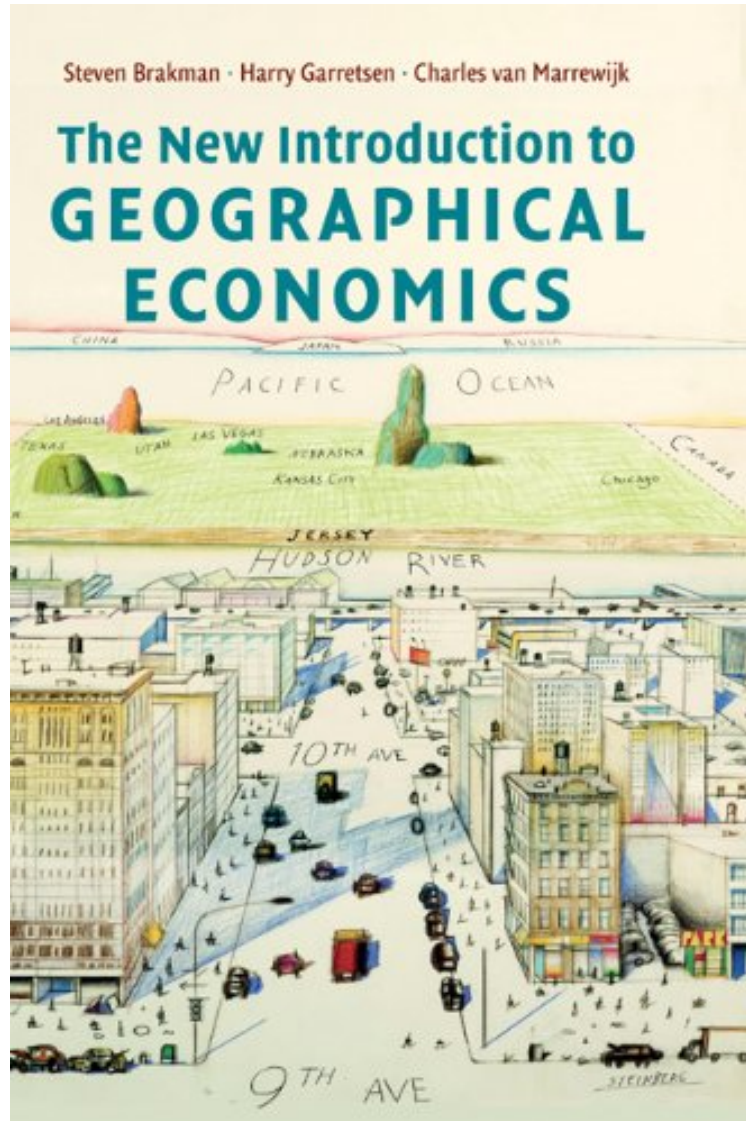


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The New Introduction to Geographical Economics

Steven Brakman, Harry Garretsen, Charles van Marrewijk
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Steven Brakman, Harry Garretsen, Charles van Marrewijk : The New Introduction to Geographical Economics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Introduction to Geographical Economics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book for academic studentsBy MuseFundamentally, this book is written by academics, for academics. The mathematical content, for the most part, should be easily understood at a glance by Science graduates and advanced undergraduates. There is a later edition (2009)The learned layperson would find it easier to read it if (s)he takes the statistical results at face value without analysis of their derivations or methods of attainment. That is, unless (s)he enjoys the mental fetish for statistical calculations.Table of Contents:1. A first look

at geography, trade and development². Geography and economic theory³. The core model of geographical economics⁴. Solutions and simulations⁵. Geographical economics and empirical evidence⁶. Refinements and extensions⁷. Cities and congestion: the economics of Zipf's Law⁸. Agglomeration and international business⁹. The structure of international trade¹⁰. Dynamics and economic growth¹¹. The policy implications and value added of geographical economics

References. This book is a worthy introduction for economists seeking an understanding of geographical economic perspectives, as well as for students and business persons with a keen interest in understanding international, regional, and urban perspectives. The authors wrote the book for these kinds of readers as described in the preface of the book. It explains the role that geographic location plays in economic life with examples of numerous economic data in various countries. There are also research exercises at the end of each chapter. I've done a cursory scanning for similar books over the internet for more suitable books for the general layperson, but could not find any (at time of writing) for less than pound;30. This is probably because of the specialised nature of this field of study. I can only assume that this book is one of the best that is currently available for an introduction to the subject matter. After reading it from a learned layperson's perspective, with an academic appreciation, I can give it a rating of no less than 4 stars.

