

Global Cities

Sociology

Why command functions concentrate in a few cities as production disperses.

Sassen's argument that dispersing production increases the need for centralised command, so specialised services concentrate in a handful of cities.

ARGUED BY

Saskia Sassen, 1991

DRIVER

producer services

- Finance, law and accounting cluster tightly.
- Face-to-face dealing still favours proximity.
- They connect to each other more than to their hinterland.
- Polarised labour markets: high-end and servicing.
- Property prices rise faster than local wages.
- Ranked by network position, not by size.

LOOK FOR IT

A firm can manufacture in twenty countries and still take every strategic decision on one square mile.

Educational reference. Global-city rankings depend heavily on which firms and flows the index chooses to count.