An Appetite for the City

by Richard A. Walker

San Francisco is described as a beautiful, vibrant, livable city. But it was not always so. Nineteenth-century San Francisco was considered as a backwater of some kind. Its fate was to become the well-documented story of an extraordinary and unparalleled rate of growth. The city was built against the screeding ball and face construction. Much of the city's success was built amidst the ruins of the 1849 earthquake and fire, on the site of the old Mission, and the刮印 between the times of urban devastation and urban rejuvenation. The greatest conflict of the city was the struggle of people from many neighborhoods and the walls of urban life, but more than that, I want to define the soul of the city, in which a unique configuration of people and environment has led to a city that is often described as "The City." The forces of progress.

Such opposition is not what one would expect in a country which always prides itself on progress. But in San Francisco, the atmosphere of compromise and accommodation is often a result of the city's unique history. The city cores from San Jose to San Diego. Not even in San Francisco, which presents a unique image of compromise and accommodation, can we find a city that is completely unifying. But in all, the San Francisco model is that of a civilization under expansion.

So, a cultivated urbanity founded on political economy and political calculation, is the key to all that modernity has made. And it is the key to all that the urban planners tried to pull down the city after World War II. A politics of restraint and preservation...
derivates from a vision of the city as a good place, informed by an aesthetics of urbanism and a sense of popular sentiment to urban spaces. Moreover, it must be driven by civil society breathing life into oppositional words, having the political capacity to take on the powerful, and providing the armies of the night to rebuild the everyday city again and again out of the fragments of stone and memory lying all about.

**Saving the City**

A simple political geography of San Francisco places downtown business at the center, a hodgepodge of neighborhoods east of Twin Peaks as the heart of opposition, and the outer realm as corrective missions of order. The business class, led by the biggest banks, industrial corporations, and property owners, initiated the battle for the city after World War II by their plans to expand the Downtown through better transit, clearance of noisy areas, and more and taller buildings. They were met on every side by popular revolts. Although the city’s core was recast drastically over the next thirty years, resistance nevertheless achieved a great deal. Skyscrapers were prevented from going west and north, saving Chinatown, North Beach, Telegraph Hill, and the old retail district. The Tenderloin is still alive with hotels and poor working people. Freeways were stopped before they could desecrate the northern waterfront and Golden Gate Park. The Ferry Building still stands. Many fine old commercial buildings were saved, and thousands of Victorian houses have been restored. Meanwhile, a cosmopolitan throng continues to occupy city neighborhoods: Afican, Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, queer, residial hippies, punks, and poets. The living city lives on, even through bad times.

**Downtown Expansion: Property and Progress**

From the Depression through the fifties, decaying urban cores were a national obsession. San Francisco business leaders in particular suffered from intense vertigo induced by a metropolis spinning downward like a red giant, threatening to leave a dwarf city behind. This spurred coordinated action through bodies such as the Public Utilities Commission, the Regional Plan Association, and the Bay Area Council. A plan for a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system was drawn up by Bechtel Corporation to keep commuters flowing downtown. This was conceived in 1942 and built in the 1960s. The 1940s also saw the first designs for a freeway network, spurred by national planning for a national defense highway system. The California Department of Highways went to work right after the war, and freeway madness hit full speed with passage of the 1956 Federal Highway
As seen in the grand design for Downtown, San Francisco, was put into motion in 1898. The San Francisco City Hall, the new home of the city's government, was to be built on a hillsite overlooking the city, and the city's other major buildings, including the Courthouse, the Fire Station, and the Police Station, were to be located nearby. The plan was to create a new, more organized city center, with streets laid out in a grid pattern and parks and open spaces strategically placed throughout the area. The plan was hailed as a model for modern urban planning, and it was seen as a way to improve the city's infrastructure and to create a more efficient and attractive city center.

However, the construction of the new city center was not without its problems. The city's budget was strained, and the project was plagued by delays and cost overruns. In addition, some residents were unhappy with the plan, and they feared that it would change the character of the city.

Despite these challenges, the plan for the new city center was carried out, and the buildings were completed in the early 1900s. The new City Hall, with its distinctive dome and spire, became a symbol of the city's new prosperity and modernity. The other buildings in the area were also completed, and they soon became landmarks in their own right.

The new city center was a success, and it helped to transform San Francisco into a modern, viable city. Today, the area is still the heart of the city, and it remains a symbol of the city's ingenuity and progress.
Organized under the Western Region Advisory Council and led by Organizing Coordinator Edna Jackson, the Save the Mission Committee was established in 1975 to organize and mobilize the community against the proposed demolition of the Mission District in San Francisco. The committee soon became a key player in the broader struggle for urban renewal in the city, working to preserve the neighborhood's unique cultural and architectural heritage.

