

the right to the city david harvey

The Right to the City David Harvey: Understanding Urban Justice and Social Change

the right to the city david harvey is a powerful concept that has reshaped the way urban scholars, activists, and policymakers think about cities and their inhabitants. Rooted in the idea that all urban residents should have a say in how their city is shaped and experienced, this phrase is inseparable from the work of David Harvey, a prominent geographer and social theorist. Harvey's interpretation of the right to the city goes beyond mere access to urban resources; it challenges fundamental power dynamics and calls for a more equitable and democratic urban life.

In this article, we will explore David Harvey's vision of the right to the city, its implications for urban justice, and how it resonates with ongoing struggles against inequality and exclusion in cities around the world. We'll also look at related ideas such as urban commons, spatial justice, and the role of social movements in claiming the city as a collective right.

David Harvey and the Origins of the Right to the City

The right to the city is a concept originally coined by French philosopher Henri Lefebvre in 1968, but it was David Harvey who popularized and expanded its meaning in contemporary urban theory. Harvey sees the city not just as a physical space or an economic hub, but as a social process—a site where power, capital, and human life intersect.

What Does the Right to the City Mean According to David Harvey?

For Harvey, the right to the city is the right to change ourselves by changing the city. This means that urban inhabitants should have the collective power to reshape the social, political, and economic structures of their cities. It implies more than just access to services or housing; it challenges the capitalist production of space that often prioritizes profit over people.

Harvey argues that cities have become sites of spatial injustice where neoliberal policies, gentrification, and privatization displace marginalized communities and restrict their ability to participate in urban life. The right to the city is thus a call for reclaiming urban spaces from such forces and democratizing control over the city's development.

The City as a Common Good

An important part of Harvey's argument is the idea of the city as a "common"—a shared resource that belongs to all, rather than the property of a few powerful interests. This challenges the commodification of urban space, where land and housing are treated primarily as assets for speculation.

He calls for a reinvention of urban governance that centers the needs and rights of residents, particularly those who have been historically marginalized. This perspective aligns with movements advocating for affordable housing, public spaces, and participatory planning.

Key Themes in the Right to the City David Harvey Framework

David Harvey's approach highlights several critical themes that help us understand urban struggles today.

1. Spatial Justice and Inequality

Urban spaces are often deeply segregated along economic and racial lines. Harvey points out that this spatial inequality is not accidental but a product of capitalist urbanization processes. Wealthier groups control prime urban areas, pushing disadvantaged populations to the fringes, which exacerbates social exclusion.

Spatial justice involves recognizing and addressing these inequalities by redistributing access to resources like housing, transportation, and green spaces. It's about creating cities where everyone has equitable opportunities to thrive.

2. The Role of Capitalism in Shaping Cities

Harvey's Marxist analysis of urbanization emphasizes how capital accumulation drives city development. Land and property become commodities, and this process often leads to displacement, gentrification, and environmental degradation.

Understanding this dynamic helps explain why many urban reforms fail to address the root causes of inequality. The right to the city demands confronting these economic structures and imagining alternatives beyond profit-driven development.

3. Urban Social Movements and Collective Action

The right to the city is not just a theoretical idea—it is a rallying cry for social movements worldwide. From housing rights campaigns to anti-gentrification protests, grassroots groups embody Harvey's vision by demanding greater participation in urban decision-making.

These movements often emphasize community control, self-management, and the defense of public goods, illustrating the right to the city as an ongoing struggle rather than a fixed policy.

Practical Implications of the Right to the City

David Harvey

Understanding the right to the city through Harvey's lens offers valuable insights for urban planners, policymakers, and activists.

Participatory Urban Planning

One practical way to realize the right to the city is through participatory planning processes that involve residents in shaping development projects. This counters top-down approaches that often ignore local needs and perpetuate inequalities.

By fostering genuine community engagement, cities can develop more inclusive policies around housing, transportation, and public spaces.

Affordable Housing as a Human Right

Housing affordability is a central concern in many cities, where market pressures push low-income residents out. Harvey's argument underscores housing as a fundamental right linked to the broader right to the city.

Policies that protect tenants, regulate rent, and promote social housing reflect this ethos, helping to combat displacement and segregation.

Reclaiming Public Spaces

Public spaces are crucial arenas for social interaction, culture, and political expression. Harvey highlights how privatization often restricts these spaces, limiting their accessibility and democratic potential.

