

Preface

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Urbanization in the Americas : The Background in Comparative Perspective

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PREFACE

These papers were presented at a Symposium — Urbanization in the Americas — held in conjunction with the International Congress of Americanists at Vancouver, British Columbia, August 10-17, 1979. We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the help of the Committee of Urban and Regional Development of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences and the International Institute of Environment and Development in organizing this symposium. We are also grateful to the Tinker Foundation and its President, Ms. Martha Muse, and the Organizing Committee of the 43rd International Congress of Americanists for their generous assistance, which offset the cost of translating a number of the papers from Spanish to English. Our thanks are also due to Professor Alan Artibise, the editor of the *Urban History Review*, who facilitated the publication of these papers as a special issue of the *UHR*. Special mention must be made of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa and of Dr. Peter Rider of the History Division for aid and encouragement in the preparation of this volume.

These papers represent a first, tentative step in looking at urbanization in the Americas in a comparative perspective. Professor Richard Morse's introductory overview is a useful guide in this respect and also points to the difficulties inherent in comparative history. The discussions at the conference made many of us aware of the exciting possibilities in cross-national exchanges and the potential for truly comparative work in the future.

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