Geographical economics starts from the observation that economic activity is clearly not randomly distributed across space. This revised and updated introduction to geographical economics uses the modern tools of economic theory to explain the who, why and where of the location of economic activity. The text provides an integrated, first-principles introduction to geographical economics for advanced undergraduate students and first-year graduate students, and has been thoroughly revised and updated to reflect important developments in the field, including new chapters on alternative core models and policy implications. It presents a truly global analysis of issues in geographical economics using case studies from all over the world, including North America, Europe, Africa and Australasia, and contains many computer simulations and end-of chapter exercises to encourage learning and understanding through application.

"Geographical economics is a broad field which encompasses or connects with the economics of region, cities, location, trade, development, and growth. Academic research in these areas has gone in many directions and made lots of progress in recent years. The first accomplishment of this New Introduction to Geographical Economics was to digest this diverse and fast growing body of knowledge. The second achievement of this great book is to be able to present everything in a clear, comprehensive, and accessible manner." - Gilles Duranton, Noranda Chair in International Trade and Development, University of Toronto

"In recent years geographical economics has gained momentum, in both academic and policy circles. This has happened thanks to a series of remarkably original contributions pioneered by the Nobel Prize Winner Paul Krugman. The combination of imperfect competition, increasing returns to scale, and transport technologies in new and powerful ways have helped to clarify the microeconomic foundations of both urban and regional imbalances at the national and the international levels. Steven Brakman, Harry Garretsen and Charles van Marrewijk provide students and fellow researchers with a timely and accurate introduction to the state-of-the-art of this vibrant field of research." - Gianmarco I.P. Ottaviano, Bocconi University Milan

"The authors provide a very nice and clear overview of what has been accomplished in this new field. Undergraduate students and teachers have no excuse anymore for ignoring the theoretical and empirical material uncovered by geographical economists. They now have a great text handy." - Jacques Thisse, CORE, Universiteacute; Louvain-la-Neuve

"The authors' 2001 graduate textbook was a masterful combination of theory, facts and examples - the book made it easy to interest students in this difficult but essential topic. With the 2008 Nobel going to Paul Krugman, in part for his contribution to Economic Geography, this second edition could not come at a better time. This edition keeps the excellent pedagogical style of the first edition and applies it to the substantial theoretical and empirical advancements that have occurred in the New Century. I would also recommend it to professional economists who would like an accessible introduction to this vast literature." - Richard Baldwin, Graduate Institute, Geneva

"Since Paul Krugman's initial explorations into what he called the 'new economic geography' barely two decades ago, an increasing number of mainstream economists have recognised the importance of geography - of space and location - for understanding how economies develop and function, and a large literature now exists in this field. The first edition of Brakman, Garretsen and Marrewijk's, Introduction to Geographical Economics was one of the most successful books on this subject. This new, updated, edition builds on this success, and provides a rigorous yet highly readable introduction to the new economic geography. The clarity of theoretical exposition and the copious use of real world applications set this book apart from others in the field. Not only does it advance the subject in its own right, its accessible style and its willingness to engage with the views of geographers will do much to encourage positive dialogue with the latter." - Ron Martin, Professor of Economic Geography, University of Cambridge, UK

"Theoretical foundations and empirical estimation strategy of gravity models have significantly advanced over the last years. By tracing the history of this evolution and offering a rich sample of applications, this book will prove to be a very useful reference to both those new to the field and those in search of an up-to-date treatment of theoretical and methodological issues related to gravity models." - Roberta Piermartini, Senior Economist, Economic Research and

Statistics Division, WTO, Geneva

About the Author

Steven Brakman is Professor of Economics at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Harry Garretsen is Professor of International Economics and Business at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Charles van Marrewijk is Professor of International Macroeconomics at Utrecht University School of Economics (since 2008) and Director of the Tjalling Charles Koopmans Institute (since 2009). He studied horticulture and worked as a grower before studying economics in Holland at Erasmus University Rotterdam (1981-5, BA and MA) and in the United States at Purdue University (1985-8, M.Sc. and Ph.D.). He worked at the University of Groningen (1987-90) and at Erasmus University Rotterdam (1990-2008), where he was also Academic Director of the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies (2007-8). His research focuses on international economics, geographical economics, economic growth, development economics, and urban economics. He is currently the European editor of *The Journal of International Trade and Economic Development* and associate editor of the *Journal of Regional Science*. He has organized several international conferences and served as a guest editor for various special issues of the above two journals. His research output is widely cited and has appeared in many top (field) journals, including the *Journal of International Economics*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, the *Journal of Economic Geography*, the *International Economic Review*, the *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Economica*, the *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, the *Journal of Population Economics*, and the *Journal of Regional Science*. He has also (co-)authored ten books, eight of which were published either by Cambridge University Press or Oxford University Press (of which two were translated into Chinese).