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Sommario/riassunto	<P>Through a detailed analysis of studies of the effects of planning, comparing low levels of urban containment in California with much higher levels in the UK. Some comparative insights are also drawn from the (pre-conflict) Yugoslavian planning system. The analysis shows that many of the serious criticisms of planning are valid and leads to the conclusion that some sacred cows - notably ""green belts"" - should be abandoned. This distinctive text is of use to students, researchers and professionals in planning, geography and urban studies.</P>