Thinking Caused by Rereading Howard's *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* after a Century

Abstract:
Howard's *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* is the first professional book of modern city plan in general, but there are many misunderstandings of the book and writer today. To be strict, *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* is not a book of city plan simply and Howard is not a traditional city planner. Although Howard's idea of "Sociable Cities" involves clear thinking of social reformism utopian, *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* is the most important and influential masterpiece in the history of city plan in the 20th century.

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Sir Ebenezer Howard OBE (29 January 1850 – 1 May 1928), the English founder of the garden city movement, is known for his publication To-Morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform (1898), the description of a utopian city in which people live harmoniously together with nature. The publication resulted in the founding of the garden city movement, and the building of the first garden city, Letchworth Garden City, commenced in 1903. Howard's Garden Cities of Tomorrow is the first professional book of modern city plan in general, but there are many misunderstandings of the book and writer today. To be strict, Garden Cities of Tomorrow is not a book of city plan simply and Howard is not a traditional city planner. Although Howard's idea of “Sociable Cities” involves clear thinking of social reformism utopian, Garden Cities of Tomorrow is the most important and influential masterpiece in the history of city plan in the 20th century. [5] Yishan Fei and Jianguo Wang: Garden Cities of Tomorrow: The Pursuit of A Century. Planners. Vol. 02 (2002), p.89 (In Chinese) . [6] Wanli Ma and Xueqin Mei: Valuable Utopia: A History Study on E. Howard's Garden City Theory. Journal of Historical Science. Howard read widely and thought deeply about social issues, and out of this concern came his book in 1898 titled To-Morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform. He paid for the printing of his proposal calling for the creation of new towns of limited size, planned in advance, and surrounded by a permanent belt of agricultural land. The ring and radial pattern of his imaginary Garden City was a plan that many other writers of the time also favored, because of its perceived superiority from both engineering and architectural viewpoints. Howard's emphasis on the importance of a permanent girdle of open and agricultural land around the town soon became part of British planning doctrine that eventually developed almost into dogma.

References
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