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Florence Bourillon et Annie Fourcaut, eds., *Agrandir Paris, 1860-1970*. Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne, Comité d'histoire de la Ville de Paris, 2012. 428 pp. 23.75€. (pb). ISBN: 978-2-85944-695-6.

Review by Judith Stone, Western Michigan University.

Agrandir Paris, 1860-1970 brings together twenty-four papers first presented at a conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of the dramatic expansion of the city of Paris beyond the Farmers General wall. Most of the chapters measure the growth of the Paris population and especially its legal territory. The collection faithfully covers developments through the late twentieth century. While Parisian expansion is certainly the focus, the collection also includes essays on Lyon, several German cities, including Berlin, Rome, Madrid and London. Two modern historians, Florence Bourillon and Annie Fourcaut, have edited and organized the collection. They include abstracts to help the reader navigate through the collection.

From the first major expansion in 1860s, such transformations would always be controversial. In his very useful essay, "The Annexation of the Suburbs," Bernard Gaudillère explores suburban resistance to this annexation. The residents of the various suburban villages concerned had numerous objections to the Second Empire project. A major complaint was the addition of new taxes (*l'octroi*) that would now apply to these newly-integrated areas. Gaudillère makes good use of images from the period that graphically demonstrate these concerns. The theme of tension between state or municipal projects and those about to be absorbed is a constant theme in many essays through to the second half of the twentieth century.

The reader encounters the same dynamic in Pascal Désarbres's study of the plan to extend the metro to the outer suburbs. The plan was initially proposed at the very end of the nineteenth century, but no serious work was initiated until after the First World War. A major argument for the plan was the need to transport workers to their factories located in the less peripheral suburbs. The Occupation of the 1940s and a shortage of funds slowed the project. Resources were always an issue of contention, as was the question of which jurisdiction would control them. The suburban municipal councils gave way to the Germans who required the project to be suspended. Today the RER serves as the transport link between Paris and the suburbs.

Christiane Demeulenaere-Douyère's contribution calls for an examination of this expansion from the perspective of those who are finding themselves in new Parisian jurisdictions. She studies the reactions of those living in the newly-created eastern *arrondissements*. During the initial implementation in 1859-1860, she too finds resistance. The autonomy of old municipalities was much regretted and little improvement was seen in the new status of Parisian. The author calls this a "*chauvinisme local*" (p. 134). In addition, these new Parisians feared the Parisian taxes that would increase their cost of living.

Annie Fourcaut's contribution brings the reader to the end of the twentieth century and serves as a balance to the early chapters on Haussmannization and the late nineteenth century. She views the construction of the modern multi-storied apartment building as closing the cycle of urban development and expansion begun during the Second Empire. She seems to suggest the coming of a new era in

designing the face of Paris, but that future is left obscure. Towers with inexpensive apartment rentals, their construction subsidized by the state, solved the housing shortage of the 1950s. Unlike the Haussmann project, this modern twentieth-century reconfiguration of Paris was intended to eliminate all slums, ensure that the people had homes, and raze all the anachronistic walls. She recognizes that initially in the nineteenth arrondissement some hostility was expressed by what seems to have been an outmoded group of “*artisans, commerçants, d’industriels et de petits propriétaires*” (p. 352). It is unclear what future, if any, this hostility had.

This collection of conference papers has the strength of such publications. It offers the reader a wide range of contributors, mostly historians, but some from other disciplines, presenting useful suggestions. The comparative issues might be taken further, such as the European-wide demolition of urban fortifications. We get a good sense of the stages through which Greater Paris was formed. We are introduced to the various plans and laws, but know little about how these were developed either legislatively or administratively. Many of the chapters mention opposition to urban modernization and the expansion of Paris. With the exception of Gaudillère, however, there is relatively little analysis of these objections. Who expressed them in what form? Were organizations formed? Did political parties take up the cause? What of the newspapers?

There certainly is cause to celebrate the enlargement of Paris and its modernization. But there are negative aspects that require attention. It seems unusual to read a discussion of the late twentieth-century high-rise housing projects, containing 2,837 apartments, and only encounter a discussion of their benefits. Certainly there must be numerous dislocations in such a vast project. There is much to learn in this collection about the creation and construction of the modern city, but unfortunately little about its critics and disadvantages.

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