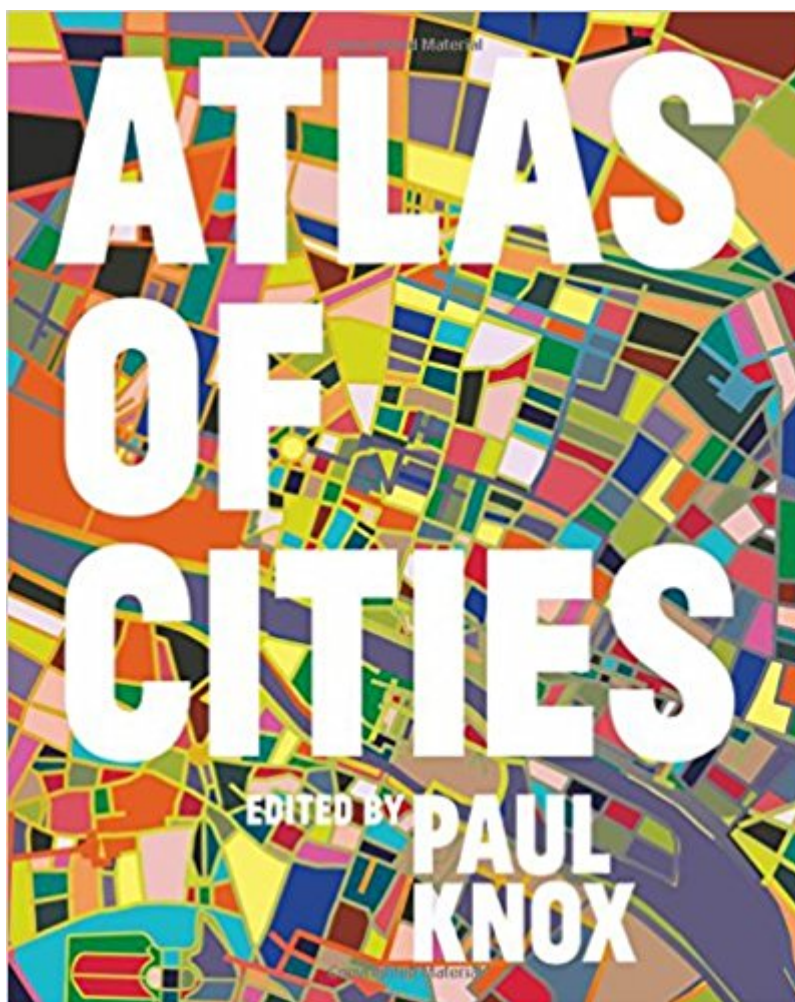


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Atlas Of Cities



Synopsis

More than half the world's population lives in cities, and that proportion is expected to rise to three-quarters by 2050. Urbanization is a global phenomenon, but the way cities are developing, the experience of city life, and the prospects for the future of cities vary widely from region to region. The Atlas of Cities presents a unique taxonomy of cities that looks at different aspects of their physical, economic, social, and political structures; their interactions with each other and with their hinterlands; the challenges and opportunities they present; and where cities might be going in the future. Each chapter explores a particular type of city--from the foundational cities of Greece and Rome and the networked cities of the Hanseatic League, through the nineteenth-century modernization of Paris and the industrialization of Manchester, to the green and "smart" cities of today. Expert contributors explore how the development of these cities reflects one or more of the common themes of urban development: the mobilizing function (transport, communication, and infrastructure); the generative function (innovation and technology); the decision-making capacity (governance, economics, and institutions); and the transformative capacity (society, lifestyle, and culture). Using stunning info-graphics, maps, charts, tables, and photographs, the Atlas of Cities is a comprehensive overview of the patterns of production, consumption, generation, and decay of the twenty-first century's defining form. Presents a one-of-a-kind taxonomy of cities that looks at their origins, development, and future prospects Features core case studies of particular types of cities, from the foundational cities of Greece and Rome to the "smart" cities of today Explores common themes of urban development, from transport and communication to lifestyle and culture Includes stunning info-graphics, maps, charts, tables, and photos Additional material for this book: Cities Featured: Abuja, Alexandria, Amsterdam, Athens, Augsburg, Babylon, Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia, Bruges, Budapest, Cairo, Canberra, Chandigarh, Chicago, Constantinople, Curitiba, Detroit, Dubai, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Florence, Frankfurt, Freiburg, Geneva, Ghent, Glasgow, Gießen, Hong Kong, Innsbruck, Istanbul, Jakarta, Karachi, Knossos, Las Vegas, London, Los Angeles, Lübeck, Manchester, Marseille, Masdar City, Mexico City, Miami, Milan, Mumbai, Nairobi, New York, Paris, Pella, Portland, Rome, San Francisco, Santorini, São Paulo, Seoul, Shanghai, Sheffield, Singapore, Sparta, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Sydney, Syracuse, Tokyo, Vancouver, Venice, Vienna, Washington, D.C., Wildpoldsried

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Customer Reviews

I couldn't help noticing the previous (first) review of this book, which I thought was unfairly critical. The reviewer seemed to be looking for something quite different from what this atlas sets out to do. This is not a 'history of cities' book. (If you want that, check out the recent Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History, edited by Peter Clark.) Instead, this is a highly imaginative attempt to show how cities matter. The illustrations are very original, even stunning. The geographical range is very wide. I see this as above all inspirational, rather than comprehensive, although it does cover just about all the topics that you might imagine ... and then some.

