

THE MODERN CITY AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM

It is widely assumed, for instance by philosophers, most of whom are urban creatures, that large modern cities are valuable institutions and whatever the very serious costs and deprivations of modern city living, the advantages considerably outweigh the costs. There are those who are not persuaded that that is so.

The image of the mob is part of our image of the city,¹ and the city is the carrier of the best and the worst of civilization

(S. Diamond, In Search for the Primitive p.167)

- but the latter is also a pretty dubious customer according to Diamond.

Note:

1. The modern city as a reducer of variety
2. The metropolitan state, with landscape dominated by the city. The drain, power relation, etc.
3. The loss of contact with the natural
4. The way commerce controls the city: the secondary and substitutional role of people.