

Lees, Andrew and Lynn, editors. *The Urbanization of European Society in the Nineteenth Century*. Toronto: D. C. Heath and Company, 1976. Pp. xix, 237

A. F. J. Artibise

Numéro 3-76, february 1977

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1019486ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019486ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine

ISSN

0703-0428 (imprimé)

1918-5138 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Artibise, A. F. J. (1977). Compte rendu de [Lees, Andrew and Lynn, editors. *The Urbanization of European Society in the Nineteenth Century*. Toronto: D. C. Heath and Company, 1976. Pp. xix, 237]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*,(3-76), 78–79. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019486ar>

Yet this volume also merits attention for other reasons. In a brilliant synthesis of words and pictures, the author presents a detailed account of the development of urban form from ancient Athens to modern Brasilia. Throughout, historical examples are related to modern principles of urban planning. Bacon vividly demonstrates how the work of great architects and planners of the past can influence subsequent development and be continued by later generations. By illuminating the historical background of urban design, Bacon also details the fundamental forces and considerations that determine the form of a great city. Perhaps the most significant of these are simultaneous movement systems - the paths of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, public and private transportation - that serve as a dominant organizing force. In the book, Bacon looks at movement systems in cities such as London, Rome and New York. He also stresses the importance of designing open space, as well as architectural mass, and discusses the impact of space, color, and perspective on the city-dweller. That the centers of cities should and can be pleasant places in which to live, work, and relax is illustrated by such examples as Rotterdam and Stockholm.

Although the book devotes most attention to such great cities as Athens, London, Paris, Peking and Rome, two Canadian cities - Ottawa and Montreal - are also mentioned. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

* * *

Lees, Andrew and Lynn, editors. The Urbanization of European Society in the Nineteenth Century. Toronto: D. C. Heath and Company, 1976. Pp. xix, 237.

This volume in the Problems in European Civilization series consists of sixteen essays organized around four broad themes: "The Growth of Cities"; "Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Views of the Big City: Positive and Negative"; "The Urban Middle Classes"; and "The Urban Lower Classes". Included in each section are a wide range of

reprinted and, in some cases, translated essays; some of recent vintage, others that are classics. Among them are: Adna Ferrin Weber, "Urban Growth in England and Wales in the Nineteenth Century"; Robert Vaughn, "The Age of Great Cities"; Lewis Mumford, "Paleotechnic Paradise: Coketown"; H. J. Dyos and Michael Wolff, "The Victorian City in Retrospect"; Wolfgang Köllmann, "The Merchants and Manufacturers of Barmen"; and Louis Chevalier, "Crime and Social Pathology Among the Parisian Lower Classes". The volume also contains a concise, annotated bibliography.

Of particular interest to those not familiar with European urban historiography is the introductory essay by the editors. In it the authors discuss the controversies surrounding the rapid growth of the European city in the nineteenth-century, the nature of the cities, and their role in European society as a whole. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].