

1.	Record Nr.	UNISALENTO991000361439707536
	Autore	Eitrem, S.
	Titolo	Some notes on the demonology in the New Testament / by S.Eitrem
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oslo : Universitetsforlaget, 1966
	Edizione	[2nd edition, revised and enlarged]
	Descrizione fisica	78 p. ; 25 cm.
	Collana	Symbolae Osloenses ; 20
	Disciplina	225
	Soggetti	Religione cristiana antica Bibbia - Nuovo Testamento
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910418023003321
	Autore	Adhikari Gautam
	Titolo	Calcutta 1981 : The city, its crisis, and the debate on urban planning and development / / Jean Racine
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Delhi, : Institut Français de Pondichéry, 2019
	ISBN	979-1-03-654977-9
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (486 p.)
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Soggetti

Urban Studies
History
développement urbain
urbanisme
crise urbaine
planification urbaine
métropole
town planning
urban crisis
urban development

Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

Formato

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Sommario/riassunto

A city laden with symbolic meaning in the Western mind, Calcutta – with ten million inhabitants today – is much more than the apathetic or violent display of urban destitution in India, as seen by the world at large. This collection tries to reach precisely beyond the clichés, to enable some of those who work in the city as decision-makers, planners or analysts, to speak out and Interpret the multifaceted crisis that has hit this city as it continues to grow, even though its economy is in decline. Their words have all the force as they are derived from first-hand experience. In analysing the laboured evolution of this city, once known as "the most beautiful city east of Suez", we have provided some material on a major case-study for the debate on urban planning and development in the Third World. The planning exercise launched in Calcutta in early 1960s, with support from American experts, hoped also to halt the spread of communism in Bengal. This was a vain expectation, however, as the Communist Party of India-Marxist has been continuously voted into power since 1977. From that date, the Left Front Government has controlled the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority, which provides amenities to the city and metropolitan district with support from, among others, the World Bank. What are henceforth the urban development policies of "parliamentary communism"? What are the problems they are up against when action is

necessary on all fronts at once? In the final analysis, for what purpose and for whom are they planning? What should be the priorities? To set up the economy to right first? To provide amenities for the city? Or to improve the daily life of the most underprivileged? When confronted with these realities, what the Left is able to achieve in power? These are some of the questions that the contributors to this collection have, in their own way, been concerned with in creating an image of present-day Calcutta, seen through its own eyes.
