

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Warsaw, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. A river, the Vistula, flows through the city, and a bridge is visible. The image is in black and white, with the text overlaid in yellow and white.

# **EUROPEAN CITIES** IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING AND TRANSMITTING **EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE**

EDITED BY  
**ELŻBIETA M. MACH**  
**PAWEŁ KUBICKI**



*European Cities  
in the Process of Constructing and Transmitting  
European Cultural Heritage*



# *European Cities*

IN THE PROCESS  
OF CONSTRUCTING AND TRANSMITTING  
EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

*Edited by*  
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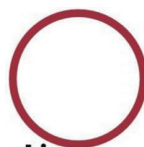
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# *Introduction*

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With regard to European civilization, the city is often referred to as being one of its foundation stones, and many researchers have emphasized the inextricable ties between cities and Europe. In this context, Leonardo Benevolo claimed that European cities were born along with Europe, and to a certain extent brought it about.<sup>1</sup> In turn, the Polish historian Stanisław Grzybowski claimed that, “European civilization is a civilization of cities. The true borders of Europe are where the influence of urban culture reaches.”<sup>2</sup> One characteristic trait of European cities is multiculturalism, as even Aristotle noted that “a city is composed of different kinds of men; similar people cannot bring a city into existence.”<sup>3</sup> This was a particularly pertinent fact in the case of European cities whose founding, from the outset, accepted diversity. According to Maria Bogucka and Henryk Samsonowicz, the original meaning of the term *locare*, “to locate” meant to place, to fix in place. Thus, the Latin phrase *locare civitatem in Cracovia* meant

<sup>1</sup> Leonardo Benevolo, 1995, *Miasto w dziejach Europy*, Warszawa: Oficyna Wydawnicza Volumen.

<sup>2</sup> Stanisław Grzybowski, 2000, *Trzyście miast czyli Antynomie kultury europejskiej*, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Sennett, 1996, *Ciało i kamień: Człowiek i miasto w cywilizacji Zachodu*, Gdańsk: Marabut, p. 46.

to root people in a given location that were ex diversis climatibus – from other places.<sup>4</sup>

These specific features of the European city, created as part of a *longue durée* process, make it a unique, a “living” primer for learning about European heritage, its wealth and multiculturalism. This was also the main goal of the research project “European Cities in the Process of Constructing and Transmitting of European Cultural Heritage”, which led to the creation of this volume. Researchers from four partner universities: the Jagiellonian University (Poland, project coordinator), Università degli Studi dell’Aquila (Italy), Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica (Slovakia) and Universidad de Deusto Bilbao (Spain), set out to analyse the city understood as a tool for finding a cultural community among the national heritage of the partner countries and the cultural heritage of Europe. This is especially important in a period which is witnessing increased migration, leading to both cultural diffusion and hybridization. The book is primarily aimed at academic teachers and BA and MA students who are interested in the processes of European integration, European heritage, and urban studies. The perspective adopted by the authors focuses on the processes which have shaped and transferred the cultural heritage of Europe, defining its multicultural and transnational character, which are the basis for shaping the social and cultural unity of Europeans, European identity and active citizenship.

The book consists of two parts: one theoretical and the other practical. The first part comprises articles aimed at introducing readers to the pertinent theoretical and methodological aspects surrounding the issues discussed. The second part is more of a textbook in scope and presentation, with the articles focusing on tasks and supplementary texts for independent work on various issues related to European heritage and urban issues.

The first part opens with an article by Paweł Kubicki, *Introduction to Urban Anthropology and Sociology*, in which the author analyses certain key concepts in the field of urban anthropology and sociology, ranging from the Chicago School (social ecology), through the humanistic turn and the semiotics of cities, the neo-Marxist approach, to contemporary concepts relating to global cities. As a result, some of the crucial phenomena and processes characteristic of European cities are analysed. The first is the analysis of the causes and effects of the urban crisis, leading to such situations as gentrification, social inequalities, and

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<sup>4</sup> Maria Bogucka, Henryk Samsonowicz, 1986, *Dzieje miast i mieszczaństwa w Polsce przedrozbiorowej*, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków–Gdańsk–Łódź: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, p. 49.

shrinking cities. A separate aspect analysed in this context are the issues of the idea of the right to cities and of urban movements. The next thread analysed refers to the processes of urban revival, where the author pays particular attention to the issues of heritage and the memory of cities, the growing independence of cities, as well as the development of concepts such as the creative class and creative cities.

The next article, by Elżbieta Mach, *Researching the City as an Educational Space*, is devoted to methodological problems. In the first part the author explains the very essence of the city and introduces the reader to the complex issues of various ways of defining this phenomenon. In the next part, she introduces the reader to the research methods required to allow the reader to discover the values of the city's cultural heritage. It also helps in finding elements in common with European cultural heritage in individual family resources, aiming to anchor locality in Europeanness and to root the family traditions of newcomers in the local cultural heritage of cities.