Without a doubt, this is my favorite book in urban affairs for the year of 2014. Paul Knox and his colleagues have produced a timely, informative, and deeply rich account of the evolution of urban form and cities throughout the world. It is well-written, balanced, and beautifully produced. Indeed, the stunning infographics, detailed maps, and use of color set a new standard for books in our field. I highly recommend "Atlas of Cities" for the general reader, the seasoned scholar, and the student.

Very interesting book. Explores cities from their ancient roots to present day metropolises. Chapters are separated into the different types of cities -- global, celebrity, mega, etc. -- and each chapter contains a staggering amount of information to pour through. Abundance of visual aids makes comparing cities easy and interesting.

This is one of my favourite books on urban studies, with extensive coverage on world's city development, West or East. Learned a lot from the book even though I am not unfamiliar with the

topic. Very well written and organized. I love it.

Interesting book. As most books that intend to be comprehensive, it lacks some information that could be particularly interesting, also the examples chosen tend to be a bit repetitive, with all the obvious classics London, Paris, Brasilia, etc...The book could benefit from new cases not yet so overstudied.

I found the "Atlas of Cities" to be even better than I expected it to be. Its historical record describing how the various types of cities came to be, was filled with documented records which contained information that had eluded me during four years of college, three years of Seminary, forty-five years of professional life, and my total of 91 years and four months, with wide-reading subject matter, some minor professionally published writing on senior living, and interchanges with my family, friends, and a few world leaders. Its Green City section offers the most hope I've seen in years that at least some folks are living "green" as far as "carbon footprints" and "water conservation" are concerned. All the designated City sections were absolutely filled with information and this book will be a KEEPER in my research library, long after I'm gone.---Bill Warner

There are several good ideas in this book but it would have been a much better work if East Asian urbanization had been integrated and high-lighted from the get-go. Alas, the authors of the 15 chapters into which the book is divided did not include anyone conversant with the history of urbanization in East Asia. This Euro-American approach leads to remarks such as "In many ways, the foundations for today's cities were laid by the Greek and Roman empires" (page 11). What about China's pre-imperial cities which developed when the Greeks and Romans were still living in fortified villages? What about the Chinese empire (where grid cities were invented 2000 years ago and spread not only in China but also to Japan (Kyoto)? In the chapter on imperial cities, Istanbul is chosen as the focus and Beijing is listed as a "secondary city" along with Vienna (but Beijing is hardly mentioned in this chapter). Moreover on the (undated) map of Silk and Spice Routes (page 57) Constantinople is featured as the hub whereas the starting point of the silk roads, Xi'an in China (a huge imperial capital) is not even shown (however, Lop Nur, an oasis at the time, is shown with a line linking it to Lhasa)! Even stranger, the end of the land silk road is shown as Guangzhou. In the chapter on the "Rational City" Paris is featured (and not one East Asian city is listed among secondary cities). The same is true of most of the other chapters--Chinese cities and other East Asian cities are largely absent. Even on the intriguing section on "Starchitecture," only three East

Asian cities are given (not including Tokyo although that city is studded with prestige buildings by the current big names in global architecture. However nine cities are given for Europe). In the map of cities at risk from rising sea levels (page 213) it is symptomatic of the weak coverage of China that of the 5 Chinese cities shown one is non-existent (Qindo, unless this is a typo for Qingdao). The reader has to wait until page 156 before China is featured in a two-page section entitled "Planning China's Megacities." After this section China is forgotten again. And even in this brief section the same sloppy editing re China is evident (Tianjin, for example is said to be "about 100 miles south of Beijing." Why not look it up and get it right? Tianjin is 85 miles southeast of Beijing. On the next page we are told that Beijing and Tianjin are in the "arid northeast" (but "northeast" in the Chinese context refers to Manchuria). And there are other anomalies. We are told that Tianjin in 2013 had a population of 13 million and Chengdu, 12 million but on page 143 neither of these cities are featured in the list of the world's most populous urban areas in 2013 (although three cities with less than 12 million inhabitants are listed). Conclusion: the book would have benefited from a global approach and much more diligent editing.

Beautiful, although not quite as aesthetically pleasing as a "coffee table book" as I thought it would be.

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