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Symposium Preface

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CITIES IN CRISIS

KRISTEN BARNES
Symposium Editor

DISSECTING CITIES IN CRISIS: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Many of America's cities are currently in crisis. Across the country, cities in the Midwest, the rustbelt, California, New Jersey, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, are in the unenviable position of staving off fiscal disaster. They are struggling under the weight of numerous complex issues that threaten their continued existence. The most challenging problems include: inept governance, fiscal deficits, undercapitalized public schools, inadequate redevelopment strategies, foreclosures, lack of affordable housing, wealth inequality, selling and privatizing city assets, under-policing, over-policing, insufficient revenue generation, underfunding of pensions, deteriorating infrastructure, and shrinking populations.

What is the future of America's cities? How can we reimagine urban cores and rebuild them as prosperous and diverse centers of activity? Innovative and viable solutions are needed. This symposium brings together a series of papers that dissect the city in crisis from the perspectives of municipal governance, state laws, surviving bankruptcy, land use policy and regulation, housing, redevelopment, taxing strategies, and building inclusive communities that contribute to the success of municipalities.