This is followed by *The Cultural Landscape and the Transformation of Cultural Heritage* by Viera Krešáková and Jana Pecníková, which analyses the processes related to the shaping and formation of the cultural and heritage landscape. The authors first focus on explaining the essential concepts tackled in their analysis, focusing primarily on the phenomenon of industrial heritage. In the second part, readers are provided with a specific case study of transformed industrial heritage, the Čierny Balog Forest Railway in Slovakia.

Joanna Sondel-Cedarmas supplies the fourth chapter, *Multicultural Krakow: The Role of International Heritage in Creating the Narrative of the City*, in which she analyses the phenomenon of multiculturalism in cities by means of the example of Krakow, the former capital of Poland. The contribution primarily focuses on the analysis of how multicultural heritage is being used to create the contemporary image of the city. The author also analyses the current strategies of local authorities in the context of multicultural management and the creation of the image of an open and tolerant city.

The next article, is *The Alteration and Degradation of the Urban Form and Social Relations: The Reconstruction of L'Aquila*, by Paolia Rizzi and Federico D'Ascanio, who tackle the important problem of the reconstruction of a city and its heritage following a natural disaster. The case study in question is the Italian city of L'Aquila, which was damaged by a powerful earthquake in 2009. The authors highlight the complex problems of city reconstruction, which not only requires the physical reconstruction of the material fabric of the city but first

and foremost its heritage and identity, emphasizing that a natural disaster can also be an opportunity for a city to open up and to rethink and redesign itself.

The first part of the book ends with a contribution from Grzegorz Pożarlik, *Lieux de Mémoire and Post-communist Nostalgia in the Central European Symbolic Landscape of Urban Spaces*. Applying Pierre Norra's concept of lieux de mémoire, the author analyses the issue of post-communist nostalgia in the symbolic landscape of urban spaces in Central Europe. The first part of the article is devoted to outlining the classic concept of lieux de memoire. In the second part, however, the author explains the phenomenon of post-communist nostalgia in the symbolic landscape of Central European cities, referring to specific examples such as Nowa Huta and Košice.

The second part of the volume begins with a chapter by Łucja Piekarska entitled *The Role of the Museum in the Creation of the Identity of the City*, in which she presents a set of practical tasks that allow one to take a creative look at the role of museums and heritage in the process of creating the identity of a city. The author pays special attention to the fact that heritage not only consists of places, objects, buildings and monuments, but also, and perhaps most importantly, of private stories and personal objects that achieve the status of "heritage objects".

In the next article, *Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development*, Geana de Miranda Leschko and Nerea Aranbarri Kortabarria raise the issue of the relationship between development and cultural heritage. In the first part, the authors define the term sustainable development and provide a practical set of exercises for group work to analyse this phenomenon. After a short theoretical introduction, readers are then supplied with a set of practical exercises for group work in the context of analysing the relationship between development and cultural heritage. The last set of practical tasks takes the Basque city of Bilbao as a case study.

The third article in this section, by Anartz Madariaga Ernani and Roberto San Salvador del Vallejest, is *Innovation and Cultural Heritage*. The goal of this chapter is to provide readers with the requisite practical knowledge to answer the following question: How can cultural heritage be compatible with new technologies so as to convey the values of different cultures to other communities or generations? Again, after a short theoretical introduction, readers are given a set of practical exercises to help refine the relationship between innovation and cultural heritage, with a particular focus on the case study of the city of Bilbao.

The article which closes the practical part is entitled *Leisure, Tourism & Events: Generation of Comprehensive Experiences in Cities* by June Calvo-

-Soraluce and María Jesús Monteagudo Sánchez. The authors analyse the complex relations between tourism and the leisure industry and the issue of sustainable development, as well as the processes of gentrification. The authors place special emphasis on the issue of cultural tourism. As with the previous articles, this one also contains a set of practical exercises and tips for independent work.

Thanks to its dual structure, this volume both provides the opportunity for scientific reflection and encourages the reader to individually explore “their” city, seeking out its multiculturalism and sense of European community; it aims to help build a new aspect for the reader’s identity, one anchoring the history and cultural heritage of one’s own family in the broadly understood local, national, and European heritage. For students, this publication can also serve as a handbook for enriching their knowledge and awareness in the field of urban, cultural, and anthropological studies.

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The publication, which is the culmination of a European project carried out under the Erasmus Plus Programme, presents the city as a place of culture, heritage and sustainable development, a place where tradition and modernity mingle and where heritage is integrated with new forms. It is a place where cultures meet, but also a place where the inhabitants draw vitality, which is a source of identity; finally, it is a place where new generations are raised. The book shows life in the city as a composition of places of memory, which binds the past, the present and the future into a coherent whole (...). This book not only stimulates the reader's reflection on the city, inspiring them to their own reflections and cultural explorations, but it can also be an excellent textbook for students exploring the mysteries of cultural studies, anthropology, sociology or urban planning.

prof. Marcin Rebes



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