the sense of stability and steady, incremental change which is conveyed by many passages in the book is achieved partly by excluding or marginalizing issues to which other commentators would give heavier weight. Thus "balancing fiscal loads" is seen as the crucial contemporary problem for government, not "avoiding war" or "ameliorating mass long-term unemployment". Or again, a distinction is drawn between people's allegedly satisfying "face-to-face relationships" on the one hand and the "imperious activities of big government" on the other. This seems to imply a fairly traditional (and narrow) concept of the political. No doubt Professor Rose would have a spirited response to any critique along these lines: I hope one of the products of this important book will be just such a debate.

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PLANNING THE URBAN REGION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLICIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
Peter Sell
George Allen & Unwin, 1982. 174pp. £12.95 (cloth), £6.95 (paper).

At a time when the abolition of elected metropolitan government in Britain is imminent it is clearly appropriate to reflect on the experience of one whose commitment to regional and metropolitan planning has been of the highest significance over the past quarter of a century. Planning the Urban Region is an edited and extended version of a set of lectures given by Peter Sell in the late 1970s. It synthesizes his perspectives both on urban policy in general and on the relative merits/demerits of particular metropolitan governmental experience in London, Stockholm and Toronto. In essence, though, this is not a comparative study, even if the argument is enhanced by material from other countries, notably Australia. Rather it offers an overview of the case for metropolitan government.

Self starts with a restatement of his view of planning as being concerned with differing values and of planning policy as being directed to the reconciliation of the conflicts between these values. Recognizing that the failings of much of the planning effort of the past have been attributable to both technical and political dysfunctioning, the theme pursued is the extent to which the scope for planning hinges upon political/organizational conditions and the variety of these conditions in relation to different urban services in different countries. Pursuing this theme within the context of a review of the central city in its regional context and of the relative problems of expanding cities and cities in decline, Peter Sell moves on to the heart of his lectures — an examination of "metro schemes" in principle and practice with extensive evidence from the cases of London, Toronto and Stockholm. A subsequent chapter on the role of central government, or more accurately on the absence of a national urban policy, reflects the author's long standing concern about the absence in Britain of a regional planning system which encompasses both economic and physical planning issues which is based on an effective co-ordination of powers and resources.

The space between central or federal governments on the one hand and local governments on the other is often a confused and crowded one, and this volume is in effect about the competition to occupy that space and gain control over such functions and resources as are allocated to it. The urban region has tended to attract (and continues to attract) a clutch of semi-autonomous agencies, and it is the proliferation of such single-function agencies at the metropolitan region level and the consequent dilution of the elected government role that this study helps to illustrate.

Parts of this book were to me unsatisfactory. So much has happened to "planning" since the lectures were delivered in 1978, and whilst considerable revision has been made the themes have a dated feel to them. The concepts, the language and the style reflect the paradigms of the sixties and early seventies with the author not fully capturing the urgency which a contemporary study of policies and organizations surely requires. There is, in fact, very little reference to the wide range of organizational and inter-organizational literature, the relevance of which to public policy has become recognized in recent years, and the book offers no particular new analysis of, or theory for, understanding the urban region. Finally, we cannot be sure of the appropriateness of the arguments pursued: after all it is easy, in retrospect, to criticize Sell's earlier cities in flood for being the cornerstone of much of the decentralist philosophy which for so long stood in the way of the development of effective urban policy in Britain.

Such minor doubts, however, are submerged by the breadth of view and depth of experience which Peter Sell brings to his survey of the urban region. It is indeed salutary to contrast this thorough, extensive and thoughtful discussion of alternative forms of metropolitan government with the vacuum which is passing for a public debate on the most effective form of metropolitan government in Britain for the 1980s and 1990s. Peter Sell recognizes well the contradictions inherent in big city government — the tensions between efficiency and equality, the merits and demerits of specialist agencies as opposed to multi-function governments, the pros and cons of differing area levels of government and so on. It is beyond his vision, however, even to conceive of the prospect now facing metropolitan Britain: the dismantling of a democratic system of urban region government without any clear assessment of the economic, organizational or political consequences of so doing.

Planning the Urban Region does not provide all the answers. What it does, however, is to demonstrate the need to ask the questions, to recognize the complexity of metropolitan government, and to avoid over-simplistic solutions. As an overview of planning considerations this book will be invaluable to students and researchers for many years to come. As a reminder to those who are currently seeking to abolish democratic metropolitan government in Britain it will hopefully offer some more immediate cause for reflection.

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BUREAUCRACY AND DEMOCRACY: A POLITICAL DILEMMA
E. Etzioni-Halevy

Michels was one of the first modern social theorists to spell out the potential contradictions between bureaucracy and democracy. Who says organization, says oligarchy' encapsulates his fatalistic conclusions. Etzioni-Halevy's work is a series of meditations on the same themes, but she is both more sanguine and more stoic about the democratic prospect than Michels. She is a democratic elitist, a neo-Webberian less anguished than Max Weber by bureaucracy's iron cages.

