

Cities in Evolution

by

PATRICK GEDDES

Edited by

THE OUTLOOK TOWER ASSOCIATION
EDINBURGH

and

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PLANNING
AND REGIONAL RECONSTRUCTION
LONDON

NEW AND REVISED EDITION

LONDON

WILLIAMS & NORGATE LTD.

CITIES IN EVOLUTION

Acknowledgments

CITIES IN EVOLUTION

The cutting of the original 1915 edition has been agreed between Dr. Arthur Geddes (President) and Phipps Turnbull on behalf of the Outlook Tower Association, and Sir George Pepler (Vice-Chairman) on behalf of the Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction.

CITIES AND TOWN PLANNING EXHIBITION

The second Geddes exhibition, consisting of some 5,000 paintings, drawings, prints and plans collected and prepared for Patrick Geddes in 1914-15, has been cared for by its former Assistant Director and present owner, Dr. Arthur Geddes. A selection of some 40 of its documents has been chosen for this book with the assistance of W. W. M. Mann, and a final note added to the text by Sir George Pepler.

APPENDICES

These have been selected by the general editor, Part 2 of Appendix I being specially written by John Turner and W. P. Keating Clay.

Jaqueline Tyrwhitt
(General Editor)

Association for Planning
and Regional Reconstruction

Published 1949

Printed by

Knapp, Drewett and Sons, Ltd., 30 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

Contents

Page

INTRODUCTION ..	<i>Jaqueline Tyrwhitt</i>		x
PREFACE	<i>Patrick Geddes</i>	..	xxx
1 CITIES IN EVOLUTION			
The book will show how trends and tendencies can be made evident by a survey of each city, and bring its ordinary citizens to an understanding of its possible future			1
2 THE POPULATION MAP AND CONURBATIONS			
Here Geddes invented the word "conurbation" to express the several great city-groups that had arisen in Britain, which were changing the nature of local autonomy			9
3 WORLD CITIES AND CITY REGIONS			
The same degrading centralisation was evident in industrial centres in other countries, except those centres based on hydro-electricity. These showed other trends which were more hopeful for the future and implied a Second Industrial Revolution. (<i>Note: At this time, 1910-15, the possibility of Atomic Energy was but a dream in the minds of a very few scientists</i>)			22
4 PALEOTECHNIC AND NEOTECHNIC			
Some Geddesian phraseology is introduced. The Paleotechnic era is the first crude period of the Industrial Age, which has produced a state of Kakotopia (bad place), i.e. of slums, semi-slums and super-slums. The Neotechnic era is the second, dawning, period of the Industrial Age which may produce Eutopia (good place), i.e. the realised version of Utopia (nowhere); a place of effective health and well being, of glorious and unprecedented beauty			32
5 WAYS TO THE NEOTECHNIC CITY			
The first need is for an ideal conception of a city to focus the direction of work. Town planning requires a synoptic vision of Nature to enable a constructive conservation of its order and beauty in the development of the new health of cities			46
6 THE HOMES OF THE PEOPLE			58
7 THE HOUSING MOVEMENT			58
8 TRAVEL AND CITIZENSHIP			
Travel is a great process of democratic education; especially valuable for the town planner—but needing careful preparation and a seeing eye			59
9 A TOWN PLANNING TOUR IN GERMANY			67

CONTENTS

*10 GERMAN ORGANISATION

An extract from this chapter stresses the evils of high density housing. Another shows the values of a town plan and civic buildings that are "the outcome and flower of a whole civilisation of a community and of an age"

68

*11 RECENT PROGRESS IN HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

74

**NOTE: These five chapters have been omitted except for two extracts from Chapter 10. This part of the 1915 edition of this book has now only an historical interest. The two chapters on Housing described the situation as it was in 1910 and made out a powerful case for Housing Reform. The two chapters on German Town planning described a tour of Germany organised in 1908 by the National Housing Reform Council. The chapter on Recent Progress described some of the early days of the Garden City movement*

12 CIVIC EXHIBITIONS

The value of Civic Exhibitions and the need for a permanent Centre in each city, where the inter-relation of the past, present and future of that locality, and the interaction of world events and local life can be constantly refreshed and made manifest to the ordinary citizen, as the very basis of citizen participation in town planning. Also a description of Geddes' first "Cities and Town Planning Exhibition" and of his "Outlook Tower" in Edinburgh.

75

13 EDUCATION FOR TOWN PLANNING

Description of the early days of town planning education and the formation of the Town Planning Institute. The need for a close association between the study of civics (sociology) and the study of its physical expression in the town plan

97

14 THE STUDY OF CITIES

The need for the synoptic concept of study (of seeking to recognize and utilize all points of view—scientific, artistic, historic—and from them to interpret the course of the city's future evolution and possibilities). Also a further description of the Outlook Tower as a means of arousing and educating an active participating citizenship

109

15 THE SURVEY OF CITIES

The place of the Museum in the modern city as a centre for Civic Survey, and the active part that should be played by the city's schools and churches

113

16 CITY SURVEYS BY MUNICIPALITIES

An early plea for Survey before Plan, at the time of the first Town Planning Act of 1909, and an outline of the basic contents of such a Survey and Civic Exhibition

124

17 THE SPIRIT OF CITIES

A reminder that the Survey is a means towards the realisation of the life-history of the community—which is not a material record but a social personality. This can only be realised by entry into the soul of the city, by means of its life, literature, poesy and art—in the way that Scott and Stevenson knew and loved Edinburgh. There follows a description of Chelsea in this sense

134

CONTENTS

18 ECONOMICS OF CITY BETTERMENT

Differences between Paleotechnic and Neotechnic viewpoints on spending for social betterment. Reminder that many "unpractical" and "utopian" schemes have proved soundly economic in the long run 145

19 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Swift summary of the book showing that, through acquaintance with his city's Civic Survey and Exhibition, the ordinary citizen, engaged upon his daily round, may awaken to a revelation of the unexhausted possibilities of his own surroundings, and that by a fresh vision of the vital union and co-ordination of art and science we shall be enabled to disperse Paleotechnic disorder 154

CITIES AND TOWN PLANNING EXHIBITION

Illustrations selected from Geddes' second exhibition.
Text drawn from Geddes' Catalogue to the first exhibition.

Introduction	163
The Valley Section	164
Origins of Planning	168
Mediæval Cities	172
Renaissance Cities	181
Great Capitals	186
Garden Cities	190

Appendices

I THE GEDDES DIAGRAMS

Part 1. The Notation of Life (from "The Interpreter Geddes") ..	195
Part 2. The Contribution of the Diagrams towards a Synthetic Form of Thought (John Turner & W. P. Keating Clay) ..	200
Part 3. The World Without and the World Within (from "Sunday Talks with my Children")	205

II GEDDES FINAL DUNDEE LECTURE

A Botanist Looks at the World (from "The Interpreter Geddes") ..	214
--	-----

III BRIEF GEDDES BIOGRAPHY	231
------------------------------------	-----

Index

235

Oath of the Athenian Youth

We will never bring disgrace to this, our City, by any act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks.

We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the City, both alone and with many.

We will revere and obey the City's laws and do our best to incite a like respect and reverence in those above us who are prone to annul or set them at naught.

We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.

Thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this City, not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.