

Teaford, Jon C. *The Municipal Revolution in America: Origins of Modern Urban Government, 1650-1825*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1975. Pp. viii, 152. \$9.75

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Professor Bender examines and assesses this developing urban orientation by examining two important American reformers and thinkers - Charles Loring Brace and Frederick Law Olmsted - in whom the mid-century response to the city found its most impressive ideological and institutional expression. In his examination of these two men, Bender provides a stimulating counter-balance to the conceptual framework put forward by Morton and Lucia White in The Intellectual Versus the City (1962). Instead of classifying thinkers as either pro-urban or anti-urban, Professor Bender explores the ways in which cultural traditions and social and economic developments interacted to form a meaningful psychological reality.

Alan F.J. Artibise
National Museum of Man

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Teaford, Jon C. The Municipal Revolution in America: Origins of Modern Urban Government, 1650-1825. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1975. Pp. viii, 152. \$9.75.

This study is an examination of the transformation in the political structure, function, and external relationships of the American municipality between 1650 and 1825, the period when Americans discarded the model of urban government inherited from medieval Europe and substituted an ideal which determined the course of municipal development up to the present. At the beginning of the period under study, Professor Teaford argues, urban rule rested with those admitted to the commerce of the city and this limited body of commercial participants expected the municipal corporation to devote the largest portion of its time and effort to regulating and promoting trade. Such a government could not survive in the age of Locke, Jefferson, and Adam Smith, however, and gradually the lawmakers changed their viewpoint and paid more attention to measures dealing with public health, safety, and such public works as street lighting, waterworks, paving, and drainage. In the face

of the oncoming wave of laissez-faire sentiment, the municipal corporation abandoned its extensive body of measures regulating commercial endeavour.

Teaford goes on to show how traditional limitations on political participation fell victim to the new spirit of experimentation and political renovation ushered in by the American Revolution. Just as the new currents in thought and technology destroyed the past conceptions of the purpose of the municipal corporation, so the political philosophy of the Revolution transformed the municipality's political framework. The result of these changes was the modern municipal system of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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Chudacoff, Howard P. The Evolution of American Urban Society. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1975. Pp. vii, 280.

Chudacoff's guide to the American urban experience is one of first attempts to incorporate the developing social dimension of American historiography into an enveloping synthesis of the urban process in the United States. To succeed at the task requires the author to confront and overcome two major problems.

The first of these problems is one that bedevils nearly every synthesis, regardless of the theme, topic, time or nation, and tends to be a flaw in most: the treatment will tend to be a trifle bewildering to the novice and a trifle boring to the veteran. For the former the banquet will be too diverse; for the latter too insubstantial. Chudacoff proves quite able at meeting the needs of what in most cases are mutually exclusive audiences. The clarity of the book's structure will enable the apprentice to move through it without too much fear of being lost, and at the end he should at least be able to say: "I came, I saw". And the