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Sommario/riassunto	La decouverte de nouveaux documents cartographiques concernant les origines du developpement urbain et la structure sociale de Pondichery a des moments cruciaux de son histoire modifie considerablement notre representation de la ville. Rassemblant l'ensemble de la documentation aujourd'hui disponible dans les centres d'archives de France et des Pays-Bas, l'auteur nous montre comment, a partir d'une simple agglomeration d'artisans, cet etablissement est devenu une metropole structuree selon un plan d'urbanisme rigoureux, comment, aussi, s'est developpe le systeme defensif de la place, du modeste fort barlong de Francois Martin au fort Louis et a la grande enceinte du temps de Dupleix, jusqu'a la decrepitude de la fin du xviiiie siecle, nous permettant ainsi de lire, comme en filigrane, les epaisseurs du passe de Pondichery. The discovery of new cartographic material relating to the origins of the urban development and social structure of Pondicherry at crucial moments of its history considerably modifies our representation of the town. On the basis of all the documentation that is currently available in Archives in France and in the Netherlands, the author shows us how, from a simple town of craftsmen, this settlement became a metropolis structured according to a rigorous urban plan. He also shows us how the defense system of the place developed from a modest rectangular fort built by Francois Martin to the Fort Louis and the large outer fortification at the time of Dupleix, until its final decay at the end of the

18th century. We are thus able to see, beneath the surface, the many layers of Pondicherry's past.
