

Bender, Thomas, *Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institutions in Nineteenth-Century America*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1975. Pp. xv, 277. Illustrations. \$14.50

Alan F. J. Artibise

Numéro 1-76, june 1976

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1019554ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019554ar>

[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. (1976). Compte rendu de [Bender, Thomas, *Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institutions in Nineteenth-Century America*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1975. Pp. xv, 277. Illustrations. \$14.50]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, (1-76), 33-34.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1019554ar>

and sophisticated material to make the number a worthwhile buy at \$3. The articles included in the number are: Lloyd Axworthy and Donald Epstein, "Public Policy and Urban Neighborhood"; Tom Pinfold, "The Role of the Land in the Urban Economy"; Alan Gowans, "Towards a Meaningfully Built Environment"; Terry Copp, "The Montreal Working Class in Prosperity and Depression"; Gilbert Stelter, "The Urban Frontier in Canadian History"; and Paul M. Koroscil, "Urbanization in the Canadian North: Yellowknife, N.W.T."

Subscriptions or single copies may be obtained from S.E. McMullin, Director, Canadian Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1.

John H. Taylor
Carleton University

* * *

Bender, Thomas. Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institutions in Nineteenth-Century America. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1975. Pp. xv, 277. Illustrations. \$14.50.

This book examines intellectual and institutional responses to unprecedented urban and industrial growth in nineteenth-century America. In the rapid urban and industrial growth of this period, ideas inherited from Jefferson's generation no longer enabled men and women to make sense of their increasingly urban experiences. New ideologies were therefore sought to supply the meaning that older patterns of belief no longer produced. Professor Bender argues that the cultural crisis produced by urban industrialism was felt by a wide spectrum of Americans - ranging from sophisticated thinkers and middle-class gentlemen to reformers and the "mill girls" of Lowell, Massachusetts. By the mid-nineteenth century a new urban vision had developed out of the interplay of a New England version of early American agrarian ideals and the modernizing forces associated with the industrial city. It sought to bring city and country, and the values they respectively stand for, into a contrapuntal relationship.

Professor Bender examines and assesses this developing urban orientation by examining two important American reformers and thinkers - Charles Loring Brace and Frederick Law Olmsted - in whom the mid-century response to the city found its most impressive ideological and institutional expression. In his examination of these two men, Bender provides a stimulating counter-balance to the conceptual framework put forward by Morton and Lucia White in The Intellectual Versus the City (1962). Instead of classifying thinkers as either pro-urban or anti-urban, Professor Bender explores the ways in which cultural traditions and social and economic developments interacted to form a meaningful psychological reality.

Alan F.J. Artibise
National Museum of Man

* * *

Teaford, Jon C. The Municipal Revolution in America: Origins of Modern Urban Government, 1650-1825. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1975. Pp. viii, 152. \$9.75.

This study is an examination of the transformation in the political structure, function, and external relationships of the American municipality between 1650 and 1825, the period when Americans discarded the model of urban government inherited from medieval Europe and substituted an ideal which determined the course of municipal development up to the present. At the beginning of the period under study, Professor Teaford argues, urban rule rested with those admitted to the commerce of the city and this limited body of commercial participants expected the municipal corporation to devote the largest portion of its time and effort to regulating and promoting trade. Such a government could not survive in the age of Locke, Jefferson, and Adam Smith, however, and gradually the lawmakers changed their viewpoint and paid more attention to measures dealing with public health, safety, and such public works as street lighting, waterworks, paving, and drainage. In the face