

**Gelfand, Mark. *A Nation of Cities: The Federal Government and Urban America, 1933-1965*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975. Pp. xvii, 476. \$19.95**

Alan F. J. Artibise

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delve into the underlying geographical and historical factors that had so much to do with Saskatoon's spatial evolution. But while the book's main emphasis is the diverse factors that contributed to the development of Saskatoon's landscape, it also contains significant amounts of material on the social and political history of the city. The inclusion of no less than eighty-nine maps and photographs gives this study added value.

Alan F.J. Artibise  
National Museum of Man

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Gelfand, Mark. A Nation of Cities: The Federal Government and Urban America, 1933-1965. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975. Pp. xvii, 476. \$19.95.

This volume traces the discovery of the "urban crisis" by the American Federal Government and the gradual institutionalization of its concern, beginning with the calculated neglect of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century to the deepening involvement that originated in the Depression. The relationship is examined from both sides; if the Federal Government felt no obligation to cities, municipal leaders asked for none. The gradual drift to a new alignment stemmed from the crisis in the cities, not as a consequence of the bureaucracy in Washington seeking greater power.

Although A Nation of Cities discusses the significant social and economic trends in big cities, it is not a history of urban America from 1933 to 1965. It is an inquiry into how urban affairs came to be established on the agenda of liberal reform in this period, not how the city was transformed over these years. The book discusses and analyses not only the growing partnership between the Federal Government and the nation's large central cities but also the fruits of that partnership - federal housing, urban redevelopment, highway programs, etc. - and their impact on the metropolitan environment.

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).

Alan F.J. Artibise  
National Museum of Man

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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.

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.

Alan F.J. Artibise  
National Museum of Man

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