



# **The Routledge Guidebook to Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (The Routledge Guides to the Great Books)**

*Peter Laurence*

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Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* was published in 1961 and is now generally considered one of the most important books ever written on cities and city life. At a time when suburbia appeared to be human destiny, and architectural and urban theorists questioned whether the city should survive, Jacobs taught people to see, understand, and love cities again. The book continues to be widely studied and discussed but is seldom read and understood in its entirety – this guidebook will help readers both pull the text apart and tie it up together.

This guidebook includes:

- a chapter by chapter exploration of the key arguments and ideas in the text
- a brief biography of Jane Jacobs examining her influences and the context in which *The Death and Life* was produced
- an outline of the book's critical reception over the past fifty years and its contemporary relevance
- a comprehensive bibliography of both Jacobs' writing and works written about her.

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