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À LA CROISÉE DES ROUTES INTERMUNICIPALES

Socio-histoire des réseaux de villes à travers trois configurations circulatoires

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- To rely on a set of socio-historical studies that highlight the work involved in institutionalizing these networks, which first emerged in the late nineteenth century (Saunier, 2002; Randeraad, 2003)

- The inter-urban network is clearly understood as an inter-urban configuration based on the initiatives of a few cities and on relationships between city councils. But due to a sort of cluster effect, the network becomes more autonomous and—through resources as well as constraints—influences those relationships, indeed influences urban governance.

contemporary european history

Renaud Payre

UNE SCIENCE COMMUNALE ?

Réseaux réformateurs
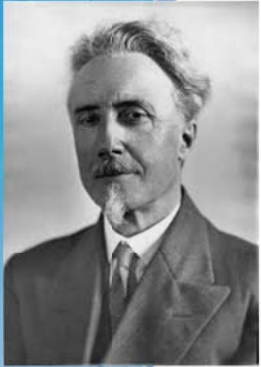et municipalité providence

CNRS ÉDITIONS

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Three historical configurations :

the first one is based on the municipality seen as a place of social and political transformations (1900s-1940s) ;

the second one is shaped during the cold war and the city is thought as one of the levers of an international order (1940s-1960s)

the third one is imposing the city as one of the ramparts of globalization (1970s-2010s)

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- Contact between local and regional authorities had already begun organically in various forms (correspondence, study trips, lectures).

- In 1913 it took the permanent, regulated and systematic form of the association.

- This 1913 Ghent congress, organised in the framework of the World Fair, focused on the study and transformation of urban municipal life.

- Among the organisers of this event were the key figures of Brussels internationalists of the early decades of the century. They participated in various arenas in the Belgian capital: they were members and leaders of the Workers' party, the Freemason lodges, the social sciences research institutes, and the numerous international associations dedicated to the sharing of knowledge, such as the (International Institute of Bibliography).

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- IULA in the interwar period between the will to govern the world through the urban municipalities and the birth of a municipal science

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- A new web of the intermunicipal associations

- Tension between a technical project (sharing experiences) and a political project (affirming the autonomy of local and regional governance and working to extend its reach)

- Some real struggles like that of the 1960s when the United Towns Organisation and the International Union of Local Authorities quarrelled to obtain United Nations' attention in the context of the Cold War.

Création de Métropolis

During economic crises, the importance given to the inter-municipal networks was surprisingly high.

During the 1980s, engagement in international municipal activities was a strategic choice for some British cities that faced the deindustrialization process.

Ex : The birth of Eurocities in 1986-1989

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THE NETWORK
OF MAJOR
EUROPEAN
CITIES

EURO CITIES

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For 100 years different associations have not only sought to defend the urban interests before the national and international public and authorities, but also to circulate knowledge, experience, ideas, technical and political procedures among cities, and to implement an inter-municipal framework capable of superseding national states. 100 years of activities, questions, debates, and organisation.

The goals of an historical and political sociology of the city networks

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