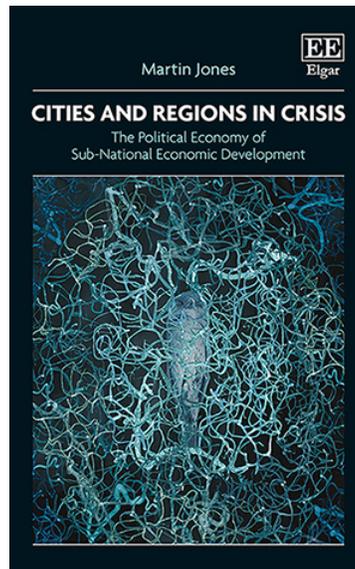


Cities and Regions in Crisis

The Political Economy of Sub-National Economic Development

Martin Jones, Professor of Human Geography and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, UK

Offering a geographical political economy analysis, this book explores the mechanisms, institutions, and spaces of subnational economic development. Martin Jones innovatively examines how policy-makers frame problems and offer intervention solutions in different cities and regions. Drawing on different approaches to state intervention, neoliberalism, crisis and contradiction theories, and notions of depoliticisation, this book explains policy failure and how it is impacted by flux surrounding economic development. With constant changes to legislation, institutional initiatives, and ministerial responsibility, local and regional economic development is shown to be at a critical crossroads.



'The book is a contribution to inter-disciplinary geographical political economy of cities and regions. Though based on England's experience, the book is of general relevance and applicability across countries including India. It is a useful reference book for students, teachers, researchers, practitioners and policy makers who deal with multi-dimensional and comparative urban and regional economic governance and development issues in different countries and institutional set ups. The long list of references compressed in 48 pages at the end of the book is a fine source of comprehensive literature for both early and senior researchers in urban and regional development studies.'

– M.R. Narayana, Aarthika Charche

'As Jones' excellent study demonstrates, the last 30 odd years does not bode well, and without a challenge to the so-called 'common sense' of economic development, we will remain ensnared in the political and economy contradictions of neoliberalism. Exposing and challenging these contradictions, Cities and Regions in Crisis is essential reading for all scholars of the local state.'

– Steven Griggs, Local Government Studies

'In Cities and Regions in Crisis, Jones achieves a synthesis of the literature critiquing neoliberal economic policy and space, and consolidates accounts of institutional changes and policy responses addressing the local effects of uneven development in the UK. His theoretical contributions are noteworthy, having been amongst the core group of scholars to challenge the neoliberal paradigm of development and carry associated ideas into the mainstream. His cases provide clear examples for applying theory in research. It is important for researchers and policy-makers to build upon the body of case research and to provide evidence that can be used to prevent the same failed policy responses from being repeated. For that, this book serves as a useful resource.'

– Bradley Loewen, Regional Studies

'This book is a remarkable and often inspirational tour de force. Martin Jones confidently moves between theories of political economy and stories of regional and urban policy, using each to inform the other. He brings the uneven geographies of England to life, showing how they are reproduced in practice, while also offering the prospect of alternative futures.'

– Allan Cochrane, The Open University, UK

'Martin Jones is a critical economic and political geographer. This well-integrated monograph presents his radical, theoretically-informed, spatio-temporally nuanced, evidence-based research on cities and regions. While policy-relevant, it explains the many reasons why urban

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and regional policy-makers more often fail than succeed in delivering their changing projects. It deserves serious study.'

– Bob Jessop, Lancaster University, UK

'They say that crises are never really solved, only moved around. No one knows this better than Martin Jones, who for two decades has been one of the most astute, creative, and determined chroniclers of the churning "system" of urban and regional governance in England.'

– Jamie Peck, University of British Columbia, Canada

'In *Cities and Regions in Crisis*, Martin Jones has crafted a rich and grounded geographical political economy. Consolidating and integrating a deep and important body of work, he provides insightful analysis of urban and regional governance in England and extends this to reflect upon more progressive future directions. It offers much to inspire and inform research on the rolling predicament of governing uneven geographical development beyond its empirical focus.'

– Andy Pike, Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University, UK

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