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BOOK REVIEWS

Urbanística comparada en los albores de la modernidad. Burguesía, Espacio Urbano y Proyecto de Ciudad [Comparative urbanism at dawn of modernity. Bourgeoisie, Urban Space and Project of the City], by Alfonso Álvarez Mora, Valladolid, Instituto Universitario de Urbanística, 2022, 446 pp. (open access free of charge)

This book by Alfonso Álvarez Mora, the founder of the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística at Valladolid University, offers a comprehensive synthesis of the author's 40-years-long research on the formation of the 'modern city', which he assumes to be 'the city of capital'. The volume exemplifies a growing interest in comparative and transnational approaches to planning history, and provides a first systematization of the author's theory on the emergence of the modern city between 1850 and 1920.

According to the author, the new urban model is defined by the mechanisms of capital reproduction and founded its expression in late nineteenth-century spatial production and in the territorial expansion of the 'traditional city'. These processes were guided by the interests of the emerging bourgeoisie and their economic exploitation of urban resources. The author's comparative account is based on his analysis of four cities in Europe and North America: Madrid, Rome, Paris, and Boston. According to the author, these cities show how the same urban model generated different urban forms within the framework of industrial capitalism.

The book is organized into two sections, which are both based on the author's initial assumption that the modern city was an affirmation of the bourgeois 'city of capital' developed during the industrial revolution, and evidenced in the forms of its spatial production, segregation, inequality, and control of work and social life.

The first section raises historiographic questions by examining different debates on the formation of the 'modern city' and its production between the late eighteenth and late nineteenth centuries. Álvarez Mora contradicts the idea that the modern city has its origins in the *ancien régime* during the eighteenth