Efforts to reclaim parks, streets, and plazas for public use are essential for fostering inclusive urban life and supporting the right to the city.

Related Concepts and Movements Inspired by David Harvey's Ideas

The right to the city has influenced a range of theoretical and practical initiatives aimed at rethinking urban life.

Urban Commons and Collective Ownership

Building on Harvey's notion of the city as a common good, some scholars and activists promote the idea of urban commons—shared resources managed collectively by communities.

This approach challenges privatization and encourages cooperative governance models for housing, land, and infrastructure.

Smart Cities and Technological Inclusion

While “smart city” technologies promise efficiency and innovation, Harvey's critique reminds us to consider who benefits from these developments. The right to the city calls for digital inclusion and ensuring that technological advancements serve all residents, not just elite interests.

Environmental Justice in Urban Contexts

Environmental degradation often disproportionately affects marginalized urban populations. Harvey's framework connects social justice with environmental justice, advocating for sustainable urban policies that address both ecological and social concerns.

Why the Right to the City David Harvey Matters Today

As cities continue to grow and face challenges like climate change, housing crises, and social polarization, the right to the city remains a vital framework for envisioning more just urban futures. Harvey's work helps us understand that cities are more than economic engines; they are lived spaces where power relations need constant negotiation.

By embracing the right to the city, urban residents can collectively reclaim control over their environments, resist exclusionary practices, and build communities based on equity and solidarity. This ongoing struggle is crucial for shaping cities that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of all who inhabit them.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is David Harvey and what is his contribution to the concept of 'The Right to the City'?

David Harvey is a distinguished social theorist and geographer known for his work on urban studies and Marxist theory. He popularized the concept of 'The Right to the City,' emphasizing the collective power of urban inhabitants to shape and transform the city according to their needs rather than capitalist interests.

What does David Harvey mean by 'The Right to the City'?

'The Right to the City' as articulated by David Harvey refers to the idea that all city inhabitants should have equitable access to urban resources, participation in urban decision-making, and the ability to transform urban spaces to meet their social, economic, and cultural needs, challenging the dominance of capitalist urban development.

How does David Harvey link 'The Right to the City' to social justice?

David Harvey links 'The Right to the City' to social justice by arguing that urban spaces are often sites of inequality and exclusion driven by capitalist interests. Ensuring the right to the city means promoting social justice by enabling marginalized groups to reclaim their rights to urban life and resist displacement and commodification.

In what ways has David Harvey's 'Right to the City' influenced contemporary urban movements?

David Harvey's 'Right to the City' has influenced contemporary urban movements by providing a theoretical framework for grassroots activism focused on housing rights, anti-gentrification, and democratic urban governance. Movements across the globe invoke this concept to demand more inclusive, equitable, and participatory city planning.

What critiques exist regarding David Harvey's interpretation of 'The Right to the City'?

Critiques of David Harvey's interpretation of 'The Right to the City' include arguments that his Marxist framework may overlook cultural and identity dimensions of urban life, and that the concept can be overly idealistic or vague, making practical implementation challenging in diverse urban contexts.

Additional Resources

The Right to the City David Harvey: An Analytical Review of Urban Justice and Spatial Rights

the right to the city david harvey emerges as a pivotal concept in contemporary urban studies, intertwining issues of social justice, spatial politics, and the democratization of urban life. Originally popularized by French philosopher Henri Lefebvre, it was David Harvey, a distinguished geographer and social theorist, who expanded and popularized the term within the framework of Marxist political economy. Harvey's interpretation critically addresses how capitalist urbanization shapes access to urban resources, space, and participation, raising profound questions about who truly "owns" the city and who gets to make decisions about its future.

Understanding David Harvey's perspective on the right to the city requires delving into his critique of neoliberal urbanism and the commodification of urban space. His work highlights the systematic exclusion faced by marginalized communities due to rising inequalities and privatization trends that dominate modern cities worldwide. This article explores Harvey's conceptualization, its relevance in contemporary urban policy debates, and the broader implications for social equity and urban governance.

David Harvey's Theoretical Framework on the Right to the City

David Harvey situates the right to the city as a collective right—one that is not merely about individual access but fundamentally about reshaping urban life and governance. For Harvey, the city is a dynamic social product, continually shaped and reshaped by various social actors, including the working class, capitalists, and political elites. The right to the city, therefore, entails more than just access to urban infrastructure; it demands the power to participate in the production and transformation of urban spaces.

