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Sommario/riassunto	It is a paradox of American life that we are a highly urbanized nation filled with people deeply ambivalent about urban life. An aversion to urban density and all that it contributes to urban life, and a perception that the city was the place where ""big government"" first took root in America fostered what historian Steven Conn terms the ""anti-urban impulse."" In response, anti-urbanists called for the decentralization of the city, and rejected the role of government in American life in favor of

a return to the pioneer virtues of independence and self-sufficiency. In
this provocative...
