CITIES WITHOUT SUBURBS

The author of this book addresses problems that today's urban areas are experiencing, and argues that the basis for all of the problems is economic and racial segregation. A city without suburbs is a city that meets the following criteria: (1) it houses at least 50% of the metropolitan population; and (2) the average per capita income of the residents of the city must be at least 90% of the average per capita income of the residents of its suburbs. The city without suburbs is generally, also, a city whose population has increased over the years, bucking the national trend of city population shrinkage. The author presents 24 lessons learned from urban America, some of which (as taken from the table of Contents) are: (1) The real city is the total metropolitan area - city and suburb. (2) Most of America's Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians live in urban areas. (9) When a city stops growing, it starts shrinking. (14) Racial prejudice has shaped growth patterns. (16) Inelastic areas that segregate Blacks segregate Hispanics. (21) The smaller the income gap between city and suburb, the greater the economic progress for the whole metropolitan area. (24) Rebuilding inner cities from within has not happened. The book also covers - II. Characteristics of Metropolitan Areas, III. Strategies for Stretching Cities, and IV. Conclusions and Recommendations. The author lists 23 cities without suburbs that have grown in population over the years, along with statistics regarding percentage living in the cities, city-suburb income ratio, per capita income of metro residents, residential segregation index for Blacks, and 1991 city bond rating (based on Moody's bond ratings). These cities are the success stories.

Availability:

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Corporate Authors:
Woodrow Wilson Center Press
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Suite 704
Washington, DC United States 20024-2518

Authors:
Rusk, D

Publication Date: 1993

Language

English

Media Info

Features: Appendices; Tables;
Pagination: 165 p.

Subject/Index Terms

TRT Terms: Asians; Blacks; Cities; Economic conditions; Economic development; Economic impacts; Hispanics; Income; Low income groups; Metropolitan areas; Population; Quality of life; Race; Suburbs; Urban areas; Urban development

Uncontrolled Terms: Prejudice; Racial segregation

Subject Areas: Economics; Highways; Planning and Forecasting; Society; I10: Economics and Administration; I72: Traffic and Transport Planning;

Filing Info

Accession Number: 00930030
Record Type: Publication
ISBN: 0943875501
Files: TRIS
Created Date: Aug 12 2002 12:00AM