

and social scientists, connotes borders which separate states, whereas the issue dealt with in this collection is the background and features of the movement of migrant workers from the peripheral Third World to the developed world.

Nurit Kliot
University of Haifa

BORDERLAND. ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN SUBURB, 1820-1939 by John R. Stilgoe. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1988.

John Stilgoe has sought in his recent book, *Borderland*, both to express an aesthetic ideal and to examine its implementation in the United States over a century, from the 1830s through the 1920s. Neither suburb as we understand it today nor rural space as it was experienced in the nineteenth century, the borderland was a zone between. Born of a wish to escape what its proponents saw as the disadvantages of urban living, the region remained bound to cities by the way its inhabitants' lives were stitched into economic and social institutions centered there. Borderers, as Stilgoe calls them, were commuters—a concept whose richness he explores revealingly. To commute, among other things, meant to mitigate. Ties of livelihood and experience kept the region in touch with cities. It was also the invention of citified imaginations: the urban intellectual and popularizer both played crucial roles in conceiving the idea and propagandizing its attractions. Stilgoe pays as close attention to the work of writers as he does to the creation of landscape; one he treats as a reflection of the other.

Stilgoe's text is a richly detailed exploration of a wide variety of literary and artistic sources including novels, magazines, developers' briefs, and personal memoirs. He eschews the statistical sources and governmental documents which social scientists have used to establish a representative view of demographic and socio-economic trends. His approach shares little common ground with Kenneth Jackson's study of American suburbs, *Crabgrass Frontier* (Oxford, 1985). Instead, geographers may be reminded as they read his words of the interpretive strategy employed by J.B. Jackson in *American Space* (Norton, 1972), an empathetic reading of how to define American culture during part of the period encompassed by *Borderland*.

Stilgoe organizes his material in general chronological fashion, beginning with the writings of a few seers and the residential relocation of small numbers of well-to-do urbanites. The reader follows the diffusion and acceptance of the ideology of borderland and its implementation across the nation, from Llewellyn Park, N.J. to post-earthquake San Francisco and back to Forest Hills, Long Island. But the author's principal intention is not to emphasize the reorganization in an orderly sequence across time and space

of the physical landscape. The particulars of place and period he offers primarily to reflect on a slowly changing concept, an ideal type, borderland. The many manifestations of its explication and implementation become the structure of the book. The attention which Stilgoe pays to visual detail suggests that landscape was a vital signifier of borderland conditions. Vegetation, architectural style, color, the organization of outdoor space, and the intrusiveness of transport systems are recurrent themes as he assesses literature on and living practice in the region. Taste—as it was reflected in the landscape, as it governed the provision of services, and as it influenced the behavior of men and women—he defines with care and precision.

One hundred years is a long period over which to maintain the power of an idea influencing any group's assessment of urbanization in America. The thesis presented here is certainly bold. Stilgoe's concept has both a timelessness to it and the almost infinite capacity for adjustment, at least until the automobile opened up once and for all the wide fringe regions around our largest cities. It is, however, difficult to understand how much commonality of outlook the residents of Shaker Heights near Cleveland in the 1920s could have with the women and children of the 1830s who overlook Cincinnati in a much discussed illustration in the book. In defining "borderland" as he does, Stilgoe suggests a problematic inherent unity of concept and period. Another challenge to the reader comes from his attitude toward the literature which he so meticulously mines. The diversity of outlook, of opinion, and of purpose which lay behind the many writings that he analyzes receives little analysis; instead, he presents a remarkably coherent development of thinking. This is a measure of his interpretive achievement, which any appreciative reader must yearn to challenge.

Peter G. Goheen
Queen's University

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DRYLANDS
by Peter Beaumont. *The National Environment: Problems and Management Series*, London and New York: Routledge, 1989.

Peter Beaumont has written an extremely interesting book which is a must for anyone interested in dryland development. Drylands are pervasive throughout the world, two thirds are found in a belt stretching across N.Africa into S.W. and Central Asia. Since World War II there has been an extensive population growth in drylands and an area like the Middle East, for example, which was a net food exporter as late as the 1940s was importing over 30% of its cereal needs by 1980.