Harvey's analysis is deeply rooted in Marxist theory, emphasizing how capitalist modes of production impose spatial inequalities. He argues that cities, under capitalism, become arenas where capital accumulation and real

estate speculation dominate, often at the expense of social needs. This results in the exclusion and marginalization of the poor, who are pushed to the fringes or informal settlements. In this light, the right to the city becomes a radical call to reclaim urban spaces from capitalist interests and to democratize urban governance.

Urban Capitalism and Spatial Inequality

One of the core features of Harvey's interpretation is the critique of urban capitalism. He illustrates how the logic of capital accumulation leads to uneven urban development. Investments tend to flow into areas promising the highest returns, such as central business districts or luxury residential zones, while low-income neighborhoods suffer neglect.

Data from various global cities supports this claim. For example, in cities like New York, London, and São Paulo, gentrification processes often displace long-term residents, pushing them into less accessible or substandard areas. Harvey highlights these dynamics as symptomatic of broader structural inequalities inherent in capitalist urbanism.

The Right to Participation and Democratic Control

Beyond access to physical space, Harvey stresses the importance of democratic participation in urban decision-making. He envisions the right to the city as a political right, enabling inhabitants to collectively determine the conditions of their urban life. This includes the right to influence zoning laws, housing policies, transportation planning, and environmental regulations.

The principle challenges top-down urban governance models that prioritize economic growth over social welfare. Instead, it promotes participatory planning processes where diverse voices—particularly those historically marginalized—can shape urban futures.

Relevance of the Right to the City in Contemporary Urban Policy

In today's urban landscape, the right to the city resonates strongly amid growing concerns over housing affordability, displacement, and social fragmentation. Harvey's insights provide a critical lens to evaluate policies that often prioritize market-driven development and infrastructure mega-projects at the expense of vulnerable populations.

Housing Crisis and the Fight for Urban Commons

The global housing crisis exemplifies the challenges Harvey identifies. Increasingly, housing is treated as a commodity rather than a human right, leading to skyrocketing rents and widespread homelessness. Movements advocating for the right to the city have emerged in response, demanding policies that guarantee affordable housing, protect tenants' rights, and promote social housing.

Examples include grassroots initiatives such as the Right to the City Alliance in the United States and urban social movements in Latin America, which echo Harvey's call for reclaiming urban commons and resisting speculative real estate practices.

Gentrification and Displacement

Gentrification remains a critical issue linked to the right to the city discourse. Harvey's framework helps explain why neighborhood revitalization often results in the displacement of low-income residents. The influx of capital into urban neighborhoods can improve infrastructure and services but simultaneously drives up costs, making it impossible for original inhabitants to remain.

Policy approaches inspired by Harvey's ideas advocate for anti-displacement measures, rent controls, and community land trusts, which aim to balance development with social justice.

Environmental Justice and Urban Sustainability

Another dimension increasingly incorporated into the right to the city debate is environmental justice. Urban environments face challenges like pollution, climate change impacts, and unequal access to green spaces. Harvey's emphasis on democratizing urban governance aligns with contemporary calls for sustainable cities that address environmental inequalities.

Communities disproportionately affected by environmental hazards often lack the political power to influence urban planning decisions. The right to the city framework emphasizes empowering these communities to participate in creating healthier, more equitable urban environments.

Critiques and Limitations of Harvey's Right to the City

While David Harvey's conceptualization has been influential, it is not

without criticism. Some scholars argue that his Marxist approach overemphasizes class struggle while underplaying cultural, racial, and gender dimensions of urban exclusion. Urban inequality is multi-faceted, and effective solutions require intersectional perspectives that consider identity and social difference alongside economic factors.

Others critique the practicality of implementing the right to the city in complex urban governance systems. Achieving genuine democratic control over urban space faces institutional, political, and economic barriers that are difficult to overcome.

Nonetheless, Harvey's work remains foundational in framing urban rights as deeply political and structural, challenging technocratic or market-driven approaches.

Implementing the Right to the City: Strategies and Examples

Advancing the right to the city demands coordinated efforts from policymakers, activists, and urban residents. Some effective strategies include:

- **Participatory Budgeting:** Involving citizens directly in deciding how public funds are allocated to ensure investments meet community needs.
- **Community Land Trusts:** Nonprofit organizations that hold land to provide affordable housing and prevent speculative displacement.
- **Policy Reforms:** Implementing rent control, inclusionary zoning, and anti-displacement laws.
- **Grassroots Mobilization:** Supporting social movements that advocate for urban justice and equitable development.
- **Integrated Urban Planning:** Combining social, economic, and environmental goals to promote sustainability and inclusivity.

