

**1. *'THE RESILIENT CITY: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster'* by
Lawrence J. vale and Thomas J. Campanella**

The subject of the above book is how cities around the world have rebuilt remarkably after devastation by natural or manmade catastrophes. Based on case studies and examples from different parts of the world, the authors have attempted to identify some common threads that could explain the recovery processes that make a city resilient. Despite all associated problems of metrics, nature of damage, definitions and the like, the themes that has emerged from the analysis to a great extent help us understand the factors that shapes how cities are rebuilt after disasters. I think this analytical framework is very useful for further research and analysis.

My reaction is as follows:

1. The implicit in the discussion is that urban areas have more resilience than rural areas. Many rural regions have also been hit hard by a number of catastrophes, and I think, they were also built often on the same site. So, it appears that rebuilding lives and structures is an intrinsic human nature and has nothing to do with type of settlement. The pace may be little different, but that can be possibly explained by economic strength of cities and other business interests of wealthy people.
2. The graphics explaining the post disaster recovery phase very interesting. The same model seems to have been adopted in all recent disaster reconstruction events. I wonder, whether it has to do with imposed structure of multilateral institution such as the World Bank and the IMF and the like. How flexible is a poor disaster affected country to devise its own recovery and reconstruction process?
3. The discussion in the chapter 1 on reliance of cities over a time period of time was not clear to me. Do the authors argue that resilience has increased over time?
4. It was surprising to note that authors have not included a discussion on the pre-disaster mitigation efforts taken by any of the cities and its relationship to factors that have been identified shapes the reliance.