The third paper is Braun's "Competitive and green? Determinants of success in the manufacturing sector". Braun's point of departure is the growing interest in the concept of the 'greening the industry' by corporate [environmental] agencies in late 1980s, and the creation of the British Standards in early 1990s. Braun examines the theme of successful industrial environmental management in Germany in two steps: the first reveals how far the central goals of industrial environmental management were attained; the second identifies the significant statistical attributes of a success-ful environmental management. Braun concludes by proposing policy measures for attaining workable 'greening of industry' policies.

Notwithstanding the prime objective of the Dongguan meeting and of the *Knowledge, Industry and Environment* volume, a number of its articles focus on 'knowledge-based' industries but shy away from their impact on the environment. However, like most collections of articles published by the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Space meetings, the present volume is carefully edited, and makes a significant contribution to contemporary economic geography.

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ISRAEL: CHALLENGES TO IDENTITY, DEMOCRACY AND THE STATE, by Clive Jones and Emma C. Murphy. London and New York: Routledge (2002).

Israel: Challenges to Identity, Democracy and the State is an attempt to explore and analyze Israeli politics through the lenses of identity construction. The book maps to the readers the vast academic approaches and research that were developed in Israel in the last two decades, including both traditional and more critical social science paradigms. Yet, the book, as stated by the authors themselves, aims to go beyond the descriptive level of the political transformations since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, and to suggest that identity remains Israel's most pressing security dilemma. Moreover, the centrality of this argument is so significant that the authors propose that "only with a solution to this issue will Israelis ever be able to finally claim the physical boundaries of their state" (p. 135).

Let me suggest that such strong argument which highlights the role of identity construction and its dynamics is an important contribution of this book. This is especially the case for those who are interested in Israeli and Middle East studies, which often suffer from an over emphasis on macro scale geopolitical debates and neglect the micro understanding of social processes. In this context, it is important to note that the authors integrate identity discourse into many classical debates in political and social sciences.

In the first chapter, "Political Structures and Social Processes", they explore Israeli internal ethnic stratification as a fundamental theoretical and analytical tool

through which Israeli politics can be understood. This chapter narrates chrono-logically the ongoing dilemmas in relation to Ashkenazi and Mizrachi tension as well as the status of Israeli Arabs in the Israeli citizenship hierarchy. The second chapter, "Trials, Triumphs and Tigers", is probably the best chapter in this book, since it illustrates Israeli economic development as part of identity struggle. In other words, this chapter points to the "winners" and the "losers" within Israeli society following the process of economic liberalization and globalization which reproduce Israeli social stratification along ethnic lines. The third chapter, "A Place among the Nations", describes Israeli security policy and foreign policy (especially in relation to the EU and the USA) as well as the transformations that took place in the Middle East following the peace initiatives and agreements.

Indeed, the main core of the book deals with important themes that involve internal Israeli ethnic and class power relations as well as external power relations (Israel and the Middle East). This analysis is carried by presenting a wide body of knowledge which has been developed in Israeli academic debate. This discus-sion leads Jones and Murphy to their main conclusion that is presented in the last chapter, stating that despite Israel's status as "a regional superpower" that possesses "a powerful military and economic base" in the region, "Israelis cannot defer indefi-nitely the task of redefining an internal identity".

This book that was published in 2002 is oriented toward readers who are inter-ested in a general introduction to Israeli politics. The gap between the publication date of the book and the writing of this review gives a good opportunity to re-exam-ine the validity of the authors' arguments. In this context let me suggest that the last events in the Israeli political arena, i.e. the disengagement from Gaza, headed by the Sharon government which has lost its power, overemphasizes the dispute of identi-ties in Israel. This is expressed in the ongoing political conflict between the "Right" and the "Left" which is articulated in the extensive public debate around questions of Israel's demographic-Jewish characteristics and the securitization discourse at-tached to it. Furthermore, this debate is linked by political analysts and academics to the growing socio-economic gaps and the unequal economic distribution resulting from economic neo-liberalism and globalization. In the core of this discussion stand the issue of identity as a juxtaposition of economic gaps, political exclusion, socio-cultural marginality and the fear from the "intimidating other", which reproduces Israeli ethno-class stratification.

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