

Urban History Review
Revue d'histoire urbaine

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW
REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

Schwartz, Barry, ed. *The Changing Face of the Suburbs*.
Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1976. Pp. ix, 355.
\$16.00

A. F. J. Artibise

Number 3-76, February 1977

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1019484ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019484ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine

ISSN

0703-0428 (print)

1918-5138 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Artibise, A. F. J. (1977). Review of [Schwartz, Barry, ed. *The Changing Face of the Suburbs*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1976. Pp. ix, 355. \$16.00].

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine, (3-76), 76-77.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/1019484ar>

to formulate a coherent critical theory for the investigation of American socialism". [Wesley T. Wooley, University of Victoria].

* * *

Callow, Alexander B., ed. The City Boss in America: An Interpretive Reader. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1976, Pp. xi, 335. \$6.95.

In the middle of the nineteenth century a major transformation took place in American life, and the agrarian society which had been dominant was replaced by a modern, urban and industrialized society, a society which created an American original - the city boss. This anthology covers the history of the city boss, from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. Six sections containing twenty-seven articles cover critical features of machine politics: the rise of the boss, the running of the machine, the boss and the immigrant, corruption, the boss and the reformer, and the modern machine. Each is preceded by a commentary by the editor which supplements the selections. The selections themselves are interpretive rather than descriptive, and are taken from the works of specialists in urban studies, ranging from historians, political scientists, and sociologists to journalists and politicians. Together the essays provide a solid background for understanding urban politics by describing the role and functions of the old-fashioned machine, its response to modern urbanization, and the ways in which it has evolved and changed through time.

The City Boss in America also contains a short but useful select bibliography. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

* * *

Schwartz, Barry, ed. The Changing Face of the Suburbs. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1976. Pp. ix, 355. \$16.00.

During the 1960's, when the problems of the cities commanded so much attention, city populations in the United States were for the

first time surpassed by the population of the suburbs. By 1975, there were over 13 million more people in the suburban rings than in the cities which they surround. At the same time, there appears to have been no basic change in the social organization of the suburbs. Metropolitan territory beyond the core city remained as fragmented as ever, partitioned into small independent communities. A growing demographic force thus seemed to be colliding with a relatively static social structure.

The Changing Face of the Suburbs attempts to deal with this process in a series of twelve essays. The first six essays chart the magnitude of suburban growth, identify the sectors of the population which have contributed most to that growth, and specify the regions in which it has been most and least pronounced. Part II, which also contains six essays, deals with the issues of social organization and social interactions, and portray the social climate and life styles that have emerged in the suburbs.

For urban historians, the most interesting papers are contained in Part I. Of particular note are three contributions: "Components of Suburban Population Growth", "Black Suburbanization, 1930-1970", and "Suburbanization and the Development of Motor Transportation: Transportation Technology and the Suburbanization Process". [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

* * *

Bacon, Edmund N. Design of Cities. New York: Penguin Books, 1976. Pp. 336. Maps. Illustrations. \$9.95.

First published by the Viking Press in 1967, and re-issued in a revised edition in 1974, Design of Cities is now available in a relatively inexpensive paperback edition. Among its many noteworthy qualities, this book is superbly produced and contains dozens of plans, diagrams and illustrations, many in colour. Compared to other books selling at much higher prices, Design of Cities is well worth the price.