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Paper: The City: Symbols, Images, Identities

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The book includes papers from famous Bulgarian ethnologists, sociologists and historians like Milla Santova, Raina Gavrilova, Svetlana Hristova, Iskra Dandolova, Svilen Stefanov, Peter Tsanev, etc. The articles are mostly about Bulgarian towns (Sofia, Bansko, Melnik, Blagoevgrad) or different elements of our contemporary city space (for example – the center of Sofia) as an *anthropological place* – a place impregnated with history, relations and identities. This is a place where the human texts are one on top of the other, a place where the newest images erase the oldest without deleting the memory of them. The erased images of the city are *places of memory* too – they tell us about what we are by words that we do not know but understand.

The papers consider the different views towards the city - Renaissance, modern and postmodern city, little town and capital, socialistic and postsocialistic one. The authors situate the city between contemporary problems like globalism and nationalism, origin and urban identity, mental and physical boundaries, different spaces in the city, places of memory. There are two psychological papers too – about *urban utopias* of the child and the adult.

There are also many maps, photos and illustrations of considered cities and persons.