Cities such as Porto Alegre in Brazil, known for its participatory budgeting, and Barcelona's efforts to regulate short-term rentals demonstrate practical applications of the right to the city principles.

The evolving urban landscape, marked by rapid globalization and technological change, continuously tests the adaptability of Harvey's framework. Yet, its core message—empowering urban inhabitants to reclaim their city—remains a vital touchstone for debates on urban justice and democracy.

In sum, the right to the city david harvey articulates is more than a theoretical construct; it is a call to action for equitable urban futures. It challenges prevailing economic paradigms and advocates for cities that serve the needs and aspirations of all residents, not just the privileged few. As urbanization intensifies globally, engaging with Harvey's ideas offers valuable guidance for building cities that are inclusive, just, and vibrant.

The Right To The City David Harvey

the right to the city david harvey: Rebel Cities David Harvey, 2012-04-04 Long before Occupy, cities were the subject of much utopian thinking. They are the centers of capital accumulation as well as of revolutionary politics, where deeper currents of social and political change rise to the surface. Do the financiers and developers control access to urban resources or do the people? Who dictates the quality and organization of daily life? Rebel Cities places the city at the heart of both capital and class struggles, looking at locations ranging from Johannesburg to Mumbai, from New York City to So Paulo. Drawing on the Paris Commune as well as Occupy Wall Street and the London Riots, Harvey asks how cities might be reorganized in more socially just and ecologically sane ways-and how they can become the focus for anti-capitalist resistance.

the right to the city david harvey: The Gentrification of Nightlife and the Right to the City Laam Hae, 2012 In The Gentrification of Nightlife and the Right to the City, Hae explores how nightlife in New York City, long associated with various subcultures of social dancing, has been recently transformed as the city has undergone the gentrification of its space and the post-industrialization of its economy and society. This book offers a detailed analysis of the conflicts emerging between newly transplanted middle-class populations and different sectors of nightlife actors, and how these conflicts have led the NYC government to enforce Quality of Life policing over nightlife businesses. In particular, it provides a deep investigation of the zoning regulations that the municipal government has employed to control where certain types of nightlife can or cannot be located. Hae demonstrates the ways in which these struggles over nightlife have led to the gentrification of nightlife, while infringing on urban inhabitants' rights of access to spaces of diverse urban subcultures - their right to the city. The author also connects these struggles to the widely documented phenomenon of the increasing militarization of social life and space in contemporary cities, and the right to the city movements that have emerged in response. The story presented here involves dynamic and often contradictory interactions between different anti/pro-nightlife actors, illustrating what actually existing gentrification and post-industrialization looks like, and providing an urgent example for experts in related fields to consider as part of a re-theorization of gentrification and post-industrialization.

the right to the city david harvey: Rights and the City Sandeep Agrawal, 2022-09-20 Rights and the City takes stock of rights struggles and progress in cities by exploring the tensions that exist between different concepts of rights. Sandeep Agrawal and the volume's contributors expose the paradoxes that planners and municipal governments face when attempting not only to combat discriminatory practices, but also advance a human rights agenda. The authors examine the legal, conceptual, and philosophical aspects of rights, including its various forms—human, Indigenous, housing, property rights, and various other forms of rights. Using empirical evidence and examples, they translate the philosophical and legal aspects of rights into more practical terms and applications. Regionally, the book draws on municipalities from across Canada while also making broad international comparisons. Scholars, policy makers, and activists with an interest in urban studies, planning, and law will find much of value throughout this volume. Afterword by Benjamin Davy. Contributors: Sandeep Agrawal, Rachelle Alterman, Sasha Best, Alexandra Flynn, Eran S.

