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Título: Urban Modernity

Autor: Levin, Miriam R.

Precio: \$480.00

Editorial:

Año: 2010

Tema:

Edición: 1ª

Sinopsis

ISBN: 9780262013987

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.

.About the Authors

Miriam R. Levin is Professor of History and Art History at Case Western Reserve University.

Sophie Forgan is on the faculty of Teesside University, Middlesbrough, England.

Robert H. Kargon is Willis K. Shepard Professor of the History of Science at The Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *The Rise of Robert Millikan: A Life in American Science* and other books.

Teléfonos: 55 44 73 40 y 55 44 72 91

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Morris Low is Senior Lecturer in Asian Studies at the University of Queensland.

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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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