

relationships, and an organic conception of society, essentially helped frame a broad social compact that fell in line with overall objectives of modernization and that remained largely intact, in spite of sporadic and even substantial internal social reactions.

Moreover, city building followed suit. Indeed, the comprehensive character of international planning techniques, rife near the beginning of this time, conformed well with a prevailing top-down direction of social organization and has persisted without too much resistance, at least until recently, when murmurings similar in kind to earlier Western reactions to “big planning” have begun to be heard. The result has been a rather unarticulated centralized system of urban construction and management married to production-oriented objectives and far less open to participation and multiple courses of action than in the West. Exceptions lie in highly developed cities like Tokyo and Singapore, but even there urban management and improvement, often of a very high quality, takes place from the top on behalf of constituents and remains well within long-established centralized planning practice. Like the characters living together in the old fable, it is as if the West took after the fox in knowing many things and being capable of pursuing different objectives, and East Asia took after the hedgehog in knowing one thing but pursuing it persistently. One could continue this kind of recounting of the episodic character of collective experience in other regions of the world, often, in cases like Central Asia and parts of Africa, moving unfortunately in the direction of substantial and sustained downturns in economic and social circumstances and even de-urbanization.

One consequence of the inevitable relationships between urban dynamics and global political and economic circumstances is that they have been differently amplified and differently rendered in various places, with the outcome that different patterns of urbanization have emerged in larger cities than were on offer in 1956. At least five patterns stand out, with several versions in between. First, there are mature, developed cities and metropolitan areas, largely in the well-developed world, where in some instances, like Rome, population is declining and development is stagnant. Second, there are rapidly growing cities, metropolitan areas, and regions of the developing world, like Shanghai, where urbanization is ebullient. Third, there are diversifying and dispersing urban regions, again largely in the well-developed world, where, like Barcelona, central city populations are in decline although core functions continue to thrive. Fourth, there