Public-Private Partnership in American Cities: Seven Case Studies. 
Edited by R. Scott Fosler and Renee A. Berger. (Lexington, 
Foreword, index. $19.95.)

In the 1980s American cities continue to confront the problems of 
urban decline with the realization that government funding, especially 
from the federal level, is diminishing. If cities are to be revived eco-
nomically and continue to provide services to their residents, co-
operative partnerships between the private sector — business, non-
profit, and volunteer groups — and the public sector must be forged. 
This is the message conveyed in the anthology, Public-Private Part-
ership in American Cities.

The impetus for the book grew out of the concern the Committee 
for Economic Development (CED) expressed over the decline in 
federal aid to cities. The CED attempted to discover the mechanisms 
necessary for establishing a productive public-private partnership by 
examining seven cities in which successful partnerships had been 
formed. The seven case study cities included Baltimore, Pittsburgh, 
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Portland, Dallas, and Atlanta. One should 
recognize at this point that this is not urban history as it is usually 
written. Rather, the intent is to use recent urban history as a tool to 
uncover workable solutions to current big-city problems.

The Pittsburgh case study, contributed by Shelby Stewman and 
Joel A. Tarr, both of Carnegie-Mellon University, demonstrates the 
use of applied history more directly than the other six case studies. 
Their chapter, "Four Decades of Public-Private Partnerships in 
Pittsburgh," is the most historically oriented study, due in part to the 
fact that Pittsburgh's experience with this type of partnership extends 
back farther in time than for other cities.

Stewman and Tarr divide Pittsburgh's recent past into three 
phases of development: Renaissance I (1945-1969), the period that 
follows which they call the Interlude (1970-1977), and the present 
Renaissance II. The authors credit the Allegheny Conference on Com-
munity Development (ACCD), a high-level private sector organiza-
tion, as the primary instigator of Renaissance I. The city at this time 
lacked the technical expertise to carry out the renewal effort, thus 
the origination, planning, and implementation of such projects as 
smoke and flood control and the planning for Point State Park were 
carried out by the private sector. Meanwhile, the "role of the public 
sector was primarily a facilitating one . . ." (p. 77) using its legal 
powers to help achieve the ACCD's goals. The essential objective of
Renaissance I was economic revitalization with the emphasis placed on such brick-and-mortar projects as Gateway Center. Stewman and Tarr state that "a more democratic planning process might have produced a different set of plans and goals, but there were few voices in the postwar period offering other options" (p. 73).

This remarkably close partnership between the Democratic city hall and the city's Republican corporate elite lasted a quarter century. The election of Mayor Peter Flaherty in 1969 marked the break point. Stewman and Tarr write, "there is little doubt that the partnership was dissolved during the first years of the Flaherty administration at the mayor's initiative" (p. 90). Flaherty's policy to redirect attention away from the downtown to the neighborhoods contrasted with the priorities of the ACCD. Still, Stewman and Tarr point out that the seeds for Renaissance II were planted in the last years of Flaherty's second term. They maintain, however, that the nature of Renaissance II owes much to the renewed emphasis Mayor Richard Caliguiri placed on development in the Golden Triangle. "The major distinction between the Flaherty years and those of Richard Caliguiri . . . is not between development and no development. Rather, the difference lies in the spirit and flurry of activity" (p. 94).

This book will hold greater interest for urban planners and administrators. For historians, the discussion of the planning and personalities involved in Renaissance I, plus the extensive appendix detailing four decades of urban renewal efforts, provide additional material on this important phase of Pittsburgh's history. The historian may also be prompted to consider a comparison between the involvement of businessmen in postwar urban renewal with the role they played in earlier periods, especially in the reform politics of the Progressive Era. Lastly, the mechanisms of today's public-private partnerships can yield to the historian insights into the process of city building, a process that is always undergoing change while at the same time is always in touch with its past.

Pittsburgh

Robert J. Jucha


In The Miners' Fight for Democracy, Paul Clark chronicles the