

Contents

About the authors	xi
Foreword	xii
1. WHAT IS URBAN THEORY?	1
Urban studies and urban theory	1
Urban subdisciplines	2
Metaphorical cities	3
The role of theory in urban studies	6
What is urban?	7
Rural and urban	10
What is theory?	12
Ontology and epistemology	12
And so what on earth is urban theory?	19
Questions for discussion	21
Further reading	21
2. URBAN THEORIES UNDER CONDITIONS OF MODERNITY	23
Introduction	23
The Chicago School and urban ecology	24
Burgess' concentric zone model	25
Criticism	25
Wirth's urbanism thesis	27
The Chicago School legacy	28
Urban geography and spatial analysis	29
The influence of neo-classical economics on geography	30
Criticism	31
The community power debate	32
Community power: elite theory versus pluralism	32
Moving urban theory forward: gains and criticisms	34
Humanistic (urban) geography	35
Post-positivist approaches	36

Consequences for methods	37
‘Radical’ approaches	38
Neo-Marxism	39
Problems with neo-Marxist approaches	42
Neo-Weberian approaches	44
Radicalism reappraised	46
The legacy of previous theories and their challenges	47
Enduring tensions in urban theory	47
Assessing ‘relaxed’ urban theory	50
Key challenges for modern urban theory	50
Urban theory in a spiky world	52
Questions for discussion	53
Further reading	53
3. FROM THE URBAN CRISIS TO THE ‘TRIUMPH OF THE CITY’	56
Cities as actors in a globalising economy	56
Urban decline and obsolescence	60
Economic change versus the city	60
Understanding globalisation	65
The much exaggerated death of the city	70
Urban economic renaissance	74
Post-Fordist urbanism	74
Global and world cities ... and Los Angeles	77
The new economic geography versus urban neo-liberalism	82
Discussion	86
Questions for discussion	86
Further reading	87
4. CAN CITIES ACT? URBAN POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THE QUESTION OF AGENCY	88
The rediscovery of agency within urban theory	88
Introducing American urban political economy	89
Against public choice	90
Urban regimes and growth machines	93
Refining elite theory	93
Use value and exchange value	94
Challenging growth machines	97
Urban regime theory	98
Growth machine and urban regime theory compared	102
Power in urban regime theory	105
The normative dimension	107

Critiques and applications	109
Evaluating US urban political economy	109
Exporting theory	115
Difficulties of applying growth machine and urban regime theory	115
Questions for discussion	118
Further reading	118
5. SPATIAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTRA-URBAN INEQUALITIES	120
Introduction	120
Inequalities versus differentiations: vertical and horizontal paradigms	124
Beyond either horizontal or vertical	125
Living in a world of difference	126
Cities as sites of resources: space and inequalities	127
The production of space	128
Bourdieu on social space	129
Segregation	131
Social segregation	133
Segregation indices	134
Immigration and segregation	134
Segregation and integration	137
Suburbanisation	140
Demand and supply	140
Commercial suburbanisation and sprawl	141
The relevance of suburbanisation for urban theory	143
Gentrification	145
Gentrification as a process	146
Production versus consumption	147
Displacement	149
Ghettoisation as a spatial process of marginalisation	150
‘Ghetto’ as a term in urban studies	151
Economic restructuring and marginalisation	153
Stigma, discrimination and racism	155
The culture of poverty	156
Ghetto and urban policy	159
Neighbourhood effects: spatial profit and disadvantage	160
The ‘why’ of neighbourhood effects	162
Neighbourhood effects and collective efficacy	164
The need for attention to institutions	165
Summary and conclusion	166
Questions for discussion	168
Further reading	169

6. SPATIAL EXPRESSIONS OF DIFFERENTIATION	171
Introduction	171
The horizontal paradigm	172
The cultural turn	174
The cultural turn and postmodernism	175
Lefebvre, de Certeau and the production of space	176
The city as a realm of community and lifestyles	178
Community and neighbourhood	178
Lifestyles	181
The subcultural thesis	182
The representational city: public space	185
Defining public space	186
Public space along two axes	187
Public, parochial and private realm	189
Public space as arena of deliberation	190
Public space and representation	191
Cultural diversity: identities in public space	191
Sexualities	192
Gender	195
Ethnicity/race	206
Age and generations	210
Conclusion: cities as a matrix of resources	214
Questions for discussion	216
Further reading	217
7. URBAN THEORY RECONSIDERED	219
The 'crisis' in urban theory revisited	219
The performance of theories	222
The commensurability of theories	224
Theory, politics and practice	226
A new urban agenda?	229
References	233
Index	285