply equally well to any city in America as instructive fundamental concepts for a successful society:

- **Liberal Democracy**
- **Market Capitalism**
- **The Rule of Law**

All three authors have their take on how these pillars are expressed in America and in the world as we deal with the balance between economic, social and environmental issues and opportunities for our generation and those to come. Cities exist for a long time; forethought is relevant. As Thomas Jefferson reminded us of the American Indian admonition, we should conduct ourselves today as if we loved our seventh generation of descendants. This is a high standard, and the three writers/thinkers have taken the challenge. Let's start by building a governance system.

State-Building, Governance and the New World Order in the 21st Century is a compact book written by Professor Fukuyama after 9/11 but before the global financial crisis of 2008. Yet, he grasps the fundamentals of the world and its order; and provides an enduring framework for analyzing societies.

Book Review

June 2014

He posits that the fundamental ideas centered on order, security, law and property rights enabled America's success of the last half of the 20th century. Building local governance systems that consistently provide order, security, the rule of law and the rights of property will continue to serve us well if we have the institutional framework and fortitude to perpetuate them.

His essential point is that our assignment of our times is state-building; the building of states, not the reduction of the state. Less government, reduced taxation, weaker institutions, a smaller public sector may be important, or not. Even if useful, these are means, not ends. Our mission is to build a good society, strong economy and sustainable environment. More or less government is not the issue; our assignment is to effectively use all levels of government in a manner that lets society meet its goals of freedom and prosperity.

The assignment is to design and implement a system that serves our grander visions of building an effective "state" that lets each of us individually and all of us collectively achieve our dreams. Blind allegiance to reducing the state for no purpose other than to reduce the state is a losing idea. There must be positive objectives, clearly stated, closely watched and generally supported. Government does not need to be bigger or smaller, it needs to be better. Institutions matter; they must be transparent and accountable, and properly tasked to support the goals of American society.

State reductionism that leads to under funding for infrastructure, poor education and unfettered financial systems has been demonstrated to be a failure to all but the most ardent zealots. Professor Fukuyama quotes an interview with Milton Friedman [no known relation to Thomas] in 2001 noting that earlier, Dr. Friedman would have recommended " 'privatize, privatize, privatize' to the socialist countries then being liberated, but...'I was wrong', he continued, 'it turns out that the rule of law is probably more basic than privatization'".

Professor Fukuyama also addresses the process of state-building in the emerging and third world environment. The idea of "capacity building" is central to his formula for success. "...the problem of capacity destruction cannot be fixed unless donors make a clear choice that capacity-building is the *primary* objective". He also acknowledges the difficulty in effective capacity-building and suggests we be cautious in setting expectations.

The vehicles for state-building are institutions; institutions matter. From time to time, we are disappointed in their performance, but the task is to make them work, not discard, decimate or demonize them. Professor Fukuyama provides standards that institutions must meet to retain their legitimacy.

- First, they [institutions] must clearly express their goals...often they are murky or hidden and therefore, impossible to support by consensus.

Book Review

June 2014

- Second, there must be formal systems to monitor and measure their performance. Business is ultimately governed by the market and expires when unsuccessful. Public and quasi-public institutions do not have this test to meet and therefore need another way to prove they are meritorious and deserving of continued support.
- The third idea is that institutions are not businesses and while many principles of business are useful, different goals, talents and skills are required to lead and manage NGOs, public agencies and other institutions. Public administration is a laudable and important profession that commands respect. The leadership of state-building institutions cannot be handed to just anyone; professional help is required.

The author concludes with a strong thought about the central challenge of the post 9/11 world. The issues are "...how to promote governance in weak states, improve their democratic legitimacy, and strengthen self-sustaining institutions - thus becomes the central project for contemporary international politics." "For the post-September 11 world, the chief issue of global politics will not be on how to cut back the state, but how to build it up." The same prescription would seem to apply to America.

Professor Fukuyama gives us a vehicle for change: institutions properly constituted and directed, professionally staffed, transparent and accountable. Replacements and up-grades from the 20th century vehicles of the IMF, World Bank, United Nations and the World Health Organization seem implicitly imperative. As we test drive our new, post- 9/11 national and global vehicle, presumably a plug-in, Messrs. Friedman and Zakaria provide directions and guideposts for the next leg of our American journey into the new world...the post-American leg.

A MULTI-POWER WORLD

Fareed Zakaria has written thoughtfully and widely on geopolitics and global society. He also discusses issues in a refreshingly interactive way with world leaders on CNN. His recent book, *The Post-American World*, despite its gloomy title, forecasts a happy ending to the next leg of the American journey.

