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Galishoff, Stuart., *Newark: The Nation's Unhealthiest City, 1832-1895*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1988, Pp. xii, 260. Tables, maps, index. \$38.00 (U.S.)

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merge in such men as Justin Winsor and Albert Bushnell Hart. The American Association for State and Local History deserves more time than Russo grants here. And working in Canada, he might have ventured some cross-border comparisons. Did monarchist loyalism generate a different approach to local history or genealogy than republican Puritanism?

That said, one must not upbraid authors for the books they did not write. Russo makes an important point. Those who recapture the past are partners with those who seek meaning and significance in history. Local history has been, and remains, appropriate to American (and Canadian) society, as travel beyond our cities and suburbs should remind us. The astonishing devotion and enterprise Russo captures in this monograph, has indeed helped to keep the past for citizens and academics alike.

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Morrison, Daniel., *"Trading Peasants" and Urbanization in Eighteenth-Century Russia: The Central Industrial Region.* Garland Series of Outstanding Dissertations, William H. McNeill, Gen. Ed., New York and London: Garland, 1987. Pp. 415.

At first glance, Russia's impressive achievements under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great barely mask the miseries caused by a rigid feudal society (a "service" society in the terminology of Russian historians) in which peasants could not leave the land or own it, and

city-dwellers paid high taxes for the bare privilege of escaping agricultural serfdom. Static Russian cities lacked the self-governing rights of Western and Central European cities, and the Russian burghers lacked the initiative and self-confidence of Western burghers.

This impressive Ph.D. dissertation from Columbia University shows convincingly that this picture needs some modification. The author, Daniel Morrison, studied Russian archival and published sources on immigration to Central Russian cities in the 18th century. He concentrates on Moscow, which enjoyed by far the quickest growth, without neglecting provincial centres.

The principal periods of urbanization occurred at the beginning of the century under Peter I and at the end of the century under Catherine II. The obstacles put up by the city governments to receiving commercial competitors were generally overcome through the expansion of previous commercial links between country and urban businessmen and, eventually, through intermarriage. At the end of the 18th century, merchants and artisans of peasant origin comprised over 30% of Moscow's 175,000 inhabitants (another 30% consisted of house serfs of local nobles). In addition, numerous peasants came to Moscow each winter to trade, manufacture or supply unskilled labour before returning to their villages in the spring. Going beyond Morrison, one might compare the economic role of the Russian peasants to the role of the Jews of central European regions evading restrictive legal structures in order to take advantage of commercial possibilities; the Russian Empire barred its few Jews from living in Central Russia.

Expanding on earlier research, Morrison shows that peasants from Central Russia devoted much of their time to commercial and artisanal activity with the approval of their noble landlords. Many of these "trading peasants" were "house serfs" whose domestic services were not needed while others were agriculturalists who gained permission to supplement their farm activities with commerce in order to satisfy their serf obligations with monetary payments. Such serfs easily gained noble consent (generally in exchange for a lump sum payment) to move to a city permanently, particularly in the late 18th century when new laws made voluntary manumission easier.

Morrison's brief conclusions show an understanding that his research implies a much higher degree of social mobility than is generally accepted at present, but unfortunately the dissertation format prevented him from expanding much on them. One hopes that he will do so soon.

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Galishoff, Stuart., *Newark: The Nation's Unhealthiest City, 1832-1895.* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1988, Pp. xii, 260. Tables, maps, index. \$38.00 (U.S.).

The United States Census of 1890 designated Newark as the unhealthiest city in America. It had the highest death rate for cities with over one thousand in population and led the country in the rate of infant mortality and deaths from scarlet fever. Newark also stood among the top ten for communicable diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, and

diphtheria. "Once noted for its handsome thoroughfares and majestic elms," Galishoff observes, Newark had become "a vast cesspool of human and animal excrement and industrial wastes." What had induced this ill-fated transition?

Rapid industrialization in the nineteenth century had changed the face of Newark. Unbridled business expansion, a swollen population, and lack of planning had combined to create major problems. By 1860, a private company upon which Newark had relied for its water supply clearly had failed to meet the needs of the growing metropolis. Newark's leaders decided to draw water from the Passaic River only to find that it too had become filthy with refuse from several nearby New Jersey communities. Finally, city officials abandoned the Passaic and purchased water from a new and cleaner source. When Newark eliminated its contaminated cesspools and wells, it replaced them with an underground sewage system which proved haphazard, badly designed, and inadequate. As late as 1919, Newark, like several other American cities, still had not discovered a satisfactory method for garbage disposal.

Galishoff points out that an elite class of businessmen generally formulated civic policy and controlled public agencies. In his concluding chapter, he appears to give it credit for spearheading reforms and cites Daniel J. Boorstin's observation that society had produced a singular American type of business and community leader whose "starting belief was the interfusing of public and private property." In the body of his work, however, Galishoff makes it quite clear that businessmen favoured improvements only when they appeared

to foster their own interests. Because they needed so much water in their manufacturing plants, Newark's businessmen sponsored improvements in the water supply system; the easy access to water which the new scheme provided also helped to reduce the cost of their fire insurance. Board of Health regulations required property owners to tap into the municipal sewage system, but politically powerful slumlords were allowed to ignore the law in Newark's poorer sections. Business leaders waged relentless war against cholera which threatened people of all ranks. In the case of smallpox, however, Newark's upper and middle classes protected themselves by vaccination while the poor remained afflicted by the disease for several decades. Denial of adequate funding by business-minded city administrators not only hindered the effectiveness of the police and fire departments but also rendered the Board of Health ineffectual for twenty years. Change came only when it protected or enhanced business.

Yet, the masses also contributed to Newark's insalubrity. Most of the city's poor opposed the removal or regulation of cesspools and wells since they viewed them as harmless; equally, they resisted compulsory vaccination against pestilential diseases. Poor people generally welcomed clean water but many fought against other hygienic measures when they failed to grasp the connection between lack of cleanliness and disease.

Politics in Newark tended to obscure health issues; tension developed between native Anglo-Saxon Protestants and the new Irish and German Catholic immigrants. Issues such as "blue" laws,

beer gardens on Sunday, prohibition, and public support for parochial schools took precedence over sanitation, drainage, and disease control. A weak city government used agencies such as the Board of Health chiefly as an instrument for patronage; those who lacked the ability for police or fire department employment regularly found jobs on the Board's staff.

Newark did not stand alone. By his careful research and skilful analysis of the interplay of political, economic, and cultural forces, Galishoff presents this New Jersey city as a microcosm of urban evolution in 19th century America.

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Kirsch, George B., *The Creation of American Team Sports: Baseball and Cricket, 1838-72*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1989. Pp. xiv, 227. 13 black and white plates. \$27.50 (U.S.)

The Creation of American Team Sports is an addition to the University of Illinois Press series, "Sport and Society", which includes some excellent contributions on baseball from Melvin Adelman and Rob Ruck. George Kirsch offers to fill in areas of baseball's history which other scholars have bypassed or overlooked, including Adelman's study of the game in New York from 1820 to 1870. He is successful in as far as he expands upon the geographical focus of Adelman's work to include the game's early years in Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and other major centres. Kirsch also delivers a more satisfactory explanation of the evolution of the game from its pre-