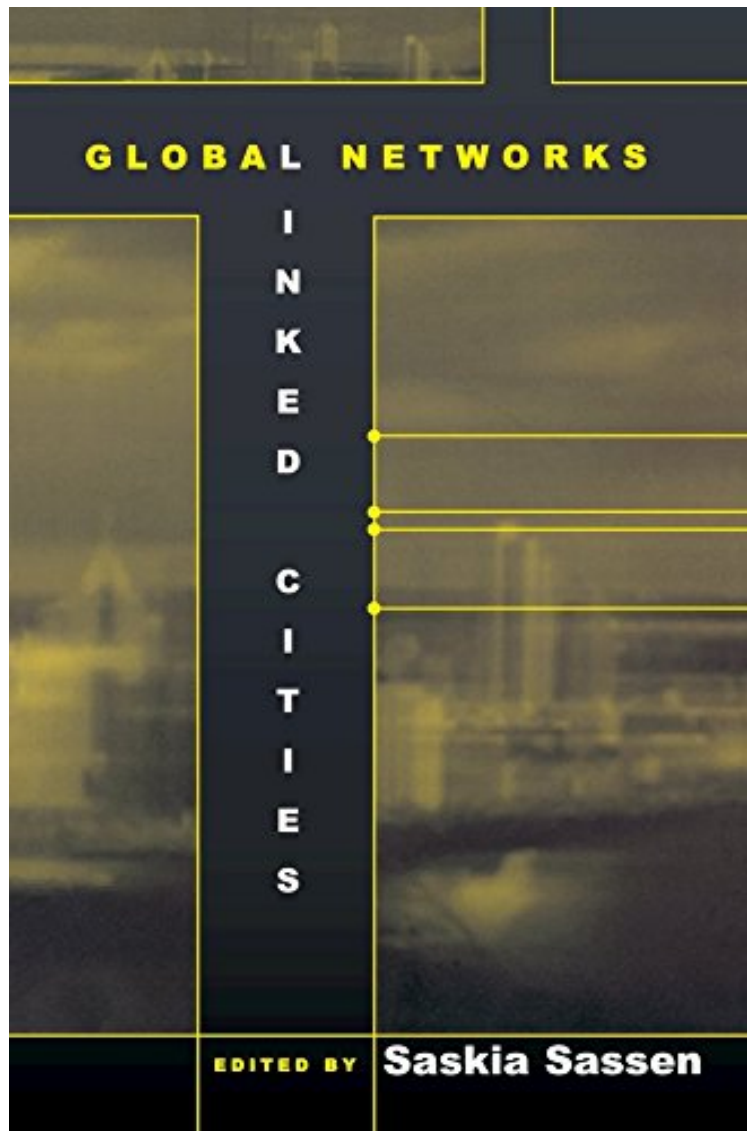


(Free and download) Global Networks, Linked Cities

## Global Networks, Linked Cities

*From Routledge*

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**From Routledge : Global Networks, Linked Cities** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Global Networks, Linked Cities:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Almost on the MarkBy Retired Reader This book, edited by urban sociologist Saskia Sassen, takes a unique look at the phenomenon of globalization in terms of inter-connected cities held together by commercial ties, telecommunications, and commonality of interests. The book provides some important insights about the role of cities in globalization. Sassen and her colleagues appear to view globalization as creating a networked type of organization with cities serving as nodes and international telecommunication systems

serving as connectors. This is a remarkable concept. Yet the book is seriously flawed by the use of improper or imprecise terminology by its contributors. Terms like 'networks', 'nodes', and 'architecture' are thrown about without much regard for what those terms actually represent. Their constant misuse in this book makes for very confusing reading and obscures the very valid points that the book strives to make. Although the book was published in 2002 none of its contributors apparently have ever heard of the misnamed Global Telecommunications Network. This is the generic title for a compilation of independently owned and operated international telecommunication (carrier) networks. These networks incorporate domestic and international carriers each of which consists of transmission lines (largely fiber optic cable and satellite) coupled with relays, switching centers and various sub-stations. Nor do any of the authors understand the content carried by these networks is provided by various public and private service providers such as Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and SWIFT (a private banking service provider). Since the inter-connectivity between cities (and nations) pretty much depends on access to the Global Network, as does international commerce, this is a serious error of omission. Also there are far too many statements in this book that simply make no sense in terms of telecommunications infrastructures. For example, Stephan Graham informs the reader that "the public, national telecommunication regimes that were ostensibly about throwing electronic networks universally across national space economies are being materially and institutionally splintered" and being replaced by "global strategies." One can only guess that Graham is trying to say that national telecommunication networks are being absorbed into the Global Network. The seeming inability to use precise terminology leaves the reader confused. To its credit the book becomes stronger when it moves from the theoretical to concrete examples in Part II (Cross Border Regions) and Part III (Network Nodes) with studies of specific cities. Yet here too one runs into puzzling use of terminology such as in the Beirut study by Huybrechts which he sub-titled "Building Regional Circuits." 'Circuits' in this context is meaningless when what he is referring to is re-establishing Beirut's import-export role as the principal international port in the regional economy. In the end Sassen appears to have developed a valid way to describe globalization, but failed to establish either a standardized terminology or a valid model of a networked type of organization. As a result this book makes an unnecessarily weak case for globalization as best represented as a networked type of structural organization.

