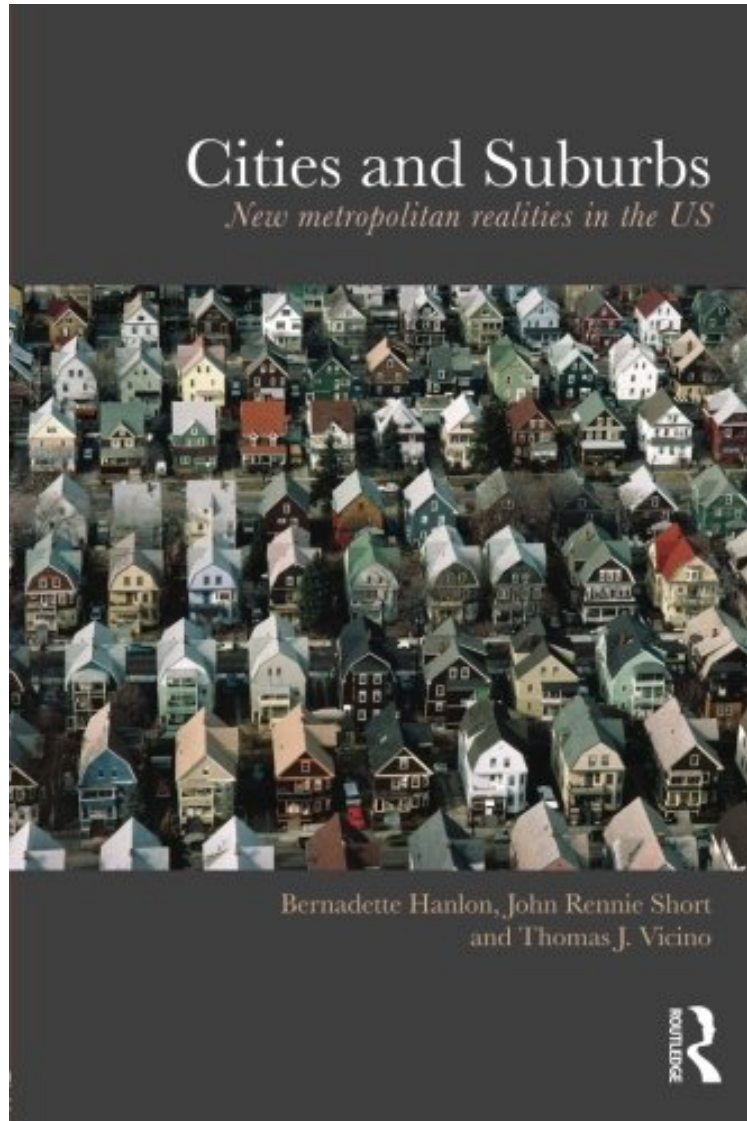


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## Cities and Suburbs: New Metropolitan Realities in the US

*Bernadette Hanlon, John Rennie Short, Thomas J. Vicino*  
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**Bernadette Hanlon, John Rennie Short, Thomas J. Vicino : Cities and Suburbs: New Metropolitan Realities in the US** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cities and Suburbs: New Metropolitan Realities in the US:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Suburban Sprawl Needs to Be at the Forefront of American Politics By Corey Suburban sprawl is a complex concept that aggregates the effects of outward expansion from cities and inner ring suburbs, auto-dependency, low density zoning, and spatial mismatch (people not living where they

work) into a single phenomenon. When regions experience suburban sprawl, they often face conflicts between the demands of consumers and sustainability. *Cities and Suburbs* illustrates the detrimental effect that suburban expansion is having on sustainability in the United States. Unfortunately, Americans choose to do nothing, as they do not know about the effects suburban living is having. Books such as *Cities and Suburbs* need more attention in order for new urbanism and smart growth to spread. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very informative, instructional and interesting. If you are ...By RuthVery informative, instructional and interesting. If you are interested in the history of the suburbs and their transition to the metropolitan area, you should read this book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading for Policy Makers, Researchers and Professional Practitioners By Michael Hennig, Angelou Economics In a time of great public concern - one of strong interest in improving the health, prosperity and quality of life of citizens while encouraging positive development, robust commercial activity and the efficient use of private and public resources - a sound view and thorough understanding of the manner in which our metropolitan areas have evolved and the policies that are continuing to shape them has never been more critical. *Cities and Suburbs: New Metropolitan Realities in the US* is essential reading for anyone interested in or working to improve the quality and efficiency of development within American metropolitan areas and their function in supporting economic development. As the commercial and cultural heart of the nation, metropolitan areas have experienced dramatic and fascinating changes over the past century. The authors offer a clear and thorough account of the many forces behind these changes as well as the specific policies that continue to contribute to their present form and function. Central to this exploration is a tacit acknowledgement that the market forces that are at work within and upon our communities operate under rules and conditions established by public bodies and social institutions to achieve various desired outcomes and which continue to influence everything from investment in infrastructure to home finance. Unfortunately, as demonstrated by the authors, many of these desires were misguided when first acted upon while others have become outdated yet persist as a result of stubborn custom and misperception. The authors are particularly effective in dismantling one area of great misunderstanding relating to metropolitan America - that of the uniform distinction and polarity between the city and the suburb. Related to this is the common treatment by researchers, policy makers and economic developers of the suburb as one categorical entity that largely shares the same general makeup, patterns of growth and relationship with the city. To the contrary, the authors illustrate that there are many different types of suburbs from the blue-collar streetcar suburb not far from the central business district to the McMansion-laden subdivision at the region's far edge. Further, suburbia does not, as many continue to believe, present as sharp a contrast to the city when it comes to demographics or economic prosperity. In fact, as American metropolitan areas see a fourth or fifth ring of suburbs added to the area that stretch farther and farther from the metropolitan core, many older suburbs (some just decades old) have degraded into, as the authors describe it, "the suburban gothic." Moreover, some inner-tier suburbs have retained their value while exurban suburbs can be found that are in socio-economic ruin. The implications of the authors' presentation of suburban America as a dynamic and complicated environment are very significant to urban planning and economic development and highlight the need to reform many longstanding policies at the federal, state, and local-levels. In addition to a fantastic review of how the current shape of American metropolitan regions came to be, *Cities and Suburbs* offers concrete steps for addressing many of the most pressing needs of our communities. These generally center upon a call for increased regionalism and metropolitan-wide solutions for planning and policy. Understanding that suburbs cannot all be viewed as one in the same, suited to the same policies and approaches, and that the conventional city-suburb dichotomy no longer holds, the importance of a regional approach is made clear. *Cities and Suburbs* is a must read for those studying urban policy or, for that matter, the recent housing crisis, and is of immediate value to policy makers and economic strategists throughout America.

