

Each of Chapters 8 through 11 presents the area of spatial choice in different research contexts. Chapter 8 deals with choice processes in consumer behavior, while Chapter 9 deals with it in the context of travel behavior. Similarly, Chapter 10 treats migration as a decision choice model, and Chapter 11 deals with residential location choice research. The issue of residential location processes is further elaborated in Chapter 12, where the authors discuss aspirations, achievement, preferences and the role of stress.

Finally, the last chapter is a "lip-service," as the authors call it, to other points of view in the discipline, such as epistemological bases and reasoning modes that appear in the general literature. The last chapter has, however, important value in the portrayal of promising research lines for those interested in behavioral geography.

The authors intended to focus mainly on geographic work, but for those specializing in behavioral geography, the book is much too uni-disciplinary. Because most geography students lack the basics in sociology and psychology, the inclusion of relevant theories from these fields might have broadened their perspective. The fact that the manuscripts of the book were compiled and edited by many assistants in two distant continents could perhaps explain some of the technical deficiencies in it; the most important of which, to my mind, is the disappearance of some cited items from the reference list; especially those written by Golledge himself.

The topical structure of the book, its analytical approach, and editorial organization, make it an excellent text for any undergraduate course in behavioral geography. Golledge and Stimson have succeeded in pouring light on this important part of contemporary geography for many students to come.

#### References

- Gold, R. J. (1980) *Introduction to Behavioural Geography*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Cox, R. K. and Golledge, R. G. (eds.) (1981) *Behavioural Problems in Geography Revisited*. London: Methuen.

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SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, edited by M. Giaoutzi, P. Nijkamp and D.J. Storey. London: Routledge, 1988, 314 pp.

This book consists of a collection of papers presented at a meeting held in 1986 on the island of Samos, Greece. It adds to several previous collections on similar topics, such as Storey (1985), Keeble and Wever (1986), and Goffee and Scase (1987). The book focuses on the question of whether the recently growing share of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in national economies is likely to promote economic development, particularly in currently less prosperous areas.

The collection begins with a short overview of topics, such as the role of SMEs in job creation, innovation and regional policy. All other contributions are divided into two parts: general discussions and national case studies. The first two papers present a non-spatial conceptual framework. Suarez-Villa addresses the changing role of entrepreneurship, innovation and firm-sized dynamics in the process of economic development and industry evolution, and Thomas discusses the relationship of innovation and competition. The other non-empirical chapters of Maillat, Fisher, and Storey are linked to the regional aspect. Maillat deals with innovative SMEs and regional policy, discussing the possible revival of traditional industrial regions. He distinguishes policy measures intended to remove bureaucratic barriers to the operation of SMEs, from measures directly supporting such enterprises. Fisher looks at different kinds of new business formations, their spatial variation, and their implications for regional policy. Storey's useful review deals with the role of SMEs in European job creation. He evaluates several explanations for the reversal of trends of decline in the share of small enterprises, and considers the role of SMEs in the job generation process. Finally he discusses public policies for promoting these enterprises, and calls for a selective approach, rather than the assistance of all SMEs.

Alderman, Wynarczyk and Thwaites draw upon research undertaken at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies at the University of Newcastle for their paper on high-technology small firms and regional policy. They state that, at least in the peripheral region of North England, high-technology small firms are unlikely to be the panacea for regional economic regeneration, since the major regenerators of new small firms are traditional manufacturing sectors. Nijkamp, Alsters and van der Mark analyze the regional development potential offered by SMEs in the Common Market in more detail.

The second part of the book deals with national case studies from the Netherlands (two papers), France, Sweden, Spain, Greece, Israel, and Indonesia.

In general, the reader who looks for major theoretical breakthroughs in this volume, or even for a wealth of new empirical evidence on the small business economy, may be disappointed. However, the book does give a broad updated cross-national view, and its reviews and case studies can provide a useful point of reference for researchers and planners working on these issues. Conclusions are oriented toward regional public policy, although it is emphasized that most SME-oriented policies lack a spatial dimension. The chapters are organized in a logical manner and essentially focus on the main theme of the book. Nevertheless, a synthesis chapter (for those who do not intend to read all contributions thoroughly) would have been an advantage.

As expected from a symposium volume, there is some overlapping among the chapters (for example, findings of Birch (1979) are described several times). It seems to me that future collections on similar topics should stress further attempts to ground the issues in theories of entrepreneurship in space, examining and assessing flexible industrial districts theorization, examining the social-economic (and sometimes ethnic) roots of entrepreneurship, and stressing social and economic networks associated with the formation and functioning of small businesses. In addition, analysis of census data on the self-employed can provide many insights into the characteristics of business

owners and the small-business sector, and may prove to be useful for international and inter-regional comparisons and time analyses.

References

- Birch, D.L. (1979) *The Job Generation Process*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Program on Neighborhood and Regional Change.
- Goffee, R. and Scase, R. (eds.) (1987) *Entrepreneurship in Europe*. London: Croom Helm.
- Keeble, D. and Wever, E. (eds.) (1986) *New Firms and Regional Development in Europe*. London: Croom Helm.
- Storey, D.J. (ed.) (1985) *Small Firms in Regional Economic Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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