Kaplinsky, Ola P. Malik, Jennifer A. Orange, Michelle L. Oren, Renée Vaugeois. Afterword by Benjamin Davy

the right to the city david harvey: 'Race', Culture and the Right to the City Gareth Millington, 2011-10-27 Adopting a perspective inspired by Henri Lefebvre, this book considers the spread of multiculturalism from the central city to the periphery and considers the role that 'race' continues to play in structuring the metropolis, taking London, New York and Paris as examples.

the right to the city david harvey: The Routledge Handbook of Henri Lefebvre, The City and Urban Society Michael E. Leary-Owhin, John P. McCarthy, 2019-11-21 The Routledge Handbook of Henri Lefebvre, The City and Urban Society is the first edited book to focus on Lefebvre's urban theories and ideas from a global perspective, making use of recent theoretical and empirical developments, with contributions from eminent as well as emergent global scholars. The book provides international comparison of Lefebvrian research and theoretical conjecture and aims; to engage with and critique Lefebvre's ideas in the context of contemporary urban, social and environmental upheavals; to use Lefebvre's spatial triad as a research tool as well as a point of departure for the adoption of ideas such as differential space; to reassess Lefebvre's ideas in relation to nature and global environmental sustainability; and to highlight how a Lefebvrian approach might assist in mobilising resistance to the excesses of globalised neoliberal urbanism. The volume draws inspiration from Lefebvre's key texts (The Production of Space; Critique of Everyday Life; and The Urban Revolution) and includes a comprehensive introduction and concluding chapter by the editors. The conclusions highlight implications in relation to increasing spatial inequalities; increasing diversity of needs including those of migrants; more authoritarian approaches; and asymmetries of access to urban space. Above all, the book illustrates the continuing relevance of Lefebvre's ideas for contemporary urban issues and shows - via global case studies - how resistance to spatial domination by powerful interests might be achieved. The Handbook helps the reader navigate the complex terrain of spatial research inspired by Lefebvre. In particular the Handbook focuses on: the series of struggles globally for the 'right to the city' and the collision of debates around the urban age, 'cityism' and planetary urbanisation. It will be a guide for graduate and advanced undergraduate teaching, and a key reference for academics in the fields of Human Geography, Sociology, Political Science, Applied Philosophy, Planning, Urban Theory and Urban Studies. Practitioners and activists in the field will also find the book of relevance.

the right to the city david harvey: Locating Right to the City in the Global South Tony Roshan Samara, Shenjing He, Guo Chen, 2013 Drawing from scholars with extensive fieldwork experience, this volume covers sixteen cities in fourteen countries across a belt stretching from Latin America, to Africa and the Middle East, and into Asia. Central to what binds these cities are deeply rooted, complex, and dynamic processes of social and spatial division that are being actively reproduced. These cities are not so much fracturing as they are being divided by governance practices informed by local histories and political contestation, and refracted through or infused by market based approaches to urban development. Through a close examination of these practices and resistance to them, this volume provides perspectives on neoliberalism and right to the city that advance our understanding of urbanism in the Global South.

the right to the city david harvey: A Manifesto for the Just City Roberto Rocco, Caroline Newton, 2022-06-01 The Manifesto for the Just City comes in the wake of the realisation that socio-spatial justice is a crucial dimension for sustainability transitions. Growing inequality and the erosion of the public sphere undermine the social and political structures required to fight climate change, pandemics and other systemic shocks. At the same time, profound cynicism and scepticism have gripped our minds. This is paralysing us. Following the words of Professor Faranak Miraftab, we need to decolonise our minds, and try to imagine a different world and new kinds of relationships among ourselves and between us and the planet. This book aims to encourage students to formulate their own visions for the Just City and for a just transition. The second volume of 'A Manifesto for the Just City', published by TU Delft OPEN Publishing and funded by the Delft Design for Values Institute, gathers texts from scholars discussing aspects of the just city (Professors Faranak

Miraftab, Mona Fawaz, Mariana Fix, Romola Sanyal, Roberto Rocco and Caroline Newton) and showcases 63 manifestos written by 256 students from 48 universities all over the world.

