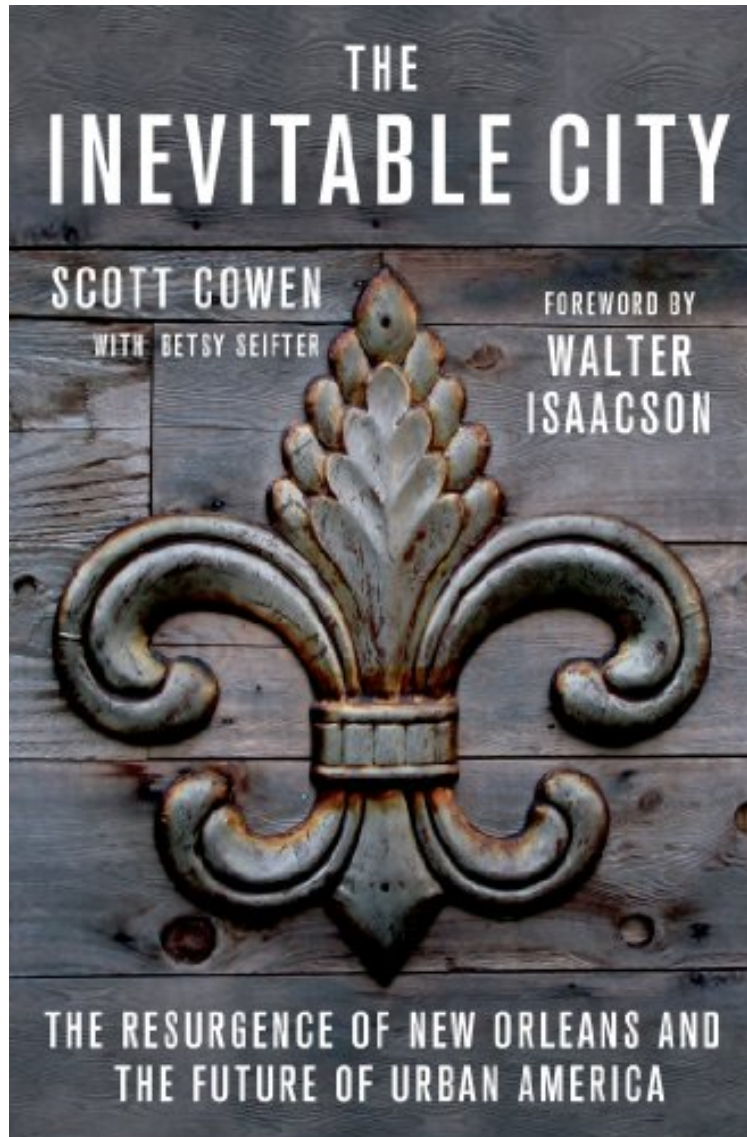


# The Inevitable City: The Resurgence of New Orleans and the Future of Urban America

*Scott Cowen, Betsy Seifter*  
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**Scott Cowen, Betsy Seifter : The Inevitable City: The Resurgence of New Orleans and the Future of Urban America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Inevitable City: The Resurgence of New Orleans and the Future of Urban America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The book is a great reference source for those researching community development post disaster ...By Patricia HindsI read this book because I was a part of the Tulane Katrina recovery experience and have a huge respect for the leadership of Scott Cowen. The book is a great reference source

for those researching community development post disaster or any other urban crisis. However, I did not find it easily readable for those who might pick it up just interested in the recovery of New Orleans. I became very bogged down in the naming of so many organizations and their various focuses and to be honest, I felt this gave the recovery process a very scattered feel. On the positive side, Cowen was in a unique position to be able to see all of this going on while most of us were bogged down in the daily struggle. So, if you are looking for inspiration toward a social outreach, this could be the book for you. If your looking for an exciting narrative of recovery, not so much.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Editorial Failure of an Undoubtedly Well Intentioned StorytellerBy suzemagooBoth my spouse and I gave up part of the way through this book. My husband bought it after hearing the author speak with a not unreasonable expectation the book would be similar to the author's ability as a good storyteller. It is no doubt a great come back story but one that needs to be better written. Tedious, overly generous in the insignificant details, boringly repetitious and oddly not illuminating in places where it begged to be (such as terms specific to the area a general readership might not be familiar with), we both found it impossible to read more than a third of it. Too much political and bureaucratic slogging to sift out any gems of what actually works in catastrophic failure setting. The editors of this book did the author no favor whatsoever. I wondered why there were only six reviews before this one and now I know.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. New Orleans and what happened after Katrina existed for me ...By virginiaNew Orleans and what happened after Katrina existed for me only as a parade of groups of people who went to help. Scott Cowen's story humanized this complex city in a well-written story which underscored the full range of issues involved. In addition, this is a story of leadership: of hard choices, of moving forward, of sacrifice.....and most of all, of caring. I would suggest this book to anyone interested in how cities work, how unprepared we all are for tragedy, and how to act by seeking cooperation through positive intent.

After seven years of service as the president of Tulane University, Scott Cowen watched the devastation of his beloved New Orleans at the hands of Hurricane Katrina. When federal, state, and city officials couldn't find their way to decisive action, Cowen, known for his gutsy leadership, quickly partnered with a coalition of civic, business, and nonprofit leaders looking to work around the old institutions to revitalize and transform New Orleans. This team led the charge to restore equilibrium and eventually to rebuild. For the past nine years, Cowen has continued this work, helping to bring the city of New Orleans back from the brink. The Inevitable City presents 10 principles that changed the game for this city, and, if adopted, can alter the curve for any business, endeavor, community—and perhaps even a nation. This is the story of the resurgence and reinvention of one of America's greatest cities. Ordinary citizens, empowered to actively rescue their own city after politicians and government officials failed them, have succeeded in rebuilding their world. Cowen was at the leading edge of those who articulated, shaped, and implemented a vision of transformative change that has yielded surprising social progress and economic growth: a drowned city identified with the shocking images of devastation and breakdown has transformed itself into a mecca of growth, opportunity, and hope.

On its surface The Inevitable City is a book about leadership by a man who led his community through a crisis. But what it really is is the story of a love affair, between a man and the city he did so much to save. One day historians will realize how incredible it was that, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans found its greatest leader in a university president. They will turn here to see how and why he did what he did. (New York Times bestselling author Michael Lewis)About the AuthorScott Cowen is president of Tulane University and was one of the key players in the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. His work has been widely covered by the media, including Fast Company Magazine, Newark-based The Star-Ledger, The New York Times, and The Chronicle of Higher Education. He is also a guest panelist on the Sirius talk show "Doctor Radio." TIME magazine has named President Cowen one of the nation's Top 10 Best College Presidents and New Orleans CityBusiness called him one of the 30 "Driving Forces" in New Orleans in the last 30 years.