

broad, integrative perspective. The book is most useful for students, researchers and policy makers alike. It provides a reliable and highly readable text which does not only review the literature but inspires rethinking of some common assumptions on the impact of science parks in general, and the continuing decline of British industry in particular.

Reference

Massey, D. (1984) *Spatial Divisions of Labour*. London: Macmillan.

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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND THEIR SOCIOECONOMIC APPLICATIONS by David Martin. New York: Routledge, 1991.

The function of a Geographic Information System (GIS) is to combine spatial images with topological information. It is designed to handle information regarding the spatial distribution of properties. It facilitates the collection of data regarding the spatial distribution of the activities of an organized society. The system includes a computerized visual map display for accessing, processing and analyzing data from a wide variety of sources. The system then integrates the data in a common location system.

Since the '80s, literature about GIS has appeared in the published proceedings of professional conferences, technical reports and several chapters of books that focus on other issues (e.g., remote sensing). In recent years we find more monographs that are dedicated completely to GIS. This book attempts to provide a concise and non-technical introduction to GIS, as well as a review of the developments and applications of such a system in socioeconomic studies.

This book is one of the first of a growing number of books that discuss the application of GIS technology to a particular field and discipline. While various general textbooks about GIS are now available and can serve as an introduction to the field at the graduate and undergraduate levels, very few books have answered the question 'what can GIS do and what is its value for a particular area of specialization'.

In the first chapters, David Martin provides a review of GIS history and applications and then moves on to a non-technical and rather simplified presentation of the main features of the System. The book discusses at some length issues regarding the database of the GIS, such as data processing and handling techniques. These are an important feature of GIS that can facilitate some of the pre-processing tasks in socioeconomic applications. To demonstrate this point, Martin gives an example of solving some data aggregation problems relating to the size of the basic area units.

An actual example of socioeconomic research based on a GIS would have provided a stronger and clearer demonstration of GIS capabilities and their contribution to this field. In addition, a demonstration of GIS visualization of its spatial phenomenon and its spatial queries capability could supply the reader with a much more powerful introduction to the field. In a simple GIS example of a multipurpose socioeconomic information system, information on socioeconomic data, such as zoning, unemployment and car ownership, is stored in overlays that can be combined to produce any desired composite map. Furthermore, the GIS in such applications can be better utilized for spatial queries and spatial models of demographic and economic data.

What David Martin has attempted to demonstrate, with partial success, is how to make GIS useful in socioeconomic research. GIS is used by many agencies to improve the performance of traditional functions related to topological data structures, to present, process and analyze information in a productive manner.

This book can be a useful and valuable tool for a variety of potential readers, particularly to those who are modeling and analyzing socioeconomic environments, but have little or no knowledge of GIS technology. These readers will find techniques to aid them in the solution of various problems that combine population data with information about characteristics of individuals in a region.

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A PASSAGE TO ENGLAND. BARBADIAN LONDONERS SPEAK OF HOME
by John Western. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1992.

John Western is an expatriate Englishman, a professor of geography at Syracuse University. Since leaving his native land at the end of the 1960s, he has spent most of his time in the United States. He also lived for four years in Africa, two in Burundi and two in South Africa. Then, after eleven uninterrupted years living in North America, he returned to England for a year in September 1987, where the fieldwork for this book was carried out.

On the surface, *A Passage to England* is about the experiences of a small number of middle-class families from the Caribbean island of Barbados who settled in London in the late 1950s and early 1960s, most of them answering the British government's calls for labor in a period of shortage-and, to quote Western, "people came instead!". It is far more than a book about Barbadian Londoners, though. It is a book about cultures. It is a book about race relations in general, and race relations in Britain in particular, seen through the eyes of people who had thought of themselves as British before their emigration and who wished to be British after their arrival. It is a book about the social and cultural geography of London. It is a book about displaced or relocated persons or nations. Its im-