

## BOOK REVIEWS

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THE GEOGRAPHY OF BORDER LANDSCAPES, edited by Dennis Rumley and Julian V. Minghi, London and New York: Routledge, 1991.

The book is faithful to its name, dealing with the geography of border landscapes. The introductory chapter surveys the history of this branch of the discipline, the geography of borders, and its conceptual limitations in the past. The editors detail the content and contribution to the book of each of the 14 authors, most of whom participated in the final meeting of the Study Group on the World Political Map, held as part of the 26th Congress of the International Geographical Union in Perth, Western Australia, in August 1988.

Each chapter (that is, each of the authors) presents a case study. Five are taken from Europe: Minghi analyses the French-Italian border (and comments on the Jordanian-Israeli border); Gallusser the French-Swiss border; Leimgruber the two sides of the Swiss-Italian border; Ante studies the Bavarian frontier at the site where it crosses the border with (former) East Germany; and finally Klemencic and Bufon deal with a section of the border between Italy and Yugoslavia.

The six chapters that follow treat various border areas in Asia: Minamide discusses landscape changes on Sakhalin Island in the wake of various regimes; Rumley's subject is the Thai-Malaysian border; May studies the border landscape between Indonesia and Papua-New Guinea. Ohshima compares two islands on either side of the border between Papua-New Guinea and Australia; Siddiqi analyses the inter- and intra-regional conflicts on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan; and Drysdale looks at developments around the Gulf of Aqaba coastline.

One chapter deals with the Botswana-Bophuthatswana border landscape (Drummond and Manson); another with the border between the United States and Mexico where the Colorado River flows into the latter country (Chappell). The last chapter, by Brunn, takes as its subject peacekeeping missions.

In a summary chapter, the editors attempt to point to future research directions in the field of the geography of borders.

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The book offers some very interesting and relevant pictures as well as statistics and a total of 52 maps. Each chapter concludes with a bibliography, and the book as a whole with an index of subjects and author's names.

There had been no real breakthrough in the last thirty years in the field of the geography of borders, and the discipline never rose above explanations, classifications, and descriptions of similarity and differences on each side of the border. In the introductory chapter of the present volume there is a critical attitude, particularly in the airing of complaints over the paucity of studies dealing with border landscapes. The hopes expressed are that this book will demonstrate a real advance in the direction of conceptualizing the subject (page 1). Has the book realized its hopes?

Most of the articles are forced, by the very nature of the research, to reconstruct the geography and the history of the environment studied, and only afterwards to attempt to present an original outlook or viewpoint on the subject of the research. And it is this feature that makes for a difference in these works. For example, Minghi emphasizes the passage from a hostile to a harmonious border. Gallusser, Ohshima, and Drysdale compare various land uses on both sides of a border, including changes in urbanization and rural settlement. Minamide compares the changes in the same location under different regimes.

Other authors had an original approach, such as Brunn's innovative paper on the UN peacekeeping forces and their spatial deployment; he also focuses on the cartography of this dispersal. Ante, whose concern is the area that was continuous to the East German border, deals with the extent of the popularity of the Administration College in Hof, which did not succeed in attracting students because of its inconvenient and negative-image location.

From this point of view, the book succeeds. There is no description and classification of borders or any analysis of a border section as an end in itself. Rather, there is treatment of a variety of area landscapes adjoining borders.

The very presentation of these 14 studies together in this volume constitutes a kind of success, but has the book made any advances toward a theory, model, or conceptualization of the field? The editors themselves, in the summary chapter, state that four of the essays (chapters 2, 6, 8 and 9) offer state-to-state differentiation in handling the subject, two (chapters 3 and 7) present an intra-state core-periphery dimension in their approach, and one paper (chapter 12) utilizes boundary-length differentiation. Thus, it is doubtful whether there has been much innovation in these areas. In any case, the fact that only seven articles (i.e., half the volume) earn mention by the editors themselves shows that the road to real advance in the field is still a long one. And indeed, the authors conclude the book in this vein:

"The present volume has emphasized the need to break out of the narrow confines of conceptual definition of the term border landscape ... Hopefully, the present volume represents a step in the right direction."

In sum, the collection of studies that have been assembled in this book is fascinating and enriches the field of the geography of borders. The introduction and the conclusion sharpen the special problematics of the field, which cries out for a breakthrough. In this book, an attempt at least has been made to thrust forward. The short concluding chapter presents new research directions, and in this, too, the book makes a large contribution to the field.

Some questions that are proposed for research have aroused strong debate, such as the significance of boundaries in the age of missiles (this became particularly relevant in Israel after the Gulf War), and whether the end has come for the term boundary as the edge of a sovereign state, when questions of its defense today cover the space of the entire sovereignty. Similarly, the comment on the ecological effect of boundaries and its status is certainly in place and worthy of the attention of researchers.

The book was published with the collapse of the Soviet empire and, consequently, does not deal with questions issuing from this fact. There is room here for new research, and the book hints at directions that must be taken, and in so doing it makes another important contribution to the field.

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BOUNDARIES: NATIONAL AUTONOMY AND ITS LIMITS, edited by Peter G. Brown and Henry Shue. Maryland Studies in Public Philosophy. Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Littlefield, 1981.

This second collection of articles published by the Center for Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Maryland deals with national boundaries or more particularly, with national boundaries in the context of freedom of movement for all.

Peter G. Brown in the introduction poses the question which many European countries have to ask themselves: What are a state's obligations to potential guest workers? The affluent nations have, according to Brown, membership to distribute. In his introduction Brown examines various aspects related to the treatment, attitudes and legal obligations which host countries have towards their migrant labor. Though the book was written in 1981, there is no doubt that it has relevance to the current events taking place all over in Europe, but particularly in Germany. When foreign labor and refugees are attacked by locals, their only sin is their being strangers.