



## Union power weakens New York's magnetic pull

From Bijan Khezri, Zug, Switzerland



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Joshua Chaffin ("[Can New York avoid a coronavirus exodus?](#)", the Big Read, May 27) rightly highlights New York City's regenerative power as demonstrated throughout its modern history. After every crisis, it rebounded stronger.

However, the analysis misses one important variable: union power has risen to a level that the city's underlying economic model is doomed to failure. The city is beyond fundamental reform. In the absence of union support, no mayoral candidate has a chance of winning.

Covid-19 is a "crystalliser" in many regards. The city will prove a revelatory microcosm of the delusions the rest of the world has been projecting on this mirage: overtaxed and underfunded, union-controlled and less and less the world's magnet fulfilling aspirations of wealth creation.

Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt has been appointed to "reimagine New York City". The union's imagination will set the ceiling of his imaginative power. It is unlikely to go beyond New York state governor Andrew Cuomo lobbying the federal government to fund the reconstruction of New York's deteriorated public infrastructure.

A perfect script from the union book.

**Bijan Khezri**

*Zug, Switzerland*