

'If cities today are defined by consumption identities, this intelligent, clearly written primer is a good place to begin to understand the connections between spaces, culture, and consumption.'

Sharon Zukin, *City University of New York*

'A thorough and engaged review of theoretical and empirical analyses of the role of consumption in the city.'

Alan Warde, *University of Manchester*

Cities and Consumption investigates the mutual and dynamic relationship between urban development and consumption. Made accessible for students are debates that posit consumption as being at the intersection of different spheres of everyday life – between the public and the private, the political and the personal, the individual and the social. Consumption is thus understood as having multiple political, economic, social and cultural roles, and it is in the morphology of cities that its expression is most explicit.

Cities and Consumption:

- provides a critical review of the ways in which urban consumption has been conceptualised
- describes the relationship between consumption, the development of the modern and postmodern city, and associated archetypal spaces, places, identities, lifestyles and forms of sociability
- looks at both ordinary and spectacular consumption
- explores the relationship between consumption and class, gender, ethnicity and sexuality
- discusses how cities are consumed through representations in popular cultural forms and official discourses, and how cities themselves are consumed
- shows how consumption is central to the ability of cities to be successful in a contemporary urban hierarchy characterised by intense competitiveness.

Using case studies and illustrations from North America, Europe and Asia, *Cities and Consumption* is an essential student text. It clearly presents key ideas, perspectives and ways of approaching the complex relationship between urbanity and consumption.

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