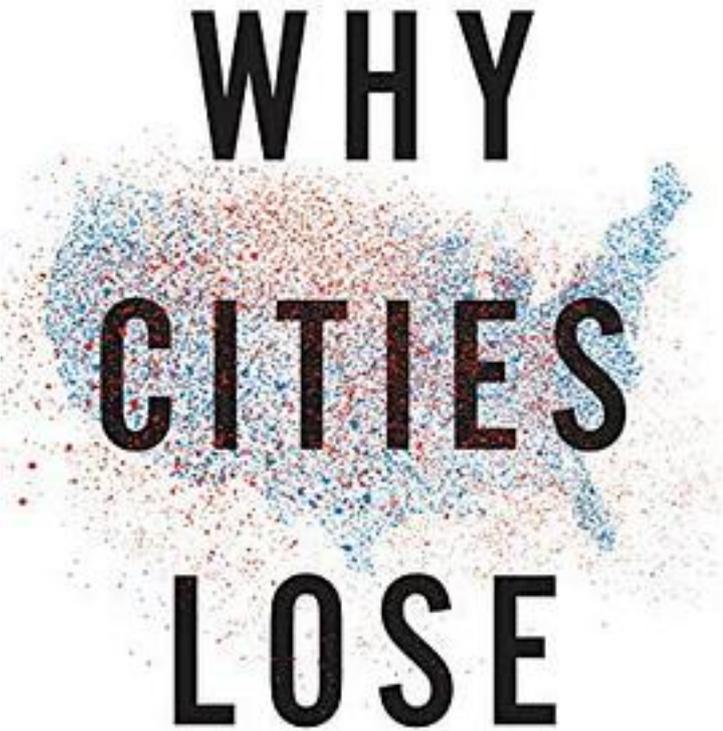


Why Cities Lose

THE DEEP ROOTS OF THE
URBAN-RURAL POLITICAL DIVIDE



WHY CITIES LOSE

JONATHAN A. RODDEN

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Why is it so much easier for the Democratic Party to win the national popular vote than to build and maintain a majority in Congress? Why can Democrats sweep statewide offices in places like Pennsylvania and Michigan yet fail to take control of the same states' legislatures? Many place exclusive blame on partisan gerrymandering and voter suppression. But as political scientist Jonathan A. Rodden demonstrates in *Why Cities Lose*, the left's electoral challenges have deeper roots in economic and political geography.

In the late nineteenth century, support for the left began to cluster in cities among the industrial working class. Today, left-wing parties have become coalitions of diverse urban interest groups, from racial minorities to the creative class. These parties win big in urban districts but struggle to capture the suburban and rural seats necessary for legislative majorities. A bold new interpretation of today's urban-rural political conflict, *Why Cities Lose* also points to electoral reforms that could address the left's under-representation while reducing urban-rural polarization.

作者介绍:

Jonathan A. Rodden is professor of political science and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and founder and director of the Stanford Spatial Social Science Lab. The author of the prizewinning *Hamilton's Paradox*, he lives in Stanford, California.

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标签

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政治学

政治制度

评论

8/10.

民主党在立法机构重的席位往往比收到的普选票少，Rodden的数据显示首要原因不是 Gerrymandering，而是民主党选票集中于高度同质化的大城市，在头名过关制度下吃亏。对我来说本书最有意思的部分，是对发达国家政治地理中城乡对立现象形成的经济史叙述。让我印象很深的有这么一个他捎带提及的论点：衰落工业城市的工会工人阶级和高新产业知识经济的白领都支持民主党，不是因为经济上的左翼立场和社会议题上的进步主义立场有什么内在联系，而是因为两个群体都生活在大城市，制度因素把他们绑进了同一个党。不过对最后一个点既没有太强调也没有提供什么证据，有点流于讲故事。

从geography 的角度出发讨论为什么fptp不利于左翼政党，比老一代政经学家 Iverson Persson Tabellini 之类符合直觉多了。

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