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At the close of the nineteenth century, industrialization and urbanization marked the end of the traditional understanding of society as rooted in agriculture. Urban Modernity examines the construction of an urban-centered, industrial-based culture—an entirely new social reality based on science and technology. The authors show that this invention of modernity was brought about through the efforts of urban elites—businessmen, industrialists, and officials—to establish new science- and technology-related institutions. International expositions, museums, and other such institutions and projects helped stem the economic and social instability fueled by industrialization, projecting contemporary developments as part of a steady continuum of scientific and technical progress. The authors examine the dynamic that connected urban planning, museums, educational institutions, and expositions in Paris, London, Chicago, Berlin, and Tokyo from 1870 to 1930.

In Third Republic Paris, politicians, administrators, social scientists, architects, and engineers implemented a new form of the city through a series of commissions, agencies, and organizations; in rapidly expanding London, cultures of science and technology were both rooted in and constitutive of urban culture; in Chicago after the Great Fire, members of the Commercial Club pursued civic ideals through scientific and technological change; in Berlin, industry, scientific institutes, and the popularization of science helped create a modern metropolis; and in Meiji-era Tokyo (Edo), modernization and Westernization went hand in hand.

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Urban ModernityUrban ModernityCultural Innovation in the Second Industrial RevolutionMiriam R. Levin, Sophie Forgan, Martina Hessler, Robert H. Kargon, and Morris LowThe MIT PressCambridge, MassachusettsLondon, England© 2010Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyAll rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from the publisher.For information about special quantity discounts, please email special_sales@mitpress.mit.eduThis book was set in Engravers Gothic and Bembo by Toppan Best-set Premedia Limited. Printed and bound in the United States of America.Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication DataUrban modernity : cultural innovation in the Second Industrial Revolution / Miriam R. Levin . . . [et al.]. p. cm.Includes bibliographical references and index.ISBN 978-0-262-01398-7 (hardcover : alk. paper)1. Urbanization_History. 2. Technological innovations_Economic aspects_History. 3. Industrialization_History. I. Levin, Miriam R. HT361.U7173 2010307.76 09_dc22200903474710 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1ContentsList of Figures viiPreface ix1 Dynamic TriadCity, Exposition, and Museum in Industrial Society 1Miriam R. Levin2 Bringing the Future to Earth in Paris, 1851-1914 13Miriam R. Levin3 From Modern Babylon to White CityScience, Technology, and Urban Change in London, 1870-1914 75Sophie Forgan4 The Counterrevolution of ProgressA Civic Culture of Modernity in Chicago, 1880-1910 133Robert H. Kargon5 "Damned Always to Alter, but Never to Be"Berlin's Culture of Change around 1900 167Martina Hessler6 Promoting Scientific and Technological Change in Tokyo, 1870-1930Museums, Industrial Exhibitions, and the City 205Morris Low7 Coda 255Miriam R. LevinIndex 261

Reviews

"The experience of reading this book resembles the best kind of graduate seminar this book is a wonderful contrast to those treatments of science as esoteric and ivory-tower." _ Robert Bud, The British Journal for the History of Science

"Clearly written, meticulously documented, and well argued, this work will appeal to specialists in urban studies as well as historians of science, technology, comparative cultural development, and international political development." , R.P. Hallion, Hallion Associates, CHOICE

Awards

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title, 2011.

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