

REVIEWS/COMPTE RENDUS

Introduction à la géographie humaine. Antoine Bailly et Hubert Béguin. Collection « Géographie », Masson ed., Paris 1982; Broché 192 p., 99 F.

Comme ils le soulignent en introduction, les auteurs, Bailly et Béguin, se proposent de traiter dans ce manuel d'introduction « des problématiques, des concepts, des objets, des démarches de la géographie humaine » (p. 9).

Pour ce faire, ils ont subdivisé le manuel en deux sections. Une première section (les cinq premiers chapitres) présente, en termes généraux, l'évolution des principales démarches géographiques et les principaux concepts qui s'y rattachent. La seconde section (quatre chapitres) présente des études de cas mettant en pratique les différentes approches géographiques pour en faire ressortir leurs avantages et leurs inconvénients.

Ce manuel constitue donc avant tout une introduction à la géographie humaine destinée aux étudiants en géographie mais aussi une présentation synthétique, destinée à toutes les personnes désireuses de saisir le rôle de l'espace dans le monde contemporain.

En ce qui concerne la partie épistémologique du volume, les auteurs présentent au premier chapitre les quatre principaux courants idéologiques qui ont influencé l'évolution des différentes démarches géographiques : la vision classique, la vision néo-positive, la vision radicale et la vision comportementale de la géographie. Bailly et Béguin concluent ce rapide tour d'horizon en affirmant que la géographie est une discipline récente, en évolution rapide qui oblige les géographes à remettre constamment en cause leurs problématiques et leur méthodologie, puisque la discipline géographique ne prend toute sa valeur qu'à travers sa cohérence et sa pertinence sociale. Un guide bibliographique vient compléter ce premier chapitre en permettant aux intéressés d'approfondir leur connaissance quant à chacun des courants idéologiques qui ont influencé l'évolution de la géographie humaine. Les quatre chapitres suivants viennent compléter cette section épistémologique en présentant des réflexions générales qui découlent des

différentes étapes de l'évolution de la géographie (objets, projets, démarches) pour ensuite se pencher sur les concepts fondamentaux de la géographie tels les concepts d'information, de causalité, d'espace et de temps.

La dernière partie du livre se veut didactique, les auteurs veulent montrer, par des études de cas, comment un même objet géographique peut être abordé selon des problématiques différentes. L'organisation de cette dernière partie s'articule en quatre chapitres distincts : paysages et sociétés rurales, villes et régions, localisation industrielle et enfin la structure interne de la ville. Pour aider le lecteur à choisir son itinéraire en connaissance de cause, chacun des thèmes présentés est analysé successivement en fonction des problématiques classique, néo-positive, comportementale et radicale. Des conseils de lecture complètent chacune des présentations et permettent d'approfondir l'analyse de ces cas en fonction d'ouvrages représentatifs des différentes démarches.

En somme, l'intérêt principal de ce livre réside dans le fait qu'on y présente, de façon succincte, l'évolution de la géographie à travers les principaux courants idéologiques qui ont conduit cette discipline vers une plus grande maturité. Il est clair que Bailly et Béguin sont loin de souscrire sans réserve à chacune des démarches qu'ils présentent. Néanmoins, par souci d'objectivité, ils tentent de développer chacun des thèmes en nous montrant qu'à travers les différentes problématiques, la compréhension du monde apparaît à la fois divergente et complémentaire. A chaque approche ses faiblesses : caractère idiographique de l'analyse classique inducitive, pouvoir explicatif limité des théories néo-positives, difficultés de généralisation de la vision comportementale et problématique déterministe et univoque d'un point de vue radical.

En conclusion générale, Bailly et Béguin résument bien toute la philosophie qui sous-tend cette intéressante introduction à la géographie humaine en affirmant que la nouvelle géographie admet : « que l'observation est indispensable, que la théorie est nécessaire et que la critique fondamentale est féconde » (p. 173).

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Advanced Industrialization and the Inner Cities. Gail Garfield Schwartz, editor. Lexington Books, Lexington, Mass., 1981; 173 pp.; \$24.95.

