This book provides the first unifying treatment of the range of economic reasons for the clustering of firms and households. Its goal is to explain further the trade-off between various forms of increasing returns and different types of mobility costs. It should be noted that the concept of economic agglomeration refers to very distinct real-world situations. The main focus of the treatment is on cities, but *Economics of Agglomeration* also explores the formation of commercial districts within cities, industrial clusters at the regional level, and the existence of imbalance between regions. The book is rooted within the realm of modern economics and borrows concepts and ideas from geography and regional science, which makes it accessible to a broad audience comprising economists, geographers, regional planners, and other scientists. *Economics of Agglomeration* may be used in coursework for graduate students and talented upper-level undergraduates.

Masahisa Fujita has been a major contributor to spatial economic theory during his 20-year tenure at the University of Pennsylvania and more recently at Kyoto University since 1995, where he has served as Director of the Institute of Economic Research. His scholarship ranges over the fields related to regional science, location theory, economic geography, urban economics, and international trade. Professor Fujita is the author or coauthor of three books: *Spatial Development Planning* (1978), *Urban Economic Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), which remains to this day the most authoritative graduate textbook on urban economics, and *The Spatial Economy* (1999, coauthored with Paul Krugman and A.J. Venables), which defines the field of New Economic Geography. Professor Fujita is the recipient of the 1983 Tord Palander Prize, the 1998 Walter Isard Award in regional sciences, and the 2000 Nikkei Economic Book Prize. In 1993 he was honored with the lifetime Visiting Professorship in the College of Economics at Nankai University, China. He serves on the board of 10 international journals on regional science, economics, and economic geography and since 1999 has been the President of the Applied Research Science Conference in Japan.

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Economics of Agglomeration
Cities, Industrial Location, and Regional Growth

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Economics of Agglomeration: Cities, Industrial Location, and Regional Growth
Masahisa Fujita and Jacques-François Thisse

Frontmatter

More information
To Yuko
To Ginou
Primitive though it may be, every stable society feels the need of providing its members with centers of assembly, or meeting places. Observance of religious rites, maintenance of markets, and political and judicial gatherings necessarily bring about the designation of localities intended for the assembly of those who wish to or who must participate therein.

Henri Pirenne, *Medieval Cities* (1925)
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Acknowledgments

This book is the outcome of joint research that was started several years ago. Our interest in urban economics and location theory stems from early work developed independently with friends to whom we have an intellectual debt. We should like to thank them – in particular Jean Gabszewicz and Tony Smith.

During the preparation of the manuscript, we were fortunate to have had the opportunity to discuss the subject matter with many colleagues, friends, and students; some of them also read earlier drafts of several chapters with care and made detailed and useful suggestions.

We would like to mention especially Marcus Berliant, Luisito Bertinelli, Raouf Boucekkine, Jacques Drèze, Gilles Duranton, Philippe Martin, Tomoya Mori, Gianmarco Ottaviano, Dominique Peeters, Pierre Picard, David Pines, Hiroshi Sano, Takatoshi Tabuchi, Tanguy van Ypersele, Luigi Ventura, Kazuhiro Yamamoto, and Dao-Zhi Zeng. We also owe a special debt to Diego Puga who performed superbly as an “anonymous” referee. Thanks are also due to two anonymous referees for very helpful comments.

The final draft of the manuscript was prepared at CORE by Sylvie Mauroy, and the figures were composed at Kyoto University by Yasuko Kamiyoshi and Tomoko Nomura. We want to express our gratitude for their patience and competence.

Finally, we acknowledge the financial support of the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science (Grant-in-Aid for Science Research 09CE2002 and 13851002), the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (Belgium) for a grant to the second author (Convention 2.4529.98F), and the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE) at the Université catholique de Louvain. We also thank CERAS at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris) and the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration of the University of British Columbia for their friendly hospitality.