

11.123 BIG PLANS

Spring 2003

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

READING QUESTION FOR: February 10 & 12 Top-Down Planning: Robert Moses

Robert A. Caro, *The Power Broker - Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*, (New York, Vintage Books, 1975), pp. 1-21, 143-171, 607-614, 807-836, 850-884.

Howard Saalman, *Hausmann: Paris Transformed*.

Robert Caro's account of Robert Moses dwells frequently on the power he exercised under his various positions in New York. At times, there seems to have been little in place to act as a check or a balance on this power; at other times, his powers came up against forces that redirected or reverse Moses' initiatives.

Drawing on an example of each of these situations, speculate as to what a government such as New York State would need to have had in place to allow it to profit from the resourcefulness and determination of a person such as Robert Moses without facing potential abuse of such power.

DUE FEBRUARY 10