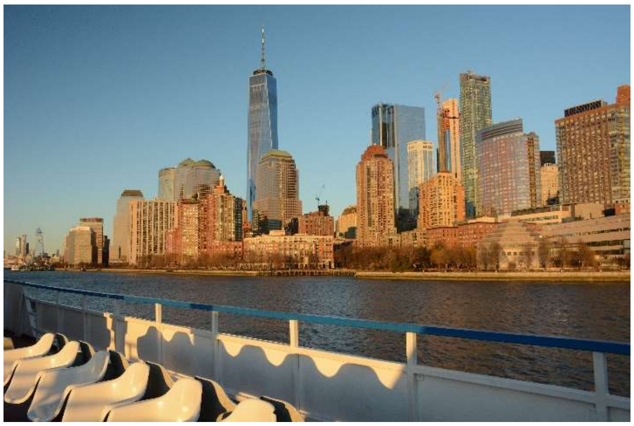
1. *Only the Rich Can Play, especially Chapter Four.*
   David Wessel, Public Affairs, Hachette Book Group, 2021

Wessel, a reporter and think-tank analyst, explains how Opportunity Zones (OZs) were conceived, passed into law, and became realized in the U.S. economy. He implies that it takes money, connections, luck, and a message that may be misleadingly positive.



New York, New York, Symbol of Success

He writes that, after a law was passed offering tax credits for investments in disadvantaged areas (Opportunity Zone investments), many of the super-wealthy invested in projects that would have brought good returns anyway. State and local politicians and administrators, recognizing this reality in advance, selected their OZs from regions that met the legal requirements and had a realistic chance of receiving investments, rather than from regions where the need was greatest.

Wessel suggests, probably cynically, that the blame lies with the game, not the players. It is as though he thinks a better human being would behave differently, given this environment and these incentives.

A Machine World…

This book documents how wealthy people with good intentions may fail to achieve their philanthropic goals. For example, it has long been argued that wealth will spread from centers of growth to the rest of an economy. Yet, the economic "game" doesn't work as sometimes suggested.

Consider that Jacob Schmookler (1976) discovered that the rate and type of technological change responds to the potential for economic advantage (that is, to demand conditions). What people want (and pay for), is what they get!*

**Schmookler, Jacob, 1976, "Invention and Economic Growth," Harvard University Press, Cambridge and London*