

Book Reviews

Geography and Ethnic Pluralism. C. Clarke, D. Ley, & C. Peach. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1984.

Reviewed by: Michael Romann

The growing interest of human geographers in the subject of ethnic relations as a major component of social and spatial segmentation is manifest in the publication of a number of recent books wholly devoted to this issue. Geographic literature on this topic typically focuses on questions related to residential segregation in Western cities and their possible conceptual formulations, mostly derived from other social sciences. It is in this context that *Geography and Ethnic Pluralism* offers a welcome contribution by exposing a broader scope of reference to the historic, geographic, and conceptual dimensions of ethnic pluralism. The book serves to remind us of the role of geographers as early recorders of political entities composed of ethnic groups with differing cultural identities and social status; this book also highlights the relevance of geography to such world-wide ethnic pluralism.

The empirical evidence and analysis in this book are presented from three different principal perspectives. In the first section, the pre-war colonial model of multiracial societies is reexamined in the post-independence era. Case studies refer to Southeast Asia, where majority rule coped with problems of minorities (such as those of the Chinese in Malaysia), or to the Caribbean, characterized by persistent cultural and social segmentation. In the second section, various aspects of ethnic pluralism are reviