

Book Review:

Urban Sprawl: A Comprehensive Reference Guide

David C. Soule (2005)

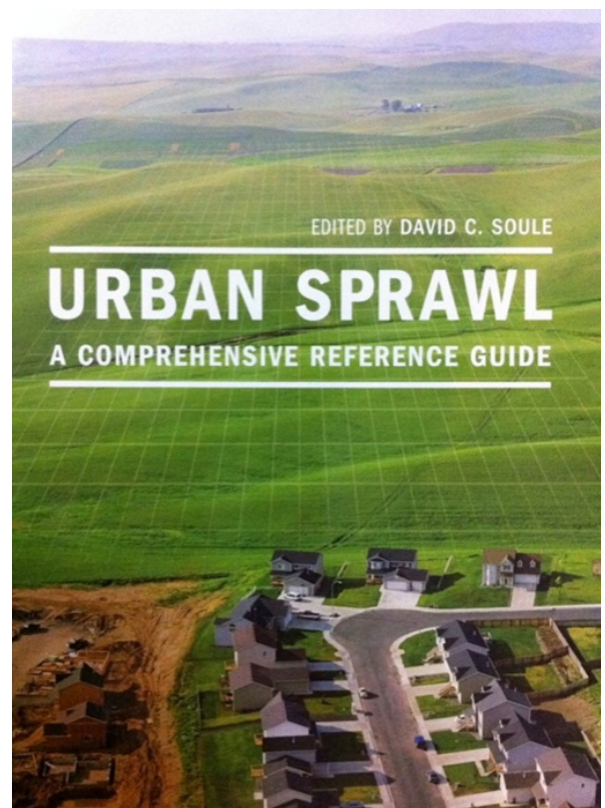
Westport, CT, United States: Greenwood

592 pp.

The rapid urbanization has been increasing in mega-cities. It causes many effects in social, economic, or environmental aspect depending on context. The impact on urban development becomes one of visible effects that city planners pay attention to. The planners in U.S. and European cities awakened to initially study urban sprawl phenomenon, as well as a critical situation of haphazard development. Therefore, the urban sprawl theory was originated from western countries' concept and generally referred in western context.

However, this phenomenon occurs not only in western cities but Asian cities also encounter a similar situation. Although sprawl situation is similar in many cities, methodology to measure the extent of sprawl is various based on data source and cause of sprawl in different context that created unique indicators in different study areas. The lacking of earnest sprawl study leads to determination difficulties in urban development of Asian countries. Hence, it is necessary to learn and apply the comprehensive reference study of urban sprawl from western concept.

The contents of this book clarifies the analysis of the causes, effects, and solution to urban sprawl situation in case of western context, including historical, legal, political, and socio-economic. Thus, it reflects how to study sprawl comprehensively that is useful to apply in other situations or different areas. Moreover, the measurement of sprawl in this book is systematically categorized in the scale of sprawl.



Readers will explore the agenda to deal with urban sprawl in their own study areas. This comprehensive is appropriate for undergraduate students, graduate students, and also urban planners through user-friendly and clear information.

This book consists of six parts, 22 chapters in total. The first part, "Sprawl in context", defines definition of sprawl, framework, and understanding of sprawl in various perspectives, such as, historical, legal, planning, political, and socio-economic within

Chapter 1 - 8. The readers will realize fundamental perception of sprawl. The second part, "Sprawl dynamics", mentions about sprawl dynamic that explores causes of sprawl via Chapter 9 - 11. They present the main factors of sprawl, namely, real estate markets and property law, transportation system, regional agenda for community and stability. The impact of sprawl is shown in the third part, "What's wrong with sprawl", within Chapter 12 - 14. Sprawl development mainly affects on environment and public health. Suburban areas cause more environmental damage per person than dense urban development, and also leads to unsustainable environment. This approach can solve the problems through preserving open space for farming, ecosystem services, and for its aesthetic and recreational value. The forth part, "Measuring and analyzing sprawl" (Chapter 15 - 16), evaluates sprawl by measuring change and speed of development. The methodology is a systematic system based on databases; build out analysis, scenario planning, and models. These data call for tool tips to reach regional planning by community-based to solve sprawl.

The fifth part, "Cross-cutting issues", explains integration between sprawl and other issues such as relation with local government taxation and immigration in Chapter 17 - 18. These chapters explore further aspects, affected by sprawl development. Finally, the sixth part, "Policy prescriptions", proposes some controllers of sprawl development. This part shows the realization of government to deal with sprawl development via regional policies, such as, regional compacts policy, changing regulation and standard to address sprawl, preservation, and smart growth.

The readers can recognize characteristics of sprawl comprehensively and apply these guides to other urban sprawl areas in different context.

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