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# The Making of a World City: London 1991 to 2021

*Greg Clark*

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**Greg Clark : The Making of a World City: London 1991 to 2021** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of a World City: London 1991 to 2021:

After two decades of evolution and transformation, London had become one of the most open and cosmopolitan cities in the world. The success of the 2012 Olympics set a high water-mark in the visible success of the city, while its influence and soft power increased in the global systems of trade, capital, culture, knowledge, and communications. The Making of a World City: London 1991 - 2021 sets out in clear detail both the catalysts that have enabled London to succeed and also the qualities and underlying values that are at play: London's openness and self-confidence,

its inventiveness, influence, and its entrepreneurial zeal. London's organic, unplanned, incremental character, without a ruling design code or guiding master plan, proves to be more flexible than any planned city can be. Cities are high on national and regional agendas as we all try to understand the impact of global urbanisation and the re-urbanisation of the developed world. If we can explain London's successes and her remaining challenges, we can unlock a better understanding of how cities succeed.

"The Making of a World City: London 1991 to 2021, by leading global cities expert and Centre for London Associate Greg Clark, which is published this month, seeks to remedy this by considering how London got where it is today, and setting out the challenges still facing us." (Centre for London, 10 December 2014) The future of cities depends on their resilience. London – messy, unplanned, organic and ungovernable – has become a model of global city resilience. Anyone interested in understanding the complexity of cities should read this book. – Ricky Burdett, Professor of Urban Studies, London School of Economics, Director, LSE Cities and Urban Age In The Making of a World City: London 1991 to 2021 Greg Clark draws on over 25 years of experience working within London policy and economic development organisations, and on interviews with around 100 leading thinkers about the past, present and future of London, including commentators and leaders in New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Paris, Singapore, and São Paulo. – Professor Rosemary Scanlon, Dean, Shack Institute of Real Estate, New York University London has captured the world's imagination as a center for financial, business, cultural, and social development. Greg Clark has drawn on his own vast experience and that of leading experts to write a must-read assessment one of the world's most important cities. – Michael J. Enright, Sun Hung Kai Professor, University of Hong Kong The emerging world cities need to know the secrets and the challenges of London, New York, Paris and Tokyo. This book helps us to see London from the inside out, and it explains very clearly how London became a leading world city. – Professor Miguel Bucalem, Director, Centre for Cities, University of São Paulo London's rebirth as a leading World City is indeed a major strategic achievement. Greg Clark's remarkable and positive account of this story gives food for thought to other global cities, such as Paris, who are following a different – less business focused and more citizen oriented – path. – Paul Lecroart, Senior Urban Planner, Paris Region Planning Agency (IAU) Moscow's role as a global hub of business and finance is evolving in ways which understand that culture, higher education, and international promotion are critical ingredients for success. The London story, as told by Greg Clark, reinforces these messages and shows how former Imperial Cities can become great world cities in the modern age. – Professor Andrei Sharonov, Dean, Skolkovo Business School, Former Deputy Mayor of Moscow, Chairman of Moscow Urban Forum As Barcelona continues on its path towards to being a global city in Europe, lessons from London become increasingly more interesting and relevant. This book reveals London's formula for global success in ways which educate and entertain. – Mateu Hernandez, CEO, Barcelona Global In this book Greg Clark tells the remarkable story of how London reinvented itself over the past quarter century, making it, along with New York, one of the world's two leading centers of commerce, finance, communications and innovation. – Professor Bob Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association of New York Clark tells a fascinating story – how an old and seemingly tired global city got a new lease of life – extremely well. – Ben Rogers, Director, Centre for London. From the Back Cover After two decades of evolution and transformation, London had become one of the most open and cosmopolitan cities in the world. The success of the 2012 Olympics set a high water-mark in the visible success of the city, while its influence and soft power increased the global systems of trade, capital, culture, knowledge, and communications. The Making of a World City: London 1991 - 2021 sets out in clear detail both the catalysts that have enabled London to succeed and also the qualities and underlying values that are at play: London's openness and self-confidence, its inventiveness, influence, and its entrepreneurial zeal. London's organic, unplanned, incremental character, without a ruling design code or guiding master plan, proves to be more flexible than any planned city can be. Cities are high on national and regional agendas as we all try to understand the impact of global urbanisation and the re-urbanisation of the developed world. If we can explain London's successes and her remaining challenges, we can unlock a better understanding of how cities succeed.