



The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City

By Alan Ehrenhalt

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The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City By Alan Ehrenhalt

In *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City* we travel the nation with Alan Ehrenhalt, one of our leading urbanists, as he explains how America's cities are changing, what makes them succeed or fail, and what this means for our future.

Just a couple of decades ago, we took it for granted that inner cities were the preserve of immigrants and the poor, and that suburbs were the chosen destination of those who could afford them. Today, a demographic inversion is taking place: Central cities increasingly are where the affluent want to live, while suburbs are becoming home to poorer people and those who come to America from other parts of the world. Highly educated members of the emerging millennial generation are showing a decided preference for urban life and are being joined in many places by a new class of affluent retirees.

Ehrenhalt shows us how the commercial canyons of lower Manhattan are becoming residential neighborhoods, and how mass transit has revitalized inner-city communities in Chicago and Brooklyn. He explains why car-dominated cities like Phoenix and Charlotte have sought to build twenty-first-century downtowns from scratch, while sprawling postwar suburbs are seeking to attract young people with their own form of urbanized experience.

The Great Inversion is an eye-opening and thoroughly engaging look at our urban society and its future.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

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In the future, American cities could look like late-nineteenth-century Vienna, with lively, affluent metropolitan core areas and the lower classes consigned to life in peripheral suburbs. Such cities will go well beyond gentrification and involve the displacement of the poor in inner-city areas by the wealthy, according to urbanologist Ehrenhalt. He details how the trend toward such cities is already apparent in Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, Houston, and other metropolitan areas. Drawing on census data and economic research, he examines the factors behind the trend, including mass transit, retail and housing development in downtown locations, and the declining appeal of long commutes to distant suburbs. Ehrenhalt also offers detailed portraits of the future of suburban sprawl in areas struggling to re-create the appeal of cities by developing more accessible commercial zones. This is an engaging look at demographic changes that promise a very different future for cities and suburbs. --Vanessa Bush

Review

“Ehrenhalt takes his reader on a tour of the changing American cityscape . . . An enjoyable and engaging read, especially for those considering a move back to the city . . . Solidly researched with great questions asked and plenty of hard facts and anecdotal answers provided.”

—Richard Horan, *Christian Science Monitor*

“*The Great Inversion* and the United Nations agree; the world is becoming more urban by the day . . . To Ehrenhalt’s credit, he does not pass moral judgment on the process. With clear prose that is both informative and entertaining, he objectively states the facts (and presents a great number of voices from immigrant businessmen and local civil servants to politicians from Elite African-American families and developers), leaving his readers free to render their own verdict.”

—Joshua Bloodworth, *Dominion of New York*

“Most writers on cities are either cheerleaders or naysayers. Ehrenhalt is neither, and he has written a balanced, hard-hitting book that is a persuasive forecast of our complex urban future.”

—Witold Rybczynski, author of *Makeshift Metropolis*

“The future of the city is the future of America and the world. Alan Ehrenhalt shows us how a desire for urbanism is bringing people back to America’s downtowns, and what suburbs and communities of all sorts must do to thrive in the future. *The Great Inversion* is a must read for anyone concerned with American cities, urbanism, and the future of the way we live.”

—Richard Florida, author of *Who’s Your City?*

“[*The Great Inversion*] is a serious, provocative, and gracefully written, and consistently interesting look at how the urban-suburban balance is shifting”

—*Better! Cities & Towns*

About the Author

Alan Ehrenhalt was the executive editor of *Governing* magazine from 1990 to 2009. He is the author of three books: *The United States of Ambition*, *The Lost City*, and *Democracy in the Mirror*. In 2000, he was the winner of the American Political Science Association’s Carey McWilliams Award for distinguished

contributions to the field of political science by a journalist. He is currently executive editor of Stateline, a daily news service reporting on politics and policy in all fifty states. Ehrenhalt lives near Washington, D.C.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nathanael Ma:

This The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City without we comprehend teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Bethany Christiansen:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Ramon Jeter:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, think reading a book can really hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City which is having the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

Estella Pierre:

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best book for yourself and try to like reading that.

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