This book is a systematic examination of the historical and current roles that cities and suburbs play in US metropolitan areas. It explores the history of cities and suburbs, their changing dynamics with each other, their growing diversity, the environmental consequences of their development and finally the extent and nature of their decline and renewal. *Cities and Suburbs: New Metropolitan Realities in the US* offers a comprehensive examination of demographic and socioeconomic processes of US suburbanization by providing a succinct guide to understanding the dynamic relationship between metropolitan structure and processes of social change. A variety of case studies are used in the chapters to explore suburban successes and failures and the discourse concludes with reflections on metropolitan policy and planning for the twenty-first century. The topics of discussion include: Key ideas and concepts on the demographic and sociospatial aspects of metropolitan change The changing nature of city and suburban population migration and their relationships with changes at the local, metropolitan, national, and global levels Current metropolitan public policy issues of large cities and suburbs Links of suburbanization to metropolitan transformation and the growing dichotomy between suburban decline and suburban sprawl in metropolitan areas. *Cities and Suburbs* relies on theorized case studies, demographic analysis, maps, and photos from North America. Written in a clear and accessible style, the book addresses various fundamental questions about the socioeconomic role that suburbs and cities play in shaping metropolitan areas, their environmental impact, the political consequences, and the resulting

policy debates. This is essential reading for scholars and students of Geography, Economics, Politics, Sociology, Urban Studies and Urban Planning.

"The metropolitanization of America has been accompanied by some surprising changes in political, economic, social and physical landscapes. This book is an excellent primer on the new realities of reconfigured and resurgent metropolitan settings." Professor Paul Knox, Virginia Tech, USA "For over half a century the process of suburbanisation has transformed American society. This timely contribution offers an informed, informative and incisive commentary on the trends and consequences of this ongoing process in the US" Professor Michael Pacione, University of Strathclyde, UK "...an enlightening and thorough new study..." The Next American City, Issue 26, 2010 "With their superbly researched, provocative, and highly recommended contribution, Hanlon, Short, and Vicino are at the forefront of this approach to urban scholarship." Kyle E. Walker, University of Minnesota, USA "...a comprehensive description and evaluation of the evolving U.S. metropolis that challenges traditional understandings of American metropolitan structure." Economic Development Quarterly, Ralph B. McLaughlin, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia "Recommended. All undergraduate libraries." CHOICE, E. Carlson, Florida, State University "This a Goldilocks book: not too long, not too short, just right" Journal of the American Planning Association, William H. Lucy, University of Virginia, USA "...an ideal textbook for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Overall, Cities and Suburbs: New Metropolitan Realities in the US is a great resource for policy analysts and makers as well as metropolitan scholars in many disciplines including geography, economics, politics, sociology, urban studies, and urban planning." Journal of Planning Literature, Katrin B. Anacker, George Mason University, USA "This compact and well-written book is an ideal text for the many disciplines that study the confounding complexity of the U.S. metropolis. It focuses abstract discussion by presenting specific case studies and provides concise summaries, numerous citations of major works, and an excellent bibliography. The perceptive and lively style makes it instructive, enjoyable reading." The Professional Geographer, Jo Margaret Mano, Department of Geography, State University of New York at New Paltz, New Paltz, NY, USA "Cities and Suburbs provides quite welcome, up-to-date insights into the state of American suburbs in metropolitan contexts, based on current literature and most recent research findings. The format of the book is highly accessible. Each chapter is accompanied by a list of references for further reading and an illustrative case study. This makes it quite useful for teaching purposes as well." Urban Geography 31.7, Markus Hesse, Geography and Spatial Planning Research Centre, University of Luxemburg, Luxemburg About the Author Bernadette Hanlon is Research Analyst at the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education (CUERE) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), USA. Her research and teaching interests focus on the urban policy and issues of environmental sustainability. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA. John Rennie Short is Professor of Public Policy and Geography at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA. His main research and teaching interests are in urban issues, environmental concerns, and cartographic representation. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Bristol, UK. Thomas J. Vicino is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. His research and teaching interests focus on the political economy of metropolitan regions. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA.