

The origins of early urban European centers have been the subject of continuous debate for a long time. This discussion results partly from the complexity of research questions, but also because the appearance of early towns is very complex to analyze and mostly depends on regional traditions. For this reason no one model can adequately describe early European urbanization. The papers presented in this volume do not pretend to resolve problems of roots of early towns, but the combination of papers highlights different approaches and aspects of the story. They represent an important contribution to the debate and are intended as the basis for further discussion and analysis.