

Dear LAHW,

Thank you for reading this chapter, the fifth and last of my dissertation: "Containing a Mass City: Urban Planning, People, and Space in the Valley of Mexico, c. 1930-1950" (a title that seems increasingly misleading). It is, however, only the second chapter that I've written, which probably shows. My dissertation studies urban growth in Mexico City between 1930 and 1950, interrogating how urban planners and government officials dealt with unprecedented growth and rapid change. Rather than moving across time, chapters run in parallel tracks, each one looking at planning and politics from different perspectives. This chapter is the story of a single colonia or neighborhood, a "case-study," and it should address several of my dissertation themes: the relationship between planning and politics, cultural interpretations of urban growth, an intellectual history of planning and cities. The first concern that I have is that as it stands, this chapter seems a bit "thin." There are many themes that I analyze elsewhere, and I am curious if the chapter is compelling as it stands. The latter parts of the chapter strike me as more tentative; they also need to be stronger analytically. I might not be able to achieve this until I advance in the other chapters but I am curious as to what your thoughts are.

I apologize for the long chapter (47 pages minus images) but do greatly appreciate your time and comments. Below, I've included a chapter outline of my dissertation to give you an indication of its larger landscape.

"Containing a Mass City." Chapter Outline.

1. Defining the City as a Problem: The Beginnings of Urban Planning in Mexico
2. In Search of an Elusive Master Plan: Urban Planning in 1940s Mexico City
3. The Logic of Fractioning
4. The Transformation from inner city "tugurios" to peripheral "colonias proletarias"
5. A Case Study: Colonia Gabriel Ramos Millán

Thank you again,

Emilio