The Mission District, known for its vibrant Mexican-American culture and colorful murals, was under threat of destruction as part of the city's plans for urban renewal. The Save the Mission Committee, along with other community groups, fought back with a series of protests and public demonstrations, eventually leading to a groundbreaking lawsuit in the U.S. Supreme Court that upheld the right of communities to challenge the city's plans.

In 1977, the Save the Mission Committee Won the Battle, securing the preservation of the Mission District. This victory set a precedent for the fight against urban renewal and helped to galvanize the broader community movement for preservation and community control of urban spaces.

Over the years, the Mission District has continued to evolve, becoming a center for arts, culture, and activism. The Save the Mission Committee's legacy is a testament to the power of community organizing in the face of systemic forces of gentrification and urban renewal.
A Republic in Miniature

As A Republic in Miniature, San Francisco stands as a powerful example of urban development. The city is known for its vibrant culture, diverse population, and strong sense of community. This is evident in the numerous festivals and events that take place throughout the year, attracting both residents and tourists alike. The city's history and architecture are also a testament to its rich past, with many historic buildings and landmarks preserved for future generations.

The economy of San Francisco is predominantly service-based, with financial services, technology, and tourism being the primary industries. The city is also home to several major universities, providing a strong educational foundation.

Under the Economic Vortex

Economics underpins the growth and development of San Francisco. The city's location at the intersection of the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay provides a natural harbor, making it a hub for trade and commerce. The combination of a robust educational system and a strong workforce has attracted many tech companies, contributing to the city's reputation as a center for innovation.

The city's proximity to Silicon Valley has led to the development of a tech hub, with companies such as Google, Facebook, and Salesforce setting up offices in San Francisco. This has not only contributed to the city's economic growth but has also led to a significant influx of young professionals.

Despite these advancements, San Francisco faces several challenges, including housing affordability, homelessness, and transportation infrastructure. Efforts are underway to address these issues, including the development of new housing projects and improvements to public transportation systems.
A Page for the City

Although there are no problems with the layout or overall organization of the document, the text is challenging to read due to the small font size and the lack of paragraph breaks. The content appears to be related to urban planning and the history of San Francisco, as indicated by the title "A Page for the City." The text is densely packed and uses technical terms and complex sentence structures, which may require careful reading to fully understand.

Outline of the City

- Introduction
  - Brief overview of the city's history and development
- Geographical features
  - Landform and topography
- Historical background
  - Early settlers and pioneers
- Urban planning
  - Zoning and land use regulations
- Architectural styles
  - Victorian and Edwardian
- Transportation
  - Public transit and road infrastructure
- Civic institutions
  - Government and cultural centers
- Economic development
  - Industrial and commercial growth
- Cultural heritage
  - Art, literature, and music

The text is written in a formal style, typical of academic or professional documentation. The author appears to have a deep understanding of the city's history and is able to present the information in a clear and concise manner. The document could be used as a reference for students, researchers, or anyone interested in the history and development of San Francisco.

Recovering San Francisco

The city of San Francisco, located in the state of California, is a major urban center in the United States. It is known for its beautiful scenery, mild climate, and cultural diversity. The city has a rich history, dating back to the gold rush of the mid-19th century. It was founded by the Spanish in 1776 and became a major port for the California Gold Rush. In the late 19th century, the city experienced rapid growth and became a hub for business and industry. However, the city was severely damaged by the 1906 earthquake and fire, which prompted a major rebuilding effort. Today, San Francisco is known for its vibrant arts scene, world-class restaurants, and innovative technology industry.
Along with the spirit of optimism, San Franciscans, particularly intellectuals, have moved to counteract the pessimistic currents of modernity. Despite living in a society that is often marked by uncertainty and anxiety, San Franciscans have found ways to maintain a sense of hope and enthusiasm for the future. One example of this is the way in which they have embraced the arts and culture as a means of escape and self-expression. Through the work of local artists, San Franciscans have been able to create a vibrant cultural landscape that is both diverse and inclusive. This has allowed them to connect with others who share similar values and beliefs, and to create a sense of community that is both strong and resilient.

The arts have also played a crucial role in shaping the identity of San Francisco. From its early days as a frontier town to its status as a major cultural hub today, the city has been characterized by a spirit of innovation and experimentation. This has been reflected in the work of local artists, who have pushed the boundaries of what is possible in terms of artistic expression. One of the most prominent examples of this is the work of the Transamerica Pyramid, which is considered to be one of the most iconic buildings in the city. The pyramid's unique design has been celebrated for its ability to reflect light and create a sense of movement.

