

# Olympic Cities

City Agendas, Planning, and the World's Games, 1896–2012

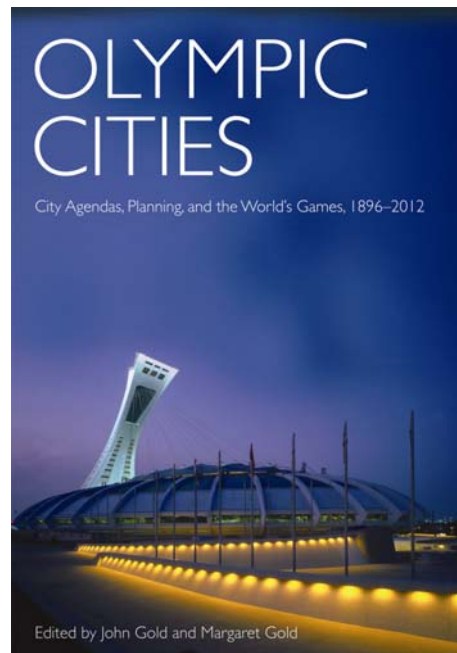
Edited by **John Gold** and **Margaret Gold**

*Olympic Cities*, edited by John and Margaret Gold, provides the first full overview of the changing relationship between cities and the Olympic events since 1896. With eighteen specially commissioned and original essays written by a team of distinguished authors from the UK and overseas, it explores the historical experience of staging the Olympics from the point of view of the host city. The first of the book's three parts provides overviews of the urban impact of the four component Olympic festivals – the Summer Games, Winter Games, Cultural Olympiads and the Paralympics. The second part comprises systematic surveys of four key aspects of activity involved in staging the Olympics – finance, place promotion, managing spectacle and urban regeneration. The final part consists of nine chronologically arranged portraits of host cities, from 1896 to 2012, with particular emphasis on the first four Summer Olympic games of the twenty-first century. An Afterword stresses the importance and challenge of the Olympic legacy.

As controversy over the growing size and expense of the Olympics continues unabated, this book's incisive and timely assessment of the Games' development and the complex agendas that host cities attach to the event will be essential reading not only for urban and sports historians, urban geographers, planners and all concerned with understanding the relationship between cities and culture, but for anyone with an interest in the staging of mega-events.

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## Contents

- 1 Introduction *John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold* **Part I The Olympic Festivals** 2 Athens to Athens: the Summer Olympics, 1896–2004 *John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold* 3 The Winter Olympics: Driving Urban Change, 1924–2002 *Stephen J. Essex and Brian S. Chalkley* 4 The Cultural Olympiads: Reviving the Panegyris *Margaret M. Gold and George Revill* 5 The Rise of the Paralympics *John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold* **Part II Planning and Management** 6 Financing the Games *Paul Kitchin* 7 Promoting the Olympic City *Stephen V. Ward* 8 Accommodating the Spectacle *Jon Coaffee and Lorraine Johnston* 9 Urban Regeneration and Renewal *Jon Coaffee* **Part III City Portraits** 10 Berlin 1936 *Monika Meyer-Künzel* 11 Mexico City 1968 *Michael Barke* 12 Montreal 1976 *Daniel Latouche* 13 Barcelona 1992 *Francisco-Javier Monclús* 14 Sydney 2000 *Beatriz García* 15 Athens 2004 *Margaret M. Gold* 16 Beijing 2008 *Ian G. Cook* 17 London 2012 *Graeme Evans* 18 Afterword *John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold*

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