

ABSTRACTS

WEAVER, C.: "Regions, Decentralization, and the New Global Economy: An Overview": Explanations of economic location drawn from the classic Isardian synthesis in regional science have come to be challenged during the last ten to fifteen years because of a new, more decentralized pattern of industrial growth. The major factors suggested by analysts to account for these changes are the institutional organization of productive activities, technological change and the importance of segmented labour markets. Many authors suggest, however, that there is danger in accepting overly simplified models of these relationships such as the industrial life cycle hypothesis. There is as yet no satisfactory overview of the changing geography of industry at the national or global scales, nor is there a consensus on regional development strategies appropriate to changing spatial divisions of labour. In this theme issue of *CJRS* we investigate economic decentralization in Canada and elsewhere, attempting to contribute to an understanding of Regions, Decentralization and the New Global Economy. Because of his special role in the evolution of regional science and planning education, this collection of articles is dedicated to Harvey S. Perloff.

ROBINSON, I. M.: "Appreciation: To Harvey S. Perloff": Harvey S. Perloff was one of the monumental figures in the evolution of regional studies and planning. Starting as a developmental economist in Puerto Rico, he went on to be Director of the innovative Program of Education and Research in Planning at the University of Chicago, Director of Regional Studies for Resources for the Future in Washington, D.C., and finally Dean of the University of California in Los Angeles' Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Perloff's intellectual contribution to regional studies spanned not only North America but the globe. He authored landmark studies on the state of regional studies in North American universities, the educational experience at Chicago, the historical functioning of regional economies in the United States, and the design for a United Nations-sponsored worldwide study of regional development. Contemporary trends in regional economic

growth, in Canada and at the global scale, might best be analyzed by working in the tradition established by Perloff and his associates over almost half a century.

SUAREZ-VILLA, L.: "Industrialization in the Developing World: Process Cycles and the New Global Division of Labour": This article applies the concept of the manufacturing process cycle in order to analyze the diffusion of manufacturing activities to less developed nations. The concept focuses on organizational capability, labour skills, and technological change as major influences in the international diffusion of manufacturing industry. It assumes these factors to be essential for the development of manufacturing processes, causing organizational priorities and strategies to vary according to the temporal stage of development of each industry's productive process. The conceptual framework is also related to emerging patterns in the global division of labour by considering the most important industrialization policy strategies implemented in developing nations. Although the objectives and policy scope of industrialization have undergone significant change in many developing nations, it is concluded that the established evolutionary hierarchy and pattern of diffusion have remained virtually stable through decades of rapid industrialization.

PLANQUE, B.: "Décentralisation économique et décentralisation politique en France": The French political and administrative system has been one of the most highly centralized in the world. In the last two decades, however, tendencies toward decentralization have begun to manifest themselves both in the area of administration and in the spatial organization of the economy. This paper explores the major aspects of this decentralization in France. It is argued that decentralization is a response of the social system to the impending obsolescence of its spatial structures. This type of spatial adaptation can have favourable consequences, not only for the development of peripheral regions but also for national efficiency.

GERTLER, M. S.: "Industrialism, Deindustrialism, and Regional Development in Central Canada": This paper examines a number of economic trends evident in central Canada, and the Toronto region in particular, including decentralization, technological change, and the declining importance of manufacturing employment. These trends are found to be broadly consistent with the concept of deindustrialization, although this general process has produced a distinct central Canadian development experience. Recent changes in the institutional context for economic planning at the federal and provincial levels have created a policy vacuum

which has attracted initiatives from local government. Such initiatives may, however, be frustrated by dilemmas anticipated by Perloff in his writings on local and regional planning.

WEBSTER, D.: "Canadian Regional Decentralization in the New Global Context: Myth or Reality?": There was a marked trend toward economic decentralization in peripheral Canada during the 1970s and early 1980s. This was based on the growth of specific resource-based industrial sectors such as energy, the westward movement of the United States population, and the increasing importance to Canada's national economy of countries around the Pacific Rim. Surveying current trends in Canadian structural economic change, amenity factors, political factors, demographic change, lifestyle considerations and small business growth, the author concludes that recent trends towards decentralization have probably been an aberration. It is argued that the human and economic geography of Canada which is now emerging is one of approximate stability between activity in central Canada and the periphery in relative terms. No longer will the periphery continue to increase its share of population, income, and head offices at a significant rate. Given these changing secular trends, if the periphery wants to continue improving its relative position within the country regional leaders will have to adopt well-thought-out and aggressive regional development strategies.

JOYAL, A.: "Le rôle du tiers-secteur dans le développement économique et régional": The difficulties experienced by the Western economies since the mid-seventies have drawn attention to various activities that cannot be associated with the private sector or the public sector. A number of different trends have developed concurrently to form what might be described as a new sector of economic activity. While some of these activities are non-market-oriented, others are promoted by associations or non-profit bodies, owned and controlled by a variety of local interests and concerned with local economic life and employment generation. If, in order to survive, these alternative organizations have to be profitable, they are considered to be income-oriented as opposed to profit-oriented. The increase of this kind of community-based activities justifies the reference to a "third sector" of economic activity. This empirical fact has given rise to a debate on what should be done in order to cope with this new reality. By giving more scope to local authorities and relying on cooperation between governmental agencies and representatives of local business, the community, the trade unions, and local associations, it appears that the "third sector" can be given an important role in the strategy of economic development.

MOUDOUD, E.: "L'impossible régionalisation 'jacobine' et le dilemme des disparités régionales en Tunisie": This article has three objectives: (1) through the analysis of the failure of a recent regional development project, to re-state the "Regional Question" in Tunisia in order to contribute to the progress of the debate - which seems locked in a very dangerous impasse - on this very sensitive question; (2) to show, through the Tunisian case itself, the limits and the impasses towards which centralized and technocratic approaches - conceived and imposed from "above" in the best "Jacobin" traditions - in regional development always lead in most Third World countries; (3) to stress the urgent need in Tunisia for a truly and radical regional reform, the objective of which must be to consider seriously the issue of the distribution of *power* between the *State* and the *Region*.