

Urban History Review Revue d'histoire urbaine

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW
REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

Fujito, Kuniko, and Richard Hill, eds. *Japanese Cities in the World Economy. (Conflicts in Urban and Regional Development, John R. Logan and Todd Swanstrom, Editors)* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993. Pp. 310. Tables, maps, index. \$44.95 (US) (cloth)

T. G. McGee

Volume 23, numéro 2, march 1995

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1016649ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1016649ar>

[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

McGee, T. (1995). Compte rendu de [Fujito, Kuniko, and Richard Hill, eds. *Japanese Cities in the World Economy. (Conflicts in Urban and Regional Development, John R. Logan and Todd Swanstrom, Editors)* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993. Pp. 310. Tables, maps, index. \$44.95 (US) (cloth)]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, 23(2), 68–68. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1016649ar>

Fujito, Kuniko, and Richard Hill, eds.
Japanese Cities in the World Economy.
(Conflicts in Urban and Regional
Development, John R. Logan and Todd
Swanstrom, Editors) Philadelphia:
Temple University Press, 1993. Pp. 310.
Tables, maps, index. \$44.95 (US) (cloth).

This is an ambitious book and like many edited collections does not quite fulfill the promise of its introduction which raises a series of six questions concerning Japanese urban development. While it is perhaps unfair to the editors to try to collapse these questions they can be encapsulated by the following. How have the Japanese state and private sector as they are engaged in the urban experience responded to global and domestic developments in the period since 1945? This reflects a dominant theme in Japanese studies, at least outside Japan which has sought to explain the "Japanese economic miracle" in terms of a systematic governmental effort to cooperate with the private sector in encouraging economic growth. Equally so, it may be argued that this cooperation has greatly aided the rapid progress of urbanization in Japan.

In order to tackle this question, the book is divided into five parts. In the first part, Nakamura presents a brief overview of urban growth in pre-war Japan arguing that Japan inherited a well-developed system of cities and that as industrialization developed from the Tokugawa era onwards and new port cities were created, such as Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya, this situation aided the development of industry. Part Two called World City Formation deals with the effect of Japan's increasing involvement in the global economy on the urban system and internal change within the local cities. After a period in the mid 1970's where it seems the growth of the large mega-urban regions such as Tokyo and Osaka began to slow down, many were

predicting that Japan's national plans for regional decentralization would be successful. However, in the nineteen eighties the reverse trend has occurred with growing concentration occurring in the Tokkaido urban belt focussing on the corridor from Osaka to Tokyo. Miyamoto's essay comparing the experience of Osaka and Tokyo in this process emphasizes the persistence of manufacturing as an important component of this continuing process. Douglass's previously widely circulated chapter entitled "The New Tokyo Story" focuses upon the human consequences of these changes where increasing land prices, and speculation have led to a hollowing out of the inner parts of the city creating what is referred as the doughnut phenomenon. Douglass carefully analyzes this process including the techniques developed to force local populations out using well known techniques of the "blockbusters" in the Western experience. This process has invoked some resistance as people struggle to maintain homes and community but it has led to very rapid change in inner city Tokyo.

A section on global-local links develops themes introduced elsewhere with case studies of Toyota City, Nagoya, and industrial restructuring in other cities in Japan. Finally, Rimmer offers a carefully researched analysis of the export of Japanese planning ideas to the East Asia and Southeast Asia which includes a strong focus on transportation planning and the concept of Technopolis.

As is generally the case in edited volumes it is not easy to seize upon common elements that indicate strengths and weaknesses in the volume. To the urban historian the rather sketchy treatment of the pre-war growth of urban areas may be disappointing particularly as it ignores the important contributions of Hall and Taueber. Secondly, the book focuses primarily upon the process of in-

dustrial restructuring and the symbiotic relationship with the state as it effects the urbanization process. Apart from Douglass's article there is very little discussion of the social impacts of urbanization. While the essays recognize that the emergence of the urban conditions of Japan, which Douglass suggests has many bleak aspects is a fact, there is only limited discussion of this aspect.

Despite these reservations, *Japanese Cities in the World Economy* is a valuable addition to the studies of urban Japan. The authors do take up the challenge of how the internationalization of Japan has affected the urban economy and how the state is attempting to guide this process. We will have to wait for more focused studies of the social impact of these processes.

T.G. McGee
Department of Geography
University of British Columbia

Schultz, Ronald. *The Republic of Labor: Philadelphia Artisans and the Politics of Class, 1720-1830.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. Pp. xi, 298. Illustrations. \$63.00.

Schultz suggests that the "rights of man" fought for by Philadelphia artisans in the formation and early definition of the American republic had little to do with the development of liberalism in the Anglo-American world of the eighteenth century. More important was a small-producer creed grounded in the world of the independent craftsman. Artisan culture, which emphasized the social utility of labour, the right of all to a competency, the equality of skill with property, and a commitment to community founded on the cooperative nature of production, contained within itself the seeds of demands for a popular democracy defined by economic equality and political lib-