

The logic of planning cities throughout history

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The processes of formation, development and decline of cities are governed by a peculiar internal logic. These processes, being a resultant of a variety of causative forces and often displaying the elemental character, are studied, described and explained on the ground of city-planning and other domains of science. On the other hand, creating cities, which is a specific form of human activity, is frequently steered in a determined way – so as to make the expanding city a habitat that is friendly to people. The key role here is played by city planning as the basis of all relevant actions. As a result, also a different logic characterizes city-planning concepts – one that settles historically varying criteria of rational planning of cities and their construction. One should mention here the principle of minimalizing conflicts of interests of users of individual objects to be erected, including – in contemporary times – protection of environment, both the natural and cultural.

The aim of the lecture is to bring closer to the listener some thoughts and concepts behind city-planning in a historical framework, beginning with the earliest times of human civilization up to modern times.

The concepts are presented with the use of rich illustrative material: drawings and original photographs taken by the author.