First published in 2002. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

.com Reimagining cities as nodes of an immense network of commercial and political transactions, sociologist Saskia Sassen has transformed Information Age geography. *Global Networks, Linked Cities* collects research, theory, and case studies examining cities in this context by Sassen and 19 other social scientists, focusing particularly on the recent explosive growth in areas formerly--now inaccurately--called the Third World. The jargon in *Global Networks, Linked Cities* can be fairly dense and the style arid, but the essays reward patient readers with insight into the interlinked worlds of finance, geography, communications, and geopolitics. Most of the pieces look closely at individual urban regions: Shanghai, Buenos Aires, and, interestingly, Beirut. All have much to tell us about the organic urban development coevolving with globalized commerce and communications, says editor Sassen. As barriers to free information flow erode, we see mergers between political, business, and academic entities. *Global Networks, Linked Cities* shows us how this is happening and how to think about what's coming next. --Rob Lightner "Saskia Sassen's collection is a unique contribution to the emerging literature on global cities and networks: first, because it assembles state-of-the-art presentations by leading researchers in the field, and second, because it gives due attention to key cities in the developing world, which perform vital roles in the new global networks but have hitherto been neglected. No one interested in this central topic of the new urban geography can afford to miss this book.." -Sir Peter Hall, Bartlett Professor of Planning at University College London, Director of the Institute of Community Development, and author of "Cities in Civilization" "In "Global Networks, Linked Cities, Saskia Sassen extends her path-breaking work on the first tier global cities to focus on the architecture of the networks in which they are embedded. Networking among major cities is generally taken as a key indicator of involvement in globalization, yet few studies examine what those networks actually consist of. This volume plunges into that examination, and the result is a provocative and rewarding foray into the real content of several central concepts in the contemporary discussion of globalization and urban development.." -Peter Marcuse, Professor of Urban Planning, Columbia University and co-editor of "Globalizing Cities: A New Urban Spatial Order? and "Of States and Cities: The Partitioning of Urban Space" "In "Global Networks, Linked Cities, Saskia Sassen extends her path-breaking work on the first tier global cities to focus on the architecture of the networks in which they are embedded. Networking among major cities is generally taken as a key indicator of involvement in globalization, yet few studies examine what those networks actually consist of. This volume plunges into that examination, and the result is a provocative and rewarding foray into the real content of several central concepts in the contemporary discussion of globalization and urban development.." -Peter Marcuse, Professor of Urban Planning, Columbia University and co-editor of "Globalizing Cities: A New Urban Spatial Order? and "Of States and Cities: The Partitioning of Urban Space" "Saskia Sassen's collection is a unique contribution to the emerging literature on global cities and networks: first, because it assembles state-of-the-art presentations by leading researchers in the

field, and second, because it gives due attention to key cities in the developing world, which perform vital roles in the new global networks but have hitherto been neglected. No one interested in the central topic of the new urban geography can afford to miss this book."-Sir Peter Hall, Bartlett Professor of Planning at University College London, Director of the Institute of Community Development, and author of "Cities in Civilization "This edited volume contains United Nations U/Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS) research projects on contemporary global forces underpinning urban development. The individual essays study the empirical and theoretical specifications on the organizational architecture of an increasing number of transnational cities, particularly cities of the global South that are mid-range on the global hierarchy... Issues specific to Mexico, the Hormuz Corridor, Sao Paulo, Beirut, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Buenos Aires, and Amsterdam are discussed in the twelve chapters."-Social Change and Economic Development About the Author Saskia Sassen, Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, is a leading expert on cities and globalization. She has published numerous books, including *The Global City* (1991, 2000), *Cities in a World Economy* (1994), *Globalization and its Discontents* (1998), *Losing Control?* (1996), *Guests and Aliens* (1999), and *The Mobility of Labor and Capital* (1988).