

URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE: POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND HUNGARY. By *E. A. Gutkind*. International History of City Development, vol. 7. With contributions by *Wojciech Kalinowski*, members of the Union of Architects of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and *Imre Perényi*. Edited by *Gabriele Gutkind*. New York: Free Press. London: Collier-Macmillan Ltd., 1972. xviii, 475 pp. 339 illus. \$25.00.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE: BULGARIA, ROMANIA, AND THE U.S.S.R. By *E. A. Gutkind*. International History of City Development, vol. 8. With contributions by *Peter Tashev* and members of the Central Research and Design Institute for Building, Architecture, and Planning (ISCAS) of the State Committee for Building, Architecture, and Planning (CSCAS), Rumania. Edited by *Gabriele Gutkind*. New York: Free Press. London: Collier-Macmillan Ltd., 1972. xviii, 457 pp. 250 illus. \$19.95.

The eight volumes published in this series represent the lifework of a dedicated scholar, Professor E. A. Gutkind. Volume 7, on urban development in East Central Europe, differs from its predecessors and from volume 8 on urban development in Eastern Europe in that it was incomplete when the author died in 1968. It is thus a collective work and embodies the scholarship of leading Polish, Czechoslovak, and Hungarian authorities on the subject, who have clearly set themselves the task of maintaining Gutkind's high standards, spirit, and purpose. The book seeks to describe and analyze the origins and development of towns until the nineteenth century; to examine and illustrate profusely with prints and photographs their shape, size, and appearance; to outline their functions and the interrelations between changing functions, growth or decline and stagnation, and the layout or shape of settlements.

These aims are, on the whole, admirably achieved. In the first place, 340 maps, diagrams, reproductions of old prints, and photographs are generously provided to illustrate every theme, every significant urban example, and the continuity and change in towns through time. Background is provided by introductory texts and by maps presenting the broad characteristics of urban evolution and their explanation in each of the states. In the second place, the text, in description and in analysis, displays an attention to detail, as well as an ability to paint a broad generalized canvas, that is both refreshing and stimulating.

The history of Polish towns is traced from the time of the emergence of the Polish state in A.D. 966 to the loss of Polish independence as a state following the eighteenth-century partitions. Changing frontiers throughout this period presented a problem for the study, so that spatial treatment varies among periods; also much historic documentation was destroyed by wars. These periods are the early *grod* with its earthworks and wooden buildings, the medieval fortified town or settlement, the impact of the Renaissance, the later seventeenth century and eighteenth century, and the nineteenth-century town which grew from industrial artisan villages. An attempt is made to identify the Polish features of the towns of the pre-partition period and to contrast them in urban morphology with the development of the partition period, when "city-planning and building activities were guided by foreign building authorities and alien architects" and showed few, if any, connections with Polish creative thinking.

A great wealth of source material is summarized in the section on Czechoslo-

vakian towns—a section which, indeed, fills more than half the book. The history of settlements is traced from the pre-Slavic *oppida*, and “proto-towns,” through the “golden age” of city foundation in the thirteenth century, the impact of intensive mining in the later Middle Ages, the Hussite period, Renaissance, Baroque, and the industrial revolution. Unlike Poland, where constant conflict with Germans and the partitions and later wars destroyed many towns, Czechoslovakia has had a more peaceful history, which has led to greater preservation of urban forms through the ages. That this section is illustrated by modern photographs, rather than diagrams or sketches or historic prints, reflects this fact.

In contrast to the great regularities—squares, straight streets, rectangular markets—that typify the Slavic towns of Poland and Czechoslovakia, the towns of Hungary frequently demonstrate irregular or haphazard forms. But there is more regional variation because of the great functional contrasts between settlements of the Trans-Danubian hill country and of the Great Plain. The Hajdu soldiers’ settlements of the northeast are different again, as are the Transylvanian villages in what is now Rumania.

Volume 8, the last of the series, examines urban development in Bulgaria, Rumania, and the USSR. It is significant that Yugoslavia is thus omitted from volumes 7 and 8. This implies no criticism of Professor Gutkind. Far from it, his strenuous efforts were frustrated by the lack of cooperation from Yugoslav scholars and institutes. That this is so reflects the sad truth that disunity and the lack of willingness to understand and cooperate still run deep among the Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, and other South Slav peoples. What a contrast this makes to the cooperation that Gutkind received from Peter Tashev on the evolution of Bulgarian urban patterns and from the Central Research and Design Institute for Building, Architecture, and Planning (ISCAS) of the State Committee for Building, Architecture, and Planning (CSCAS) in Rumania. The work of such eminent experts brings out clearly the forces shaping the morphological and functional characteristics of towns in these three nations. Perhaps there is no better memorial to Gutkind’s scholarly work than the final three-hundred-page section of volume 8, which analyzes the diversified pattern of prerevolutionary development of the towns of the Soviet Union.

At the end each volume provides a long list of bibliographic sources, mainly writings of the twentieth century, which examine the field of town evolution from many angles. Also included are monographs on hundreds of individual towns.

Such a great source of information is a worthy candidate for the shelves of any scholar interested in urban history, town planning, East Central Europe, or urban geography. These volumes offer an invaluable insight into the historical geography not only of the towns themselves but of the towns as units in a system of spatial functions and regions. They are indispensable for current field work by the geographer in the region, for they bring together so much material that is scattered in so many sources in so many places.

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