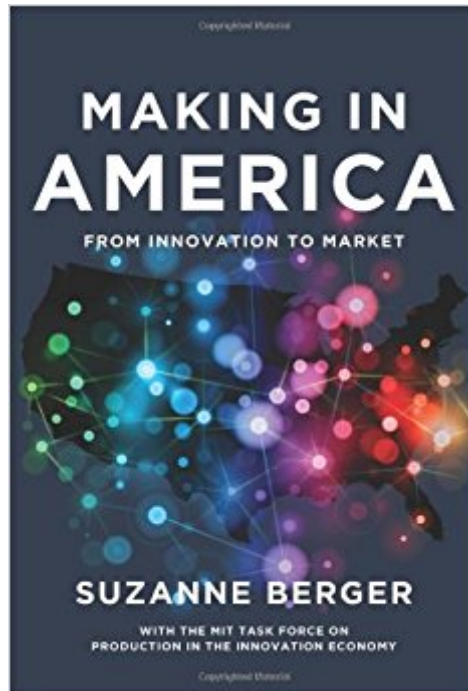




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Making In America: From Innovation To Market (MIT Press)



Synopsis

America is the world leader in innovation, but many of the innovative ideas that are hatched in American start-ups, labs, and companies end up going abroad to reach commercial scale. Apple, the superstar of innovation, locates its production in China (yet still reaps most of its profits in the United States). When innovation does not find the capital, skills, and expertise it needs to come to market in the United States, what does it mean for economic growth and job creation? Inspired by the MIT Made in America project of the 1980s, Making in America brings experts from across MIT to focus on a critical problem for the country. MIT scientists, engineers, social scientists, and management experts visited more than 250 firms in the United States, Germany, and China. In companies across America -- from big defense contractors to small machine shops and new technology start-ups -- these experts tried to learn how we can rebuild the industrial landscape to sustain an innovative economy. At each stop, they asked this basic question: "When you have a new idea, how do you get it into the market?" They found gaping holes and missing pieces in the industrial ecosystem. Even in an Internet-connected world, proximity to innovation and users matters for industry. Making in America describes ways to strengthen this connection, including public-private collaborations, new government-initiated manufacturing innovation institutes, and industry/community college projects. If we can learn from these ongoing experiments in linking innovation to production, American manufacturing could have a renaissance.

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Customer Reviews

Clear, concise writing and dynamic case studies make this a satisfactory read for anyone interested in economics. (Publishers Weekly) Making in America moves beyond anecdotal information and untested speculation to provide unique and useful data that can lead to a rebirth of manufacturing in America. Without economic or political bias, this landmark research explores the essential linkages between education, innovation, capital formation, and product commercialization. What emerges is a researched-based analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of America's evolving industrial ecosystem. Leaders of private industry, government, and academia will find this information invaluable as they make decisions vital to the economic health of our nation. (Ted Strickland, Governor of Ohio, 2007--2010) Making in America provides a vivid, detailed description of developments in innovation and advanced manufacturing in the U.S. and around the world. It clearly establishes reasons for worry -- and hope -- about the state of manufacturing in the U.S. And it provides compelling discussions of approaches to rebuilding the American industrial landscape. Making in America is a must-read for business leaders, government officials, entrepreneurs, and citizens who want to see a revitalization of U.S. manufacturing in an era of cloud computing, distributed research, and breathtaking developments in 3-D printing, robotics, and other advanced manufacturing techniques. (David H. Petraeus, General, U.S. Army (Retired), Chairman, KKR Global Institute) Politicians play fast and loose with what it takes to return manufacturing to the USA -- this book deals with the root cause of the demise of manufacturing jobs and just how difficult it will be to reverse this trend -- a must-read for anyone interested in the future of our economy. (Craig R. Barrett, Retired CEO/Chairman, Intel Corporation)

Suzanne Berger is Raphael Dorman-Helen Starbuck Professor of Political Science and, together with Institute Professor Phillip Sharp, chairs MIT's Production in the Innovation Economy project. She is the author of *How We Compete: What Companies Around the World Are Doing to Make It in the Global Economy* and other books.

After a quick first read, here are my thoughts. At the beginning and again at the end, this book reminds me of Henry Ford's famous quote. "If I had asked customers what they wanted, it would have been a faster horse!" The first sentence under acknowledgements states: "Making in America started from an idea about what researchers from across MIT could contribute to national and international debates on the role of production in bringing innovation to life in the economy." Of the 38 individuals identified as co-chairs, executive directors, advisors, staff, researchers, and student

assistants; 18 are full professors; all appear to be academic employees of the Institute. The last sentence in the book states: "As researchers, we still have our dreams; after the PIE (Production in the Innovation Economy) project, we realize we need partners to bring them into the world." You may draw your own conclusion. I plan to start over with the book --- more later.

A excellent book.

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