

The City in Time and Space

This ambitious study treats urbanization and urbanism all over the world, and from the earliest times to the present. Professor Southall, a pioneer in the study of African cities, discusses the urban centres of ancient Sumeria, Greece and Rome, as well as medieval European cities, Chinese, Japanese, Islamic and Indic cities, colonial cities and the great metropolises of the twentieth century. Drawing on this historical and comparative perspective, he offers a fresh analysis of world urbanization in the contemporary period of globalization. The study emphasizes the enduring paradox of the city, which juxtaposes splendid cultural productions with the poverty and deprivation of the majority.

AIDAN SOUTHALL is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. He has had a distinguished career as an Africanist and urban anthropologist spanning several decades, and has previously taught at universities in Africa and Britain.

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