

The Growth Machine

Sociology

Logan and Molotch on the coalition that treats a city as a growth engine.

The argument that landed interests, media and local government form a coalition whose shared aim is intensifying land use, presented as growth for all.

PROPOSED

Molotch, 1976

CONFLICT

use vs exchange value

- Exchange value of land against residents' use value.
- Property owners gain from intensification directly.
- Local media benefit from a larger market.
- Growth is framed as jobs for everyone.
- Costs land locally; gains often leave.
- Resistance comes from use-value coalitions.

LOOK FOR IT

A stadium justified by projected local jobs, with evaluations afterwards finding much smaller net gains.

Educational reference. Fits cities with strong local landed interests better than those with centralised planning systems.