Around 1900 cities in Southern and Eastern Europe were persistently labeled "backward." Allegedly, they had to follow the model of the metropolis such as London or Paris. Yet this volume shows that cities as diverse as Barcelona, Berdyansk, Budapest, Lviv, Milan, Moscow, Warsaw and Zagreb pursued their own agendas of modernization. Best practices with respect to urban planning and public health were gleaned from other cities. They were eclectic and innovative. This interurban perspective helps to overcome outdated notions of "center and periphery."

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