

# City-State 21

## Riding turbulence and uncertainty in the urban century

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Cities will be the home of two thirds of the world's people by 2050: the prospects for climate change, economic development and political security depend on them. Yet such urban structures are increasingly fluid, networked, entrepreneurial, globalized and challenging to plan and manage.

This multi-level book is based around a 'future history' of the UK and the developed world over the 21st century. It builds on the much travelled *City-Region 2020*, and shows ways forward for the most challenging questions.

The argument emerges from three kinds of evidence and insight. One is a detailed model of resource flows through all supply-demand chains. Another is that of sustainability policy and capacity building through foresight and systems analysis. The third is the 'relational' approach to new forms of governance, economics and planning. This emerges from experience of underlying problems and opportunities:

- Issues such as climate change are tangled with other social and economic issues – needing joined-up thinking and action to link between sectors, causes / effects, and local to global levels .
- The dynamics of power – political, economic, ideological – determine not only the available solutions but how we can think and act on them.

The response is the application of systems thinking to a joined-up, networked and 'relational' paradigm, suited for the 'City-State' of the 21<sup>st</sup> century global urban condition:

- 'relational governance' is geared to an era of networks, entrepreneurs, transparency, stewardship and ideological power dynamics
- 'relational economy', is based around 'pathways' for communities of interest to self-organize, with complex networked supply-demand chains and internalized externalities;
- 'relational planning', which goes beyond conventional types to work with new kinds of globally networked urban metro-scapes.

This powerful analytic and graphic method is more topical and vivid through its applications to practical issues in urban and regional development. Energy and climate, housing and property, transport and access, food and landuse, waste / resource management and other sectors – each shows the application of the method with guidance on ways forward.

The book itself communicates on multiple channels, with parallel texts on theory and practice, and accompanied by the author's trademark style of graphic narrative and exploration.