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Ham, Michael F., editor. *The City in Russian History*.
Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976. Pp. viii, 350.
Maps. \$15.00

Alan F. J. Artibise

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A Nation of Cities is the eighteenth volume to appear in "The Urban Life in America Series" under the general editorship of Richard C. Wade. The American experience described by Professor Gelfand provides an interesting case with which to compare Canada's experience in this same area. The latter has recently been examined in D.G. Bettison, The Politics of Canadian Urban Development (Edmonton, 1975).

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National Museum of Man

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Although urbanization in the West has been widely studied, the growth of Russian cities, particularly in the pre-Soviet period, has been relatively neglected by scholars outside the Soviet Union. This collection of sixteen essays examines the Russian city in the preindustrial period, the nineteenth century, and the Soviet period from the perspectives of history, geography, political science, architecture, and sociology. Consequently, The City in Russian History includes a variety of approaches to urban development, while encompassing both comprehensive studies of historical trends and case studies of particular cities and regions.

The themes discussed by the various authors include the relationship between urbanization and industrialization; the role of the breakdown of urban modernization in the collapse of the imperial order; the role of state authority in the development of urban life; and the influence of Russian tradition and Soviet social goals on concepts of city planning, administration, and modernization. Several of the articles also offer comparisons with the development of cities in the United States, western Europe, and the Orient.

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