One of Mr. Zakaria's many catchy phrases is "the rise of the rest". This sums up his view of America's position and attributes the current situation to "three tectonic power shifts" of historic proportion: the rise of the western world, the rise of the United States and the rise of the rest. The rise of the rest is now upon us and has given "birth of a truly global order".

Almost as an aside, he addresses the form of governance that responds best to the new global order. "In an open world economy, these groups know that they need the central government less and less." This follows an earlier statement that..."power is shifting away from nation-states." With direct communication and transportation between people, customers and businesses, the linkages will tend to

Book Review

June.2014

be more and more personal; less dependent of national governments and institutions. Returning to Professor Fukuyama's point, it seems that even though Mr. Zakaria's observation about increasingly personal forms of global interaction are indeed happening; institutions, whether national governments, international regulators or other systemic organizers in the multi-party world will always be in demand.

- "For almost three centuries, the world...has had a superpower. Problems, for better or worse, had a solver." "Solving common problems in an era of diffusion and decentralization could turn out to be more difficult without a superpower."
- "Becoming a modern society is about industrialization, urbanization, and rising levels of literacy, education, and wealth [the writer would add health and safety to the list]. The qualities that make a society Western, in contrast, are special: the classical legacy, [Judeo-] Christianity, the separation of church and state, the rule of law, civil society. Samuel P.] Huntington writes in *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* that "Western civilization is precious not because it is universal but because it is unique."
- "America has been able to tap this energy [the energy and vitality provided by immigrants], manage diversity, assimilate newcomers, and move ahead economically. Ultimately, this is what sets the country [America] apart from the experience of Britain and all other historical examples of great economic powers that grow fat and lazy and slip behind as they face the rise of leaner, hungrier nations." America internalizes the competition.
- "Growing inequality is the signature feature of the new era fueled by a triple force – the knowledge economy, information technology, and globalization." Mr. Zakaria quotes Martin Wolf in noting..."the change in economic fundamentals is from capital and labor to energy and ideas."
- "The world is going America's way. Countries are becoming more open, market friendly, and democratic."

The international order established by the United States after World War II is in urgent need of expansion and repair, but not reconceptualization. Mr. Zakaria suggests that America become an 'honest broker' in the vein of Chancellor Bismarck during the late 19th century in Germany. "This new role is quite different from the traditional superpower role. It involves consultation, cooperation, and even compromise. It derives its power by setting the agenda, defining the issues, and mobilizing coalitions...being Chairman of the Board."

Mr. Zakaria concludes by describing six specific guidelines to enable America a successful leadership role in the new world:

1. Choose a foreign policy path; don't play the field,
2. Build broad rules, not narrow interests,
3. Be Bismarck, not Britain...be the honest broker, not a diminishing power broker,

Book Review

June 2014

4. Order ala carte,
5. Think asymmetrically, and
6. Be, and be viewed as, legitimate; legitimacy is power.

At the end of the day, the message to take from Mr. Zakaria's work is that America remains a superpower, even as other nations ascend or descend the power ladder. The use of our power, and its perpetuation, is best applied by welcoming the rising nations of the world to the table and then serving as the host, the facilitator, the source of intellectual inspiration - the leader.

Professor Fukuyama gave us the vehicle, with a handbook, for building states based on institutions. He tasks us to make the institutions work, not discard, decimate or demonize them. Just as Mr. Zakaria suggests, the post-World War II institutions need expansion and repair, not reconceptualization. So the Professor gives us the vehicle, Mr. Zakaria gives us directions to the driver's seat and shows us the steering wheel. Mr. Friedman gives us a destination.

THE FLAT WORLD

Thomas Friedman has expanded his thoughts of a "flat world" and now views the world as **Hot, Flat, and Crowded**. He previews his conclusion with his sub-title "**Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How It Can Save America**". In addition to his unique analysis, he gives us a mission, a program and a path.

Mr. Friedman starts off with three broad trends he saw from a 2008 perspective:

1. Since 9/11 we are building more walls than ever and disconnecting ourselves from the world.
2. In America, "dumb as ya' wanna be" is an attitude of growing popularity." "We will get to it when we feel like getting to it [crumbling infrastructure, Social Security, etc.] and it will never catch up to us because we're America."
3. We are not "nation-building" at home. This book was written during our massive expenditures on nation-building in Iraq and Afghanistan, but prior to the 2008 economic melt-down and the discovery of significant domestic energy resources. However, the thought still resonates as the re-building domestic infrastructure systems is only slowly moving to the fore of the American political agenda.

