Cities And Plans: The Shaping Of Urban Britain In The Nineteenth And Twentieth Centuries

Gordon Emanuel Cherry

Cholera epidemics, the ‘Great Stink’ and miasmas combined to create a death rate in Britain’s cities higher than at any time since the Black Death. Until the general acceptance of the germ theory of disease in the later 19th century, fevers and epidemics were explained by ‘miasmas’, exhalations from decaying matter which poisoned the air. Hence the alarm of the ‘Great Stink’. What was needed was through ventilation, the provision of parks to act as ‘lungs’ for the cities, and a general process of cleansing. The need for observation and ventilation meant opening up the city, improving the process of circulation much as an individual’s health depended on the circulation of blood and oxygen. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century witnessed a significant integration of international markets to provide a channel for portfolio investment flows. The cross-national ownership of securities including government bonds reached very high levels during this period. Also in the twentieth century there was an increase in the degree of openness in most countries, in international trade, investment and finance. While the second half of the twentieth century witnessed a phenomenal expansion in international trade flows. http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/deglobalisation-what-i This is an account of urban planning in Britain between 1830 and 1980 with emphasis on the increasing role of government, particularly local government which became a key agent of change. The book describes the steps taken in public sector regulation of the urban environment from by-laws to town planning and sets them in the context of societal change. It also seeks to link 19th and 20th century public sector regulation instead of concentrating exclusively on the 20th century. It deals synoptically with urban history, planning and societal change and sets urban planning in the context of chang