the right to the city david harvey: Locating Right to the City in the Global South Tony Samara, Shenjing He, Guo Chen, 2013-01-04 Despite the fact that virtually all urban growth is occurring, and will continue to occur, in the cities of the Global South, the conceptual tools used to study cities are distilled disproportionately from research on the highly developed cities of the Global North. With urban inequality widely recognized as central to many of the most pressing challenges facing the world, there is a need for a deeper understanding of cities of the South on their own terms. *Locating Right to the City in the Global South* marks an innovative and far reaching effort to document and make sense of urban transformations across a range of cities, as well as the conflicts and struggles for social justice these are generating. The volume contains empirically rich, theoretically informed case studies focused on the social, spatial, and political dimensions of urban inequality in the Global South. Drawing from scholars with extensive fieldwork experience, this volume covers sixteen cities in fourteen countries across a belt stretching from Latin America, to Africa and the Middle East, and into Asia. Central to what binds these cities are deeply rooted, complex, and dynamic processes of social and spatial division that are being actively reproduced. These cities are not so much fracturing as they are being divided by governance practices informed by local histories and political contestation, and refracted through or infused by market based approaches to urban development. Through a close examination of these practices and resistance to them, this volume provides perspectives on neoliberalism and right to the city that advance our understanding of urbanism in the Global South. In mapping the relationships between space, politics and populations, the volume draws attention to variations shaped by local circumstances, while simultaneously elaborating a distinctive transnational Southern urbanism. It provides indepth research on a range of practical and policy oriented issues, from housing and slum redevelopment to building democratic cities that include participation by lower income and other marginal groups. It will be of interest to students and practitioners alike studying Urban Studies, Globalization, and Development.

the right to the city david harvey: Claiming the City Shelton Stromquist, 2023-02-14 How workers fought for municipal socialism to make cities around the globe livable and democratic - and what the lessons are for today Winner of the International Labor History Association (ILHA) 2023 Book of the Year Award for labor history For more than a century, municipal socialism has fired the imaginations of workers fighting to make cities livable and democratic. At every turn propertied elites challenged their right to govern. Prominent US labor historian, Shelton Stromquist, offers the first global account of the origins of this new trans-local socialist politics. He explains how and why cities after 1890 became crucibles for municipal socialism. Drawing on the colorful stories of local activists and their social-democratic movements in cities as diverse as Broken Hill, Christchurch, Malmö, Bradford, Stuttgart, Vienna, and Hamilton, OH, the book shows how this new urban politics arose. Long governed by propertied elites, cities in the nineteenth century were transformed by mass migration and industrialization that tore apart their physical and social fabric. Amidst massive strikes and faced with epidemic disease, fouled streets, unsafe water, decrepit housing, and with little economic security and few public amenities, urban workers invented a local politics that promised to democratize cities they might themselves govern and reclaim the wealth they created. This new politics challenged the class power of urban elites as well as the centralizing tendencies of national social-democratic movements. Municipal socialist ideas have continued to inspire activists in their fight for the right of cities to govern themselves.

the right to the city david harvey: Design and Political Dissent Jilly Traganou, 2020-10-27 This book examines, through an interdisciplinary lens, the relationship between political dissent and processes of designing. In the past twenty years, theorists of social movements have noted a diversity of visual and performative manifestations taking place in protest, while the fields of design, broadly defined, have been characterized by a growing interest in activism. The book's premise stems from the recognition that material engagement and artifacts have the capacity to articulate

political arguments or establish positions of disagreement. Its contributors look at a wide array of material practices generated by both professional and nonprofessional design actors around the globe, exploring case studies that vary from street protests and encampments to design pedagogy and community-empowerment projects. For students and scholars of design studies, urbanism, visual culture, politics, and social movements, this book opens up new perspectives on design and its place in contemporary politics.

the right to the city david harvey: The City is an Ecosystem Deborah Mutnick, Margaret Cuonzo, Carole Griffiths, Timothy Leslie, Jay M. Shuttleworth, 2022-08-09 The City is an Ecosystem maps an interdisciplinary, community-engaged response to the great ecological crises of our time—climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequality—which pose particular challenges for cities, where more than half the world’s population currently live. Across more than twenty chapters, the three parts of the book cover historical and scientific perspectives on the city as an ecosystem; human rights to the city in relation to urban sustainability; and the city as a sustainability classroom at all educational levels inside and outside formal classroom spaces. It argues that such efforts must be interdisciplinary and widespread to ensure an informed public and educated new generation are equipped to face an uncertain future, particularly relevant in the post-COVID-19 world. Gathering multiple interdisciplinary and community-engaged perspectives on these environmental crises, with contemporary and historical case study discussions, this timely volume cuts across the humanities and social and health sciences, and will be of interest to policymakers, urban ecologists, activists, built environment professionals, educators, and advanced students concerned with the future of our cities.

