

The 1920s marked the true beginning of the urban age in American history. The decade brought new forms of communication, the mass adoption of the automobile, and the start of a long transition to a service economy. This book traces the evolution of our cities from this crucial decade to the late 1980s, when three-quarters of the total population was living in metropolitan areas. One of the book's central concerns is the changing composition of the urban population. The sources of urban growth are also given careful attention. Abbott looks at the arrangements of ethnic and racial groups within districts and neighborhoods, and at conflict and compromise between groups. The evolution of urban politics is also considered as the author shows how government responds to the problems of our cities.

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