

The Federated City - Community Control in Large Cities

The **final** chapter of the The Federated City is the main subject of this summary - written by **Joseph Zimmerman**¹, currently (2018) a **Professor Emeritus** at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany.

While delicately noting the distinct relationship between minority rights and racial divides in cities, Zimmerman suggests that extended alienation of city citizens tends to lead to crises. Moreover, Zimmerman suggests the creation of (the coined term) 'mini city-halls' "to improve city hall-neighborhood communications and the delivery of services on the neighborhood level" (p.96). Divisions of control of these services are stratified between the 'mini city-hall' level and the present city government based; City governments would tend to be responsible for larger geographic functions such "as water supply and sewage disposal... [whereas] functions closest to the people, such as schools, police, and health services" are within the powers of the federated 'mini city-hall' (p.16).

Zimmerman also describes other implementation strategies, such as resource allocation, personnel management, power relations between city councilmen and newly formed 'mini city-halls', and an emphasis on proportional representation as a perceived successful election mechanism.

Zimmerman doesn't particularly address a solution to *The Social Problem* a la Will Durant,² but suggests most citizens become active in politics only governments fail to supply basic services (p.97). Instead, Zimmerman appears to be providing a particular architecture for cementing stable state institutions - in other words, Zimmerman's strategies may be useful in maintaining the status quo of whichever social system a group of citizens implements. In this regards, should a solution to *The Social Problem* produce rigorous scientific techniques, Zimmerman's suggestions of a federalist city might provide implementation strategies to the maintenance of the socially scientific society.

¹ https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/rock_images/faculty/zimmerman/ZimmermanJune.pdf

(https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/faculty_pos_zimmerman.shtml)

Professor Zimmerman is the author of numerous books and articles in journals relating to federalism (national-state relations, national-local relations, interstate relations, and state-local relations), state and local governments, electoral systems, and public administration. He has served as a consultant to the United States Government, state governments, and local governments. Professor Zimmerman received his MA and PhD from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, and has taught at Clark University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

² See: Philosophy and the Social Problem by Will Durant