

**IF MAYORS RULED THE WORLD**

**Evelyn Cashmore**

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**Benjamin Barber: If Mayors Ruled the World - The Long Now**  
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## Would We All Be Better Off If Mayors Ruled the World?

That's a recent quote from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. We would all be a lot better off if, as he puts, it "mayors ruled the world."

### "If Mayors Ruled the World" - Freakonomics Freakonomics

In his most recent book *If Mayors Ruled the World* Dr. Benjamin Barber argues that cities are the most promising place to find answers to the major challenges of .

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Some of Barber's observations are excellently though-provoking: the idea, for example, that all cities are essentially "bridging" organisms, inherently disposed to a kind of commercial universalism, no matter what their size or history or physical environment, is a challenging one. First, Barber's main ideas and key recommendations are covered in his public talks and in the book's introduction, and the rest of the book is fairly *If Mayors Ruled the World*. Seminar Sponsors.

I came to this book with high hopes, as a municipal government is one of my passions. Democratic Leadership and the Problem of Obedience. While nation-states take forever to negotiate climate agreements, for example, cities quickly installed bike lanes and bike-sharing programs, which cut carbon and emissions. Is the nation-state, once democracy's best hope, today democratically dysfunctional?

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