

sums up major viewpoints towards immigration and integration in the mid- 1990s, and an updated evaluation of this extremely dynamic phenomenon is well-warranted.

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GENDER, PLANNING AND HUMAN RIGHTS edited by Tovi Fenster. London: Routledge, 1999.

This edited book is a fascinating integration of the three concepts comprising the title. The connection between gender and planning has, in recent years, received a growing amount of scholarly research and professional attention, although there is still much to be done. The unique aspect of this book is the link to the topic of human rights, which should be obvious, but has not been seriously dealt with until now. The stated goal of the book is to provide another channel for promoting and implementing human rights in planning and development with a focus on human rights of women, and to incorporate space into the human rights discourse. So this is a book that boldly states its values, and intends to influence both the planning and the human rights discourses.

Each of the chapters focuses on a particular geographic place (ranging in scale between a city, region, country or continent), and on a particular issue relevant to that place. Each chapter begins with a clear description of its relevant socio-cultural, economic, and political context. As a result, we are taken on a trip around the world, and given the opportunity to learn something important and interesting about the lives of women in these places. We travel from the United Kingdom to Israel, to Canada, Singapore, the United States, Peru, the European Union, Australia and the Czech Republic. We learn that, although the geographic and political settings of these countries and the socio-economic and cultural circumstances of women in them are very different, most of the issues raised regarding the lives of women are the same all over. Should we be amazed by this or merely saddened, or should we be galvanized into action, each of us in our own field and our own city or country?

Through the book, we are confronted with the fact that not all women are the same, that countries are not the same, and that there is variability within countries. The book, as a whole, raises all sorts of 'hidden' problems that most of us have probably not been aware of. It does what every good book should do—it makes us think about the problems themselves, and about their new aspects. We are faced with the importance of understanding the context, and, particularly, its cultural aspects. Were we to ignore these, we could not understand the lives of these women, or the reasons for the problems they face.

Among the important issues that are raised are: do human rights transcend cultural norms? Can we accept cultural relativism when it infringes upon the human rights of women? Is the goal of preserving a culture a legitimate excuse for infringing upon the rights of women? Can/should planners introduce change into a given

situation, and does that jibe with the value of participation and of local interests? Is a strong state necessary in order to guarantee the rights of all, or is a strong state to be feared of because it can also do the opposite?

It should be noted that, in principle, a book on gender should deal with both genders, women and men. In practice, there is almost no literature on men and planning. The argument of feminists is that the environment as we know it has been planned by men for men. I am not sure that the environment necessarily meets the needs of all men, since they too are a varied lot. But I have no problem with women (and men) choosing to study women and their environmental needs. When someone, man or woman, writes a book or chapter specifically on men and the environment, and not on the generic 'man' that supposedly represents everyone, I will be happy to read it and review it.

This is a book that should be read by people interested in planning issues, and by planners and decision-makers. It will give them many new insights into the lives of women and the issues that affect them.

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THE POLITICS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THEORY, POLICY, AND PRACTICE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION edited by Susan Baker, Maria Kousis, Dick Richardson, and Stephen Young. London: Routledge Publishers, 1997.

This text is no doubt one of the best discussions of sustainable development as a political, not just economic construct. The editors have compiled a text successful on two distinct levels: 1) As a thorough introduction for the student or bureaucrat to the growing debate over sustainable development; and 2) As a forum for the conversation on sustainable development as it applies to developed economies in general, and to the KU, in particular.

The book is divided into two parts by the author, though I would argue that it could be read in four parts. The introduction, co-written by the editors, is very valuable in its presentation of the history of the idea of sustainable development. The editors' part one is entitled 'The concept of sustainable development'. It is comprised of three chapters: Dick Richardson's 'The Politics of Sustainable Development', which will be reviewed later, Arne Naess' 'Sustainable Development and the Deep Ecology Movement', and Allan Scheinberg's 'Sustainable Development and the treadmill of production'. These three essays introduce the debates surrounding sustainable development as an applicable theory.

Part II of the book is, logically, 'The Practice of Sustainable Development'. Eight of the text's twelve chapters are devoted to the application of sustainable development policies with specific cases presented. Rather than summarily review each chapter, special attention will be given to Baker's essay called 'The evolution of EU environmental policy: from growth to sustainable development?', among others.