



GREATER SACRAMENTO ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Synopsis: The Metropolitan Revolution

Written by Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley, The Metropolitan Revolution was published by the Brookings Institution in June of 2013. The book describes how metropolitan regions drive the global economy, rather than states or nations.

In their book, Katz and Bradley lay out a framework for advancing regional economies, which the Greater Sacramento Economic Council has modeled throughout its action plan. The authors' thesis is simple and straightforward:

"In the aftermath of the Great Recession, U.S. cities and metros are recognizing that with our federal government mired in partisan gridlock and most states adrift, they are essentially on their own to grapple with super-sized economic, social and environmental challenges. The cavalry is not coming. Washington is not riding to the rescue....Bottom line: there is no national American economy or American society. Rather, the U.S. economy and society is a network of powerful metropolitan economies and metropolitan communities."

Like Greater Sacramento, Katz and Bradley advocate for a number of policies to promote metropolitan economies:

- The development of regional collaboratives composed of public, private, non-profit, and educational institutions, to create and act upon a common development strategy.
- A focus on advanced industries that combine production, research and development, and technology to develop innovative products.
- The formation of knowledge and civic networks that support the sharing of valuable business intelligence and promote collective action.
- Investments in infrastructure and education to make workers and firms more productive.

The book provides examples of how business, civic, community, labor, and environmental leaders are working together to control their economic fate. Through region-wide planning, investment, and innovation, places like New York City, Denver, and Northeast Ohio are not just fixing, but future-proofing their economies.

The book also outlines a number of larger trends seen at the metropolitan level in recent years. Innovation districts in places like Cambridge and Detroit combine cutting edge innovation with creative urban cores. Portland and Minneapolis St. Paul are forging global trade and foreign direct investment networks. As Katz and Bradley put it,

"America is a metropolitan nation. In this century, starting in this decade, we will finally and fully start acting like one."