We do not fully comprehend the advancement of technology, civic infrastructure and education occurring in the rest of the world. We believe what we have is ok. But only 30% of Americans had passports in 2011; our citizens have no idea of the progress being made by others around the world. CNN reports that ... "There were 61.5 million trips outside the United States in 2009, down 3% from 2008, according to the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. About 50% of those trips were to either

Book Review

June 2014

Mexico or Canada, destinations that didn't require a passport until 2007.

So less than one in three Americans actually experience our relative decline. A visit to Berlin or Singapore will provide overwhelming visual evidence of global progress that exceeds that of the United States. The American multinational corporations get it; they are moving off shore, sometimes for cost-savings, other times to get better infrastructure. The rest of us may be content to slowly, and unknowingly, decline into global mediocrity, and hence a more precarious state of prosperity.

Mr. Friedman attributes our threatening situation to three global forces driving five problems. "The convergence of global warming, global flattening and global crowding is driving those five big problems – energy supply and demand, petrodictatorship, climate change, energy poverty, and biodiversity loss..." "All five of these key problems... have been building for years." "How we handle these five problems will determine whether [or not] we have peace and security, economic growth and human rights in the coming years." So while "petro-dictatorship" may be declining, energy conservation, biota diversity and climate change are still important challenges.

"So what emerged after World War II was a consensus that the world had to come together to provide a framework for three big things if it was going to survive and prosper: peace and security, economic development and human rights." "And if they could just get those three big things right for most people, the world would be OK." "Each of these goals, noted [John] Dernbach, was eventually enshrined in one or more global institutions or treaties:

- peace and security in the United Nations charter,
- economic development and integration in the General Treaty on Tariffs and Trade (as well as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization), and
- the promotion of human rights through the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Accords."

The world created international systems to address specifically identified world problems.

The environment was an issue, but it was generally ignored until the 1980s. Mr. Friedman recites the history of environmental global discussions: the Brundtland Commission in 1987, then the Montreal Protocol, then the Rio Conference in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

"Europe has managed to rein in oil consumption through a [strategic] combination of high gasoline taxes, small cars and efficient public transportation,..." The point is not to follow the European strategy; the point is that to have a strategy. A vocal segment of America recently chanted a strategy..."Drill, baby, drill" ...not an enlightened call for long-term survival and prosperity. We can do better. Mr. Friedman again: "...going green is no longer simply a hobby for the high-minded environmentalist or some 'personal virtue' ...it is now a national imperative."

Book Review

June 2014

“...the total cost of ownership...” includes the ‘free services’ such as those offered by streams and lakes that absorb pollutants, air that absorb greenhouse gases. “The two parties in the transaction are the manufacturer and the consumer. But there is an externality being paid for by third parties – global society and planet earth.” “...it is the government’s job to step in and shape the market to correct that failure [the failure to include the price of externalities in the cost of goods and services]”.

“We want government setting the right tax policies, regulatory policies, education policies, and funding the basic research that pushes out the boundaries of materials science, chemistry, physics, biology and nanotechnology – preparing all the soil, so the market and the venture capitalists can pick off whichever sprouts look most likely to make the difficult transition from drawing board to marketplace.”

“This is a systems problem.” “The first rule of systems is that everything is connected.” “If you take only one thing away from this book, please take this: We are not going to regulate our way out of the problems of the Energy-Climate Era. We can only innovate our way out, and the only way to do that is to mobilize the most effective and prolific system of transformational innovation and commercialization of new products ever created on the face of the earth – the U.S. marketplace.”

In conclusion, between the three authors, we have a cogent theory of state building in a hot, flat, crowded post-American world. Cities of all sizes are players in this world; competing for resources, recruiting new businesses, holding on to existing employers, finding customers for local businesses and enticing talent to join local enterprises. All cities are global cities; some know it and are more successful than other still unaware.

Related Readings

The Globalization Paradox, Democracy and the Future of the World Economy, Dani Rodrik, W.W.Norton & Company, NY, 2011.

The Great Reset, How New Ways of Living and Working Drive Post-Crash Prosperity, Florida, Richard, HarperCollins Publishers, 2010.

The Resilient City. How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster, Vale, Lawrence J. and Thomas J. Campanella, Oxford University Press, 2005.

REVIEWER:

Bill Kercher, AICP, LEED®AP
Orlando, bill.kercher@wckplanning.com