

# Book Review

April 2016

## ***The Metropolitan Revolution, How Cities and Metros are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy***

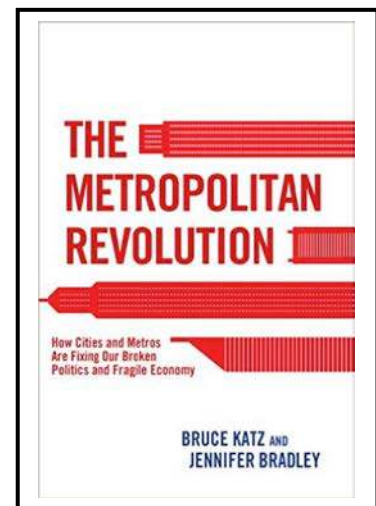
Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley, Brookings Institute Press, Washington D.C., 2013.

### Summary

The authors offer a thoughtful picture of the changing role of cities in the United States and the world. The story is about the innovation economy, the subsuming of cities by metropolitan regions and devolution of power from national and state governments to cities and metro regions.

After a comprehensive forward by Judith Rodin, the first four chapters provide real examples of progressive activities in the New York City, Denver, Cleveland and Houston metropolitan regions.

- The NYC Economic Development Corporation under then Mayor Bloomberg created the Applied Sciences initiative.
- The Denver region concluded a fifty years process to create The Metro Mayor Caucus to facilitate multi-jurisdictional and regional activities to build a globally cognizant economy.
- Northeast Ohio created an entrepreneurial ecosystem based on collaborative networks that are responsive to twenty-first century economic conditions.
- The Houston metro area focused on Neighborhood Centers that built “rungs on the ladder” that offered education, acculturation and the many other skills people need for success in the regional economy. The method was “appreciative inquiry” that encouraged people to identify and build on their strengths rather than dwell on shortcomings.



[Summary](#)  
[YouTube](#)  
[Published Reviews](#)

The second half of the book builds on the case study insights and presents “The Rise of Innovation Districts” as chapter 6 followed by their thoughts on globalization. Their formula for creating innovation districts relies on local governments providing flexible land use entitlements and infrastructure, finding connections between the economic and urban experiences, multi-layered financing that transcends traditional silos, and the foresight to see places for the location of innovation enterprises and organizations that have been over-looked by more staid businesses.

Their view is that cities and metro regions will be the vehicles for the new economy. Federal and state governments have worked themselves into an obstructionist and self-serving position that will continue to be by-passed by people and businesses interested in economic prosperity for their people. Direct foreign investment in cities, city-to-city trading partners and globally-oriented economic development programs from the nation’s cities will become the norm: Fascinating and Likely.

# Book Review

April 2016

**YouTube:** In addition to the reviews cited below, check out:

Interview: Bruce Katz, Author Of 'The Metropolitan Revolution'

**NPR** AUTHOR INTERVIEWS

## A Metro 'Revolution': Cities, Suburbs Do What Washington Can't

July 25, 2013 1:35 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air

NPR

Jul 25, 2013 - Even as Detroit files for bankruptcy protection, Bruce Katz says many American cities are showing promising signs of renewal.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/07/25/204862376/a-metro-revolution-cities-and-suburbs-do-what-d-c-cant>

## Video

Find a 45 second overview on a video of the book at <http://metrorevolution.org/>

## Published Reviews

### BROOKINGS

Across the US, cities and metropolitan areas are facing huge economic and competitive challenges that Washington won't, or can't, solve. The good news is that networks of metropolitan leaders – mayors, business and labor leaders, educators, and philanthropists – are stepping up and powering the nation forward.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/books/2013/the-metropolitan-revolution>

## URBANOPHILE.com

### The Metropolitan Revolution

JUNE 24, 2013 BY [AARON M. RENN](#)

#### [The Metropolitan Revolution](#)

*by Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley*

*Brookings Institution Press, June 2013*

By far the most important thing that the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program has done is educate and advocate for the reality of the metro-centricity of the United States.

<http://www.urbanophile.com/2013/06/24/the-metropolitan-revolution/>

#### REVIEWER:

Bill Kercher, **AICP**, **LEED®AP**

**wck | planning, inc.**

Orlando FL 32801

[bill.kercher@wckplanning.com](mailto:bill.kercher@wckplanning.com)

# Book Review

April 2016

www.wckplanning.com