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Reshaping America and Where Portland Fits In

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[Richard Florida](#) has a [piece](#) out in the new *Atlantic* that asks "How The Crash Will Reshape America."

Here's what Florida, author of [The Rise of the Creative Class](#) and [admirer](#) of so many things Portland, has to say about where our fair city fits in a post-crash America:

Worldwide, people are crowding into a discrete number of mega-regions, systems of multiple cities and their surrounding suburban rings like the Boston–New York–Washington Corridor. In North America, these mega-regions include SunBelt centers like the Char-Lanta Corridor, Northern and Southern California, the Texas Triangle of Houston–San Antonio–Dallas, and Southern Florida's Tampa-Orlando-Miami area; the Pacific Northwest's Cascadia, stretching from Portland through Seattle to Vancouver; and both Greater Chicago and Tor-Buff-Chester in the old Rust Belt. Internationally, these mega-regions include Greater London, Greater Tokyo, Europe's Am-Brus-Twerp, China's Shanghai-Beijing Corridor, and India's Bangalore-Mumbai area. Economic output is ever-more concentrated in these places as well. The world's 40 largest mega-regions, which are home to some 18 percent of the world's population, produce two-thirds of global economic output and nearly 9 in 10 new patented innovations.

Some (though not all) of these mega-regions have a clear hub, and these hubs are likely to be better buffered from the crash than most cities, because of their size, diversity, and regional role.

Whew. Breathe easy everyone: Florida says we're gonna be OK. Unless of course, we're [not](#).