the right to the city david harvey: The City Is the Factory Miriam Greenberg, Penny Lewis, 2017-06-06 Urban public spaces, from the streets and squares of Buenos Aires to Zuccotti Park in New York City, have become the emblematic sites of contentious politics in the twenty-first century. As the contributors to The City Is the Factory argue, this resurgent politics of the square is itself part of a broader shift in the primary locations and targets of popular protest from the workplace to the city. This shift is due to an array of intersecting developments: the concentration of people, profit, and social inequality in growing urban areas; the attacks on and precarity faced by unions and workers' movements; and the sense of possibility and actual leverage afforded by local politics and the tactical use of urban space. Thus, the city—from the town square to the banlieu—is becoming like the factory of old: a site of production and profit-making as well as new forms of solidarity, resistance, and social reimagining. We see examples of the city as factory in new place-based political alliances, as workers and the unemployed find common cause with right to the city struggles. Demands for jobs with justice are linked with demands for the urban commons—from affordable housing to a healthy environment, from immigrant rights to urban citizenship and the right to streets free from both violence and racially biased policing. The case studies and essays in The City Is the Factory provide descriptions and analysis of the form, substance, limits, and possibilities of these timely struggles. Contributors Melissa Checker, Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York; Daniel Aldana Cohen, University of Pennsylvania; Els de Graauw, Baruch College, City University of New York; Kathleen Dunn, Loyola University Chicago Shannon Gleeson, Cornell University; Miriam Greenberg, University of California, Santa Cruz; Alejandro Grimson, Universidad de San Martín (Argentina); Andrew Herod, University of Georgia; Penny Lewis, Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, City University of New York; Stephanie Luce, Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, City University of New York; Lize Mogel, artist and coeditor of An Atlas of Radical Cartography; Gretchen Purser, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

the right to the city david harvey: A People's Atlas of Detroit Andrew Newman, Linda Campbell, Sara Safransky, Tim Stallmann, 2020-02-19 This innovative collection builds bridges between multiple areas of social activism as well as current scholarship in geography, anthropology, history, and urban studies to inspire communities in Detroit and other cities towards transformative

change.

the right to the city david harvey: Counter-Modernities in Nineteenth-Century French Literature Robert St. Clair, 2025-07-31 Counter-Modernities in Nineteenth-Century French Literature explores a counterview of modernity in late nineteenth-century French literature (1848-1891). The principal claim of this book is that what we find in the works of Baudelaire, Rimbaud, and Flaubert is a form of 'writing against the grain' of history: not the elegant lyricism of history's victors, but a use of literature against the erasures of past injustices and for those 'lost futurities' upon which the order of the present is founded. What we find, in other words, is a critical literary archive of the powerless that persists in contesting the legitimacy of the powerful, which persists in haunting the nineteenth century every bit as much as it does our own aching out-of-joint present. The story Counter-Modernities seeks to tell is, in other words, about the meaning of loss, and the significance of losers as possible figures of opposition to the dominant order, in nineteenth-century French literature that is also a story about modernity as an aesthetic politics. What brings together the authors in this study, however, cannot be reduced to the biographical: that is, to the uneven successes, financial hardships, and, in one case, outright failure (i.e., Rimbaud) shared by the authors in the literary market of their lifetime. At stake in this study is not an account of the ironies of literary history, wherein, to gloss Walter Benjamin's take on Baudelaire, a prior and benighted era sees little of interest in an artist in which a later epoch recognizes the "genius" of modernity. Rather, Constellations of Loss in Baudelaire, Rimbaud, and Flaubert demonstrates how each author in this critical corpus insists on tarrying with history as an experience of irrevocable loss: each lingers with history as a force of negations, and thereby insists on the significance of historical setbacks and political defeats that seem to affect-if not more dramatically wipe out-the collective hopes of entire generations. Each one gives us losers as subjects who matter in the nineteenth century (Baudelaire, Flaubert, Rimbaud), narratives of historical defeat that are as negative as they are meaningful (Baudelaire, Flaubert), or the contours of events whose meanings and narratives are themselves lost (Baudelaire, Rimbaud), whose meanings remain, in other words, perhaps less absent than open-ended: a possible grammar for what may come next, when hope seems lost and dreams dashed. Indeed, as this book shows, it is precisely in its representation of history as a dilemma or undoing of meaningfulness, a problem of legibility and not-knowingness, that we can most fully recognize the formal calling-cards of literary "modernity": ironic undecidabilities and difficulties, infinite interpretability and the death of the author, the dissolution of previously stable cultural and historical narratives or forms of subjectivity, formal breaks with semantically oriented modes of representation, and so on.

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one.

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