

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Survival of the City: Living and Thriving in an Age of Isolation.

Edward Glaeser, David Cutler, Penguin Press, 2021.

From Amazon...

"Cities can make us sick. They always have—diseases spread more easily when more people are close to one another. And disease is hardly the only ill that accompanies urban density. Cities have been demonized as breeding grounds for vice and crime from Sodom and Gomorrah on. But cities have flourished nonetheless because they are humanity's greatest invention, indispensable engines for creativity, innovation, wealth, and connection, the loom on which the fabric of civilization is woven.

"But cities now stand at a crossroads. During the global COVID crisis, cities grew silent as people worked from home—if they could work at all. The normal forms of socializing ground to a halt. How permanent are these changes? Advances in digital technology mean that many people can opt out of city life as never before. Will they? Are we on the brink of a post-urban world?"

"City life will survive but individual cities face terrible risks, argue Edward Glaeser and David Cutler, and a wave of urban failure would be absolutely disastrous. In terms of intimacy and inspiration, nothing can replace what cities offer. Great cities have always demanded great management, and our current crisis has exposed fearful gaps in our capacity for good governance. It is possible to drive a city into the ground, pandemic or not. Glaeser and Cutler examine the evolution that is already happening, and describe the possible futures that lie before us: What will distinguish the cities that will flourish from the ones that won't? In America, they argue, deep inequities in health care and education are a particular blight on the future of our cities; solving them will be the difference between our collective good health and a downward spiral to a much darker place."

About the Authors

Edward Glaeser is the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at Harvard University. Professor Glaeser has published extensively on cities and their evolution over the last thirty years, and he is the author of *Triumph of the City*. He leads the Urban Economics Working Group at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and co-leads the Cities Programme at the International Growth Center. Glaeser is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration.

David Cutler is the Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics in the Department of Economics at Harvard University. Honored for his scholarly work and singled out for outstanding mentorship, Professor Cutler's work in health economics and public economics has earned him significant academic and public acclaim. He has served on the Council of Economic Advisors and the National Economic Council, and has advised businesses and governments on health care. Cutler is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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