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a work of history but also about art and architecture trade and commerce travel and exploration economics and politics this is above all a book about people and how over the millennia they have managed to live closely together from the origins of urbanization in mesopotamia to the global metropolises of today great cities have marked the development of humankind babylon and nineveh athens and rome istanbul and venice timbuktu and samarkand their very names are redolent both of history and romance the great cities in

history tells their story from early uruk and thebes to jerusalem and alexandria then the fabulous cities of the first millennium damascus and baghdad in the days of the caliphates teotihuacan and maya tikal in central america and chang an capital of tang dynasty china the medieval world saw the rise of powerful cities palermo and paris in europe benin in africa and angkor of the khmer in the early modern world we journey to islamic isfahan and agra and prague and amsterdam in their heyday before arriving at the phenomenon of the contemporary mega city london and new york tokyo and barcelona los angeles and são paulo a galaxy of more than fifty distinguished authors including jan morris colin thubron simon schama orlando figes felipe fernandez armesto misha glenny adam zamoyski and a n wilson evoke the character of each place and explain the reasons for its success seeing what each city would have been like during its golden age

this book follows the evolution of the very large city across the world from its origins in ancient times to its current dominant position in both the industrialised world and the third world in depth studies are devoted to the key giant cities of human history at decisive points in their growth the case studies include rome london saint petersburg moscow bangkok and berlin additional studies deal with the general characteristics of the megalopolis stressing its implications for cultural life

first published in 1988 this is a collection of works where the mediterranean provides the context for all the cities which appear in this volume all are or have been port cities and as such their harbours played a significant role in shaping their histories in essence the question of interaction between man and sea is one of the influence of the maritime position on the human communities constituting the mediterranean cities the connections between them and the link of each city with its hinterland as well as the influence of its position on the city s internal development and character

delve into the social and cultural history of 100 of the world s most important cities from the first towns in mesopotamia to today s global metropolises cities have marked the progress of civilization written in the form of illustrated biographies great cities offers a rich historical overview of each featured city brought to vivid life with paintings photographs timelines maps and artefacts the latest title in the series style of artists writers philosophers and composers this lavish ebook goes under the skin of cities both ancient and modern from persepolis and tikal paris and vienna to prague amsterdam tokyo and dubai which ancient civilization founded the precursor to mexico city why was venice the gateway to the east what was the belle epoque which was the first city to build sewers great cities takes you there and tells you all this and more stunning images of city life and key moments in history are complemented by close ups of revealing details and feature panels that provide additional context an ebook not just about history but also about art architecture commerce and politics great cities provides a fascinating insight into what has shaped the places where we live perfect

for history geography and arts enthusiasts and a stunning gift for armchair explorers of all ages it is your window into the world's most fascinating cities

In 2008 for the first time the majority of the planet's inhabitants lived in cities and towns becoming globally urban has been one of mankind's greatest collective achievements over time and raises many questions how did global city systems evolve and interact in the past how have historic urban patterns impacted on those of the contemporary world and what were the key drivers in the roller coaster of urban change over the millennia market forces such as trade and industry rulers and governments competition and collaboration between cities or the urban environment and demographic forces this pioneering comparative work by fifty leading scholars drawn from a range of disciplines offers the first detailed comparative study of urban development from ancient times to the present day the handbook explores not only the main trends in the growth of cities and towns across the world but also many of the essential themes in the making and remaking of the urban world provided by publisher

If humankind can be said to have a single greatest creation it would be those places that represent the most eloquent expression of our species' ingenuity beliefs and ideals the city in this authoritative and engagingly written account the acclaimed urbanist and bestselling author examines the evolution of urban life over the millennia and in doing so attempts to answer the age-old question what makes a city great despite their infinite variety all cities essentially serve three purposes spiritual political and economic kotkin follows the progression of the city from the early religious centers of mesopotamia the indus valley and china to the imperial centers of the classical era through the rise of the islamic city and the european commercial capitals ending with today's post industrial suburban metropolis despite widespread optimistic claims that cities are back in style kotkin warns that whatever their form cities can thrive only if they remain sacred safe and busy and this is true for both the increasingly urbanized developing world and the often self possessed global cities of the west and east asia looking at cities in the twenty first century kotkin discusses the effects of developments such as shifting demographics and emerging technologies he also considers the effects of terrorism how the religious and cultural struggles of the present pose the greatest challenge to the urban future truly global in scope the city is a timely narrative that will place kotkin in the company of lewis mumford jane jacobs and other preeminent urban scholars

this book addresses water privatization from a historical sociological perspective and argues against the unrelenting imposition of neoprivatist water politics worldwide water is essential for life but it is also a source of economic and political power prevailing water politics continues to erode the conditions of dignified living conditions of millions of human beings around the world including many living in western capitalist democracies the book revisits water related myths fake truths and authoritarian practices promoted or

employed by international financial institutions governments and other powerful actors to keep enforcing long failed policies grounded on ideological dogmas and short term interests and argues for the substantive democratization of water politics and management it rejects claims of scientific neutrality from academics and other actors across the political spectrum who are co responsible for the perpetuation of these conditions interrogating the ethics of scientific political pragmatism

jaqueline tyrwhitt 1905 1983 was a british town planner editor and educator this book includes four of tyrwhitt s key texts to illustrate how she forged and promoted a synthesis of patrick geddes bioregionalism and the utopian ideals of european modernist urbanism which influenced post war academic discourse and professional practice in urban planning and design internationally the key texts reprinted in this book are contributions from the town and country planning textbook 1950 which was published as an outcome for the correspondence course in town planning for members of the allied forces which tyrwhitt ran it was designed to meet the requirements created by passage of the 1947 town and country act and helped to shape a generation of planning practitioners in the uk and commonwealth countries

reveals the role of time in reproducing inequalities as students navigate rural to urban cross border and transnational higher education can a student inherit time what difference does time make to their educational journeys and outcomes the time inheritors draws on nearly a decade of field research with more than one hundred youth in china to argue that intergenerational transfers of privilege or deprivation are manifested in and through time comparing experiences of rural to urban cross border and transnational education cora lingling xu shows how inequalities in time inheritance help drive deeply unequal mobility with its unique focus on time nuanced comparative analysis and sensitive ethnographic engagement the time inheritors opens new avenues for understanding the social mechanisms shaping the future of china and the world

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