

cultural and political geography, planning and urban studies, law, sociology and cultural study. Thus, this book contributes significantly to academic scholars and professionals (planners, lawyers etc.) alike. The book is also excellently written and edited even when it comes to some complicated issues and theories.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC SEGREGATION IN EUROPEAN CAPITAL CITIES: EAST MEETS WEST, Edited by Tiit Tammaru, Szymon Marcińczak, Maarten van Ham, and Sako Musterd. London and New York: Routledge, 2016.

Although income inequality has been continuously increasing across the globe from the early 1970s onward, European scholars have carried out few if any comparative studies of class- or income-based socio-spatial divisions. *Socio-Economic Segregation in European Cities: East Meets West* closes this gap by investigating changing levels of socio-economic segregation in 13 major European cities: Amsterdam, Budapest, Vienna, Stockholm, Oslo, London, Vilnius, Tallinn, Prague, Madrid, Milan, Athens, and Riga.

Taken together the 13 case studies show that socio-economic segregation levels increased in European capitals during this period. “The spatial gap between the more extreme categories, those that ‘have’ and those that ‘have not’ is pretty much widening in Europe.” (p.365)

While the results support the predicted importance of two ‘universal’ factors (growing inequality and globalization) as responsible for increased segregation, the results dealing with two ‘context-sensitive’ dimensions—the type of welfare state and the characteristics of housing provision—are not clearly linked to the level of segregation. The forces of neo-liberalism (the withdrawal of the welfare state, the privatization of public housing, the emphasis on homeownership) make the type of welfare state or the history of housing provision increasingly irrelevant. For example, “in some countries with strong public involvement in the housing sector we find both low levels of segregation (Prague) and high levels of segregation (Stockholm and Vienna).” (p.375)

This is an impressive book because the contributors and editors successfully coped with two data problems. Firstly, the 13 countries employed different definitions of a “city” either as the built up area, the urban region, the metropolitan area, or the area within the administrative boundaries of a city. Secondly, availability of data on socio-economic status varied by country, so in some cases the analysis focused either on division of the population by income groups, or on different occupational status categories, or on educational level.

This well-organized book provides the reader with a feel for the uniqueness of each city and its segregation problem. I especially appreciated the fact that the contributors combined statistical measures of segregation and mapped location coefficients with information on the city’s history, as well as its welfare and housing policies.

The book’s limitations should be noted, however. First it does not examine how or why families make particular residential choices. Why, for example, 25 years after the fall of communism in Tallinn do Estonian managers live in separate neighborhoods from Russian speaking ones? Second, it does not extend knowledge on how patterns of segregation threaten urban social life. Increases in the segregation index or locational quotients do not go very far, for example, in explaining why in the wake of the 2015 Paris attacks, the Molenbeek municipality in Brussels became a no-go area for police, where gang violence remains rampant, where Islamic radicalism feeds on the neighborhood’s marginalization, and where some of the terrorists responsible for the Paris and Brussels attacks had been able to hide (Freitas-Tamura & Schreuer, 2015). Sophisticated qualitative research is needed to better understand how spatial separation leads to the creation and maintenance of such no-go areas. Third, the book does not offer ways for European cities to reduce segregation. How can European cities achieve “smart” gentrification—to implement policies that enable incumbent residents who want to do so, to remain (Grabinsky & Butler, 2015)? How can these cities maintain an income mix in social housing estates without increasing social tensions between different social classes (Chaskin & Joseph, 2015)?

Despite these limitations, I strongly recommend this book for urban scholars, especially for those with backgrounds in spatial statistics. Unfortunately, the very high price of \$170 limits its purchase to mainly research libraries. Fortunately, Routledge has a PDF version of the Introduction and Conclusion available from Open-Access at www.Tandfebooks.com. I encourage planners and practitioners involved in segregation-related issues on both sides of the Atlantic to take advantage of this opportunity.

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OILING THE URBAN ECONOMY: LAND, LABOUR, CAPITAL AND THE STATE IN SEKONDI-TAKORADI, GHANA, By Franklin Obeng-Odoom, London: Routledge. 2014.

Sekondi-Takoradi is a city comprised of twin cities of Sekondi and Takoradi, and it is the capital of Sekondi Takoradi District and the Western Region of Ghana. This urban conglomerate lies on the main railway line to Accra and is currently known as the Oil City of Ghana due to the massive discovery of oil in the western region and the massive migration of people to it. *Oiling the Urban Economy: Land, Labour, Capital and the State in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana*, by Franklin Obeng-Odoom, is an attempt to critically analyze the urban dynamics in this new secondary "Oil City" that has been transformed following the oil discovery and then economic development and migration; two themes that are in the very core of modern urban history and are well known from Marxist texts which are echoed throughout the book.

This is a fascinating book for those who are interested in urban-political economy in general and in the African context in particular. The book presents the findings of a detailed fieldwork. It documents and critically analyses the economic, social, spatial and political changes in this urban setting. The core of the book (chapters 3-9) is a unique opportunity to those who are not familiar with African urbanism in the last two decades to understand the complexity of the phenomenon.

In the scope of this review I will not be able to refer to the richness of the detailed study presented by Obeng-Odoom, but rather I would like to highlight the central discussion articulated throughout this book, namely problematizing the "curse doctrine" in relation to oil cities in Africa. As Obeng-Odoom rightly argues in the case of Africa's oil cities, the resource curse doctrine is problematic "...because it was formulated without taking into account the dynamics of space, urbanity and urbanism" (p. 8) in Africa. Obeng-Odoom's aim to investigate the very specific condi-