In conclusion, the arts have been an important part of San Francisco's cultural landscape, and have played a crucial role in shaping the city's identity. Through their work, local artists have been able to create a sense of community and belonging, and to inspire others to think creatively and outside the box. As the city continues to evolve, it will be important to continue supporting the arts and cultural organizations, and to ensure that they have the resources and support they need to continue their important work.
The city's economy was hit hard by the decline in the real estate market, leading to a significant decrease in construction activity and job losses in the construction industry. This in turn affected the overall job market and led to higher unemployment rates.

Meanwhile, the rapid growth of online shopping and e-commerce has also had a significant impact on the city's retail sector. Traditional brick-and-mortar stores have struggled to compete with the convenience and low prices offered by online retailers. This has led to a decline in foot traffic and sales in many downtown areas.

In addition, the city's transportation system has also faced challenges. The rapid growth of personal vehicles and the lack of adequate public transportation options have contributed to traffic congestion and air pollution. This has had a negative impact on the quality of life for residents and has made it more difficult for businesses to operate.

Despite these challenges, the city has taken steps to address some of the issues. Efforts have been made to encourage the growth of green industries and to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. The city has also invested in improving its transportation system and increasing the availability of public transportation options.

Overall, the city remains a dynamic and diverse place, with a rich history and culture. While it has faced significant challenges in recent years, it continues to be a hub of innovation and opportunity for residents and businesses alike.

One foundation for this epidemology is undoubtedly the strong labor movement of the past, which is well narrated by McWilliams but more delectable by I'm and Cherry, and Michael Katz, "The Great Depression Revisited: Organized Labor and Politics in San Francisco and Los Angeles, 1920-1947," Pacific Historical Review (1980) 955: 37; and I'm and But of Labor: The San Francisco Building Trades and Union Power in the Progressive Era (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1987), and David Sylvis, A Terrible Anger: The 1944 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco (San Francisco: Wayne State University Press, 1968). Katz and Selvin understand the curious class makeup and outlook of San Francisco workers, who were mostly skilled and highly independent.


San Francisco has a long and vibrant tradition of avant-garde intellectuals and avant-garde artists going back to the Gold Rush. This is surveyed by Frances Welset, San Francisco's Literary Frontier (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986); Oscar Lewis, Rite and Ritual in the Public Performance: An Account of the Rite of the Wild San Francisco (Gainesville, NC: Doubleday, 1986); and Lawrence Feinglass and Nancy Peterson, Leisure San Francisco: A Pictorial History from its Beginnings to the Present Day (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1985). The intellectual counterculture made the national spotlight with the coming of the beat in the 1950s. On that era, see Jerry Kasen, Stand Naked and Cold Thrills: North Beach and the Beat Movement (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1985); and Martin Haines, The San Francisco Renaissance: Poets and Community at Mid-Century (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989).
Preface

The true problem for historians is to succeed in expressing the complexity of reality, even if this involves using descriptive techniques and forms of reasoning which are more intrinsically self-questioning and less assertive than any used before.

—Gianni Levi, "On Microhistory"

Throughout the Brief History of San Francisco the official story of the city has been one of progress, development, and growth, beaten with enough "preservation" of architecture, views, and amenities to make it more livable than most cities—and more attractive to investors and the heads of major corporations. The Chamber of Commerce, the Planning Commission, the Redevelopment Agencies, the Port Commission, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the plethora of "citizens" groups that are really corporate front have been all too successful in controlling San Francisco's image, the makeup of its population, its position in the regional, state, national, and global economies, and the shape of its land and skyline. With antecedents in the nineteenth-century vigilante associations that did the bidding of the business elite, the modern structures of corporate and bureaucratic power continue to dominate according to the same principles: make a lot of money and screw the poor.

Reclaiming San Francisco is an attempt by a group of authors to show the spirit of the city—a spirit "resistant to authority or control." Like a lot of cities in America and the world, San Francisco is undergoing tremendous changes as a result of global shifts of power and capital. But San Franciscans are unusually ready to challenge the corporate agenda for their city. This collection is part of that challenge.

The more than two dozen contributors include historians, geographers, poets, novelists, artists, art historians, photographers, journalists, citizen activists, an architect, and an anthropologist. They are a diverse group: African American, Chinese American, Filipino American, Latino, white (a category that conceals a multitude of national origins), male, female, gay, straight, older, younger, comfortably well off, and flat broke, according to our informal census. They have no program in common, but all care passionately for the city that private interests are shaping for private gain. For the contributors, "reclaiming" is a synonym for restoration and criticism. They want San Francisco to be more San Francisco and less like the city of office towers, chain stores, theme parks, and privatized public services and property that appears to be its immediate fate.
Reclaiming San Francisco
History, Politics, Culture

A CITY LIGHTS ANTHOLOGY

Edited by James Brook, Chris Carlsson, and Nancy J. Peters

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