She is correct to believe that the elite theory can be deployed for 'radical' rather than conservative purposes, and her book is best described as elite theory with a Marxist lens. Marxists, we are told, neglect the autonomy of state and bureaucratic elites. Pluralists over-emphasize their subordination to civil society. New Rightists prescriptions are unrealistic. And so it follows that the task of democracy is to preserve the regulation of elite power achieved by state bureaucracies, and to make 'the democratic rules for elite action clearer and more consistent and ... the elites' closer adherence to such rules pay off as part of their struggle for power' (p. 5). Democracy is Schumpeterian: elite competition for the support of the masses. Bureaucracy is public bureaucracy structured courtesy of Max Weber. The somewhat Dr Pangloss-like conclusion is that their combination offers the
rigorous like Eric Nordlinger; but that just goes to prove that there is an elite amongst elite theorists.

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COMPONENTS OF WELFARE

Stephen Hatch and Ian McRostie

In the first 30 years of the Welfare State, the voluntary sector was relatively neglected by policy-makers and researchers alike. Thus the Wollenden Committee (1978), in the first comprehensive post-war review of this field, soon found that it was entering uncharted waters. More recently, however, as voluntary action has experienced a major political rehabilitation, academic research has increasingly begun to explore this hitherto little-known corner of the Welfare State. At the same time, the organized voluntary sector has enjoyed a substantial expansion, fuelled, in particular, by short-term responses from various employment and urban programmes. This growth has given added substance to the debate about welfare pluralism which Wollenden helped to initiate while, at the same time, reinforcing the need for the better understanding of local voluntary action which Wollenden found lacking.

Hatch and McRostie’s book is specifically intended to help fill this gap and especially in respect of relationships between local authorities and voluntary organizations. Their study, commissioned as part of the Personal Social Services Council’s response to Wollenden, sought to identify the policies of two Social Services Departments (SSDs) towards the voluntary sector and the mechanisms through which they related to it. Two contrasting authorities were chosen as fieldwork sites: high spending, inner city Ilfracombe and low spending, rural Suffolk. Ilfracombe was selected both because it provided an exceptionally high level of grant aid to voluntary bodies and, more importantly, because it possessed an explicit policy for developing voluntary action as part of a wider policy to encourage a more open and pluralistic form of politics. Thus the voluntary sector was seen as an instrument for community development and a source of pressure on otherwise unresponsive official bureaucracies. In practice, its main resource was a ‘small army’ of paid workers providing specialist information and advice and promoting community involvement in statutory services.

Not surprisingly, the voluntary sector in Suffolk was a very different animal.

To the limited extent that community development was an objective of the authority, it was pursued by workers within the SSD itself. Voluntary organizations employed few staff, their key personnel comprising mainly the retired or women with grown up families. More particularly, the essential role of the voluntary organizations in Suffolk was to provide direct services, such as meals on wheels and luncheon clubs, which in Ilfracombe were primarily the province of the SSD.

Hatch and McRostie’s case studies are, therefore, of considerable interest and significance since the localities studied were broadly representative of what we may term the ‘old’ and ‘new’ voluntary sectors. The growth of short-term funding for voluntary bodies has been accompanied by a shift in the balance of voluntary activity: from direct service provision, through Wollenden’s ‘intermediary’ or enabling role, and into campaigning and self-help work at grassroots level. It is a shift which, as Hatch and McRostie’s account shows, raises important questions about accountability and inter-sector relationships. Thus the growth of grass roots organizations certainly increases the number of potential participants to the local political process; but how representative are such groups and to whom are they
Definitions of urban planning tend to vary according to planning theory and the planning system of a country, region or city. Definitions range from those that focus mainly on physical form, such as The branch of architecture dealing with the design and organisation of urban space and activities (Commin, 2013), via Part of societal planning, which aims at guiding human actions and the use of land in human settlements, to more holistic ones. Time planning refers to those public policies and planning interventions that affect the time schedules and the spatio-temporal organisation that regulate people’s actions and relationships. Summary: Urban Planning is a large-scale concept concerned with planning and development at all levels (architectural, infrastructural, ecological, economic, and even political). During this process many problems & obstacles come up but luckily the same as any other kind of problems, there are solutions and precautions which we will discuss in detail. #2: Urban Planning Problems. The basic concern of city-town planning is the internal form, structure, function, and appearance of urban areas. Physical aspects such as buildings, roads, land use, etc., play an important role in urban planning, at the same time social, economic and technological forces should also be considered while planning so that a healthy environment is created in the city/town.