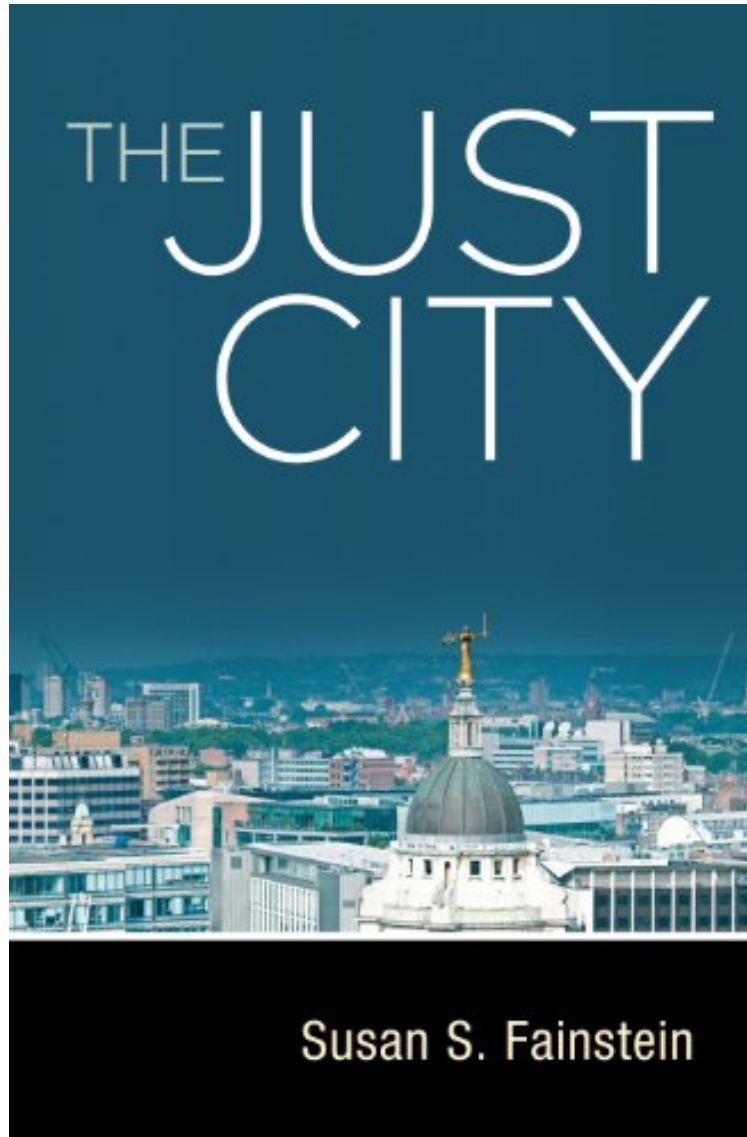


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The Just City

Susan S. Fainstein

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Susan S. Fainstein : The Just City before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Just City:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I've read on urban planning! By Jeff She really dives into the subject of justice and equity. This is a subject that's often talked about in the urban planning world of Portland, OR, but seldom do people really know what it means. This book was extremely clarifying and written in a way that is easy to understand and not written like a doctoral thesis. She starts with a philosophical discussion about what defines justice and, then, comes up with three criteria: democracy, equity, and diversity. In the three middle

chapters she uses the examples of New York City, London, and Amsterdam as examples and analyzes each on the grounds of justice. She finishes the book with simple guidelines for planning a just city. Fantastic book!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
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I received this book in good quality and much earlier than I expected. I recommend this book and company to anyone!

For much of the twentieth century improvement in the situation of disadvantaged communities was a focus for urban planning and policy. Yet over the past three decades the ideological triumph of neoliberalism has caused the allocation of spatial, political, economic, and financial resources to favor economic growth at the expense of wider social benefits. Susan Fainstein's concept of the "just city" encourages planners and policymakers to embrace a different approach to urban development. Her objective is to combine progressive city planners' earlier focus on equity and material well-being with considerations of diversity and participation so as to foster a better quality of urban life within the context of a global capitalist political economy. Fainstein applies theoretical concepts about justice developed by contemporary philosophers to the concrete problems faced by urban planners and policymakers and argues that, despite structural obstacles, meaningful reform can be achieved at the local level. In the first half of *The Just City*, Fainstein draws on the work of John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, Iris Marion Young, Nancy Fraser, and others to develop an approach to justice relevant to twenty-first-century cities, one that incorporates three central concepts: diversity, democracy, and equity. In the book's second half, Fainstein tests her ideas through case studies of New York, London, and Amsterdam by evaluating their postwar programs for housing and development in relation to the three norms. She concludes by identifying a set of specific criteria for urban planners and policymakers to consider when developing programs to assure greater justice in both the process of their formulation and their effects.