About 15 years ago the media finally discovered, and brought to the attention of the rest of the wired world, the existence and problems of the U.S. inner city. Attention was gained, of course,

by riots, and attention remains as a result of the continued salability of stories related to violent crime, drugs, and the nothing-to-lose desperation of the forgotten. The realization of the problems of the inner city came as a shock to many at that time for, after two decades or more of rapid economic growth and rising consumption, there appeared to be a geographically focussed part of urban America, consisting mostly of black and other minorities, who were not sharing in this affluence. Now, however, in the early 1980s, there is an even greater shock, for what was then happening to "them" in rotten and decaying "there", is now beginning to happen to "us" out "here". Does the Schwartz book help us understand why economic decay is now rampant, and also indicate what can be done about it?

The book presents the outcome of a series of lectures, discussions, and papers prepared for the Trinational Cities Exchange, sponsored by the German Marshall Fund for the United States, through the Academy for Contemporary Problems. The contents of the book reflect the stodgy sound of these organizational titles and, ironically, the authors forget some of the lessons of Marshall Aid. The articles define the nature of the issues, and discuss the lessons that can be learned from public policies that have been introduced in three different countries to ameliorate the problems that have been defined. The countries are Britain, the United States, and West Germany, and the issues raised with respect to each country are remarkably common to all.

H.W.E. Davies describes quite concisely the combined effects of squalid housing, high unemployment, and poverty on collective deprivation, and details government programs that have been introduced during the 1970s to deal with the resulting growing tension. Gude, Heinz, and Rothammer give an equally concise and well translated review of the processes that have led to similar pockets of social decay in Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Cologne, Munich, and Stuttgart. Gail Schwartz outlines in more graphic detail the surface symptoms, and provides a useful detailed summary of federal and local programs that have been developed in response to the web of interlinked economic, social, psychological and political issues that is choking U.S. cities. Finally, Peirce and Hagstrom attempt to draw together the different national experiences into a set of common lessons.

All the articles except the last follow this descriptive format. There is little or no discussion of any of the processes that might have led to inner-city type problems. Neither is there any recognition of the fact that the issues that were thought to be "inner city" are affecting all parts of the industrialized western world. This lack of any detailed discussion of process, even in the last chapter, is unfortunate, because it is only by examining process

that any government can arrive at meaningful policies and programs. Of course, the identification of the underlying processes is a matter for intellectual debate and research, but the processes that are assumed to exist by policy makers who establish programs must be identified. The book does, however, emphasize the necessity for careful management of the variety of governmental programs that have an impact on urban areas.

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Canada's Urban Past: A Bibliography to 1980 and Guide to Canadian Urban Studies. Alan F. J. Artibise and Gilbert A. Stelter. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, B.C., 1981; xxiv + 430 pp.; \$42.00.

Canada's Urban Past is an important contribution to urban studies in this country, not only as a guide to the more relevant literature written on the city over the last one hundred or so years, but also as an introduction to useful sources for research on the city in the 1980s. Even more, a review essay outlining the research strategies of an interdisciplinary group of urbanists and their contributions to an interpretation of the Canadian city introduces the book. Alan Artibise and Gil Stelter are well known to writers on the Canadian city, and this publication says much about their dedication to advancing the development of urban studies in Canada. For really, the book is an unselfish act — time-consuming and a distraction for their own research programs — but we are the richer for their pioneering efforts.

The bibliography comprises some 7,000 entries, most of which are listed by urban place according to major region (the Maritimes, Ontario, etc.), but there is also an extensive section covering important general studies on topics such as population, municipal government, and the urban environment, including planning and urban systems. All entries are supported by comprehensive author, place, and subject indexes. Experts on a particular urban topic or those knowledgeable of the development of a specific town or city may point to some omissions, but most topics and places have been treated fairly and in depth. To their credit, the authors would welcome comments on errors and omissions which will be corrected or incorporated, as the case may be, in subsequent editions.

Certainly, any teacher or researcher interested in the development of the Canadian city will turn to this volume for guidance.

The value of the book for understanding the comparative experience of our cities is immense; so too is its intrinsic use for coming to grips with the archives, journals, or other resources implicit in the research process. All students beginning a research paper on the Canadian city should automatically turn to *Canada's Urban Past*, and teachers would do well to make a special point of introducing the book to their students. Students, teachers, planners and others will find the introductory essay of further value, even a source of inspiration for getting on with the job and making a contribution to the burgeoning field of urban studies in Canada. A paperback edition is about to be published at about half the price of the original, but whatever one's preference for type of cover, the contents should be in the library of all Canadian urbanists.

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