



Yonkers in the Twentieth Century

Marilyn E. Weigold, Yonkers Historical Society

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Traces the economic, political, and social evolution of New York State's fourth largest city during the twentieth century.

Yonkers in the Twentieth Century chronicles the decline and rebirth of the fourth largest city in New York State, once known as “the Queen City of the Hudson” and “the City of Gracious Living.” Previously an industrial powerhouse, the city’s factories turned out essential items that helped the United States win two world wars. Following World War II, the industrial base of Yonkers eroded as companies moved away, contributing to an increase in poverty. To address the housing needs of its low-income residents, Yonkers built public housing, resulting in a nearly thirty-year court case that, for the first time in United States history, linked school and housing segregation.

The case was finally settled in the early years of the twenty-first century, a time that also witnessed the continuation of the city’s economic redevelopment efforts along the Hudson River and contiguous downtown area. Striving to once again become “the Queen City of the Hudson,” Yonkers is being rebuilt beginning at its historic waterfront.

Marilyn E. Weigold is Professor of History at Pace University and the author of several books, including *The Long Island Sound: A History of Its People, Places, and Environment*.

The Yonkers Historical Society is dedicated to saving the rich, diverse history of Yonkers. The Society maintains Sherwood House museum, advocates for the preservation of historic landmarks and neighborhoods, and promotes an appreciation of the city’s unique heritage through its many programs, publications, and social media.

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