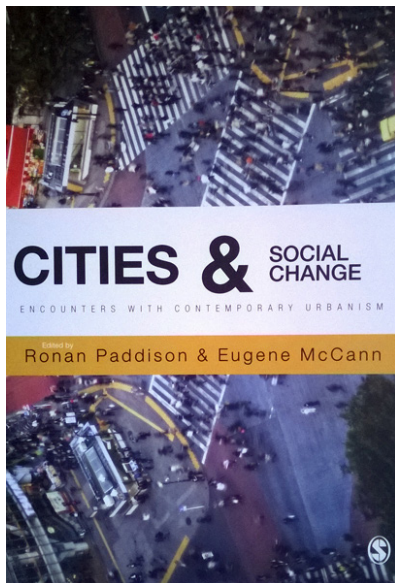


Cities and social change

Edited by: Ronan Paddison, Eugene McCann

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Ever wondered if current social changes are drastically affecting the quality of city life and urban space? The book focuses on the interactions between socio-economic classes and health issues associated to urban life, and it also critically examines the problematic of social distancing in the contemporary city. It draws the attention to the gentrification issue and how it is negatively changing the integral urban community.

The geographers Ronan Paddison and Eugene McCann have collected 13 essays by key scholars with geographical backgrounds on 225 pages regarding the topic of urban social change. The book is aiming to give an in-depth understanding to the current lifestyle in modern cities and is structured into three major sections: dealing with the mental image of the city, experience of the city and the livability in metropolitan areas. The first chapter presents the idea to look at the city from an outsiders perspective in order to take rational decisions concerning the social and ecological life quality. The second chapter of the book is about the citizens experiences of social class differentiation in an urban context and the transition from industrial to post-modern city. The third chapter turns to the question of the livability and sustainability of the city and how it is possible to efficiently address the issues such as poverty and harmful health conditions for the citizens. It is critically discussing how we might work towards alternative forms of city planning. For example, providing more green public spaces would improve the health aspects of the urban living. The authors provide discussions about social situations, processes and perspectives that have shaped the cities over the years.

The book's main topic about inevitable social change is well presented by the writers. They contribute their personal conclusions from a geographical point of view about the unresolved current critical situation of living in expanding modern cities. This gives the book a new and unique approach discussing the urban change from a different professional perspective. The language of the text is easy to understand if the reader is already familiar with certain urbanistic concepts and terms. The book puts together a sensible train of thoughts and concludes by how through our senses, we read and appreciate the city. The text supplies additional information including descriptive case studies such as Chicago Grant Park, questions for discussion, further reading and reference links, but on the other hand it is not well equipped with photos that would help the reader to visualize the issues discussed within the content.

The material in each theme offers discussion and reflections of the individual experiences in modern mega cities such as New York or Chicago. The set of essays provides an interesting variety of opinions on a complex subject of urban change. »Cities and social change« is a contemporary source of literature recommended for intellectuals interested in social changes in an urban context.