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further information:



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Sanitary Danube Capital: sewerage reform in late 19th century Budapest

The environmental history of the Hungarian capital Budapest has seen significant events in the second half of the 19th century, which still have an impact today. Population growth, urbanization, and industrialization increased the environmental problems of the city, particularly in relation to housing and public health. The solution to these problems was seen primarily in infrastructure development, influenced by the sanitary movement. Construction of water pipes and waterworks, a new sewerage network, the regulation of the urban stretch of the Danube and of its various small tributaries were all part of the urban planning process which began in the 1860s.

In this presentation, I seek to answer the questions: How did sanitation efforts transform Budapest by the end of the 1800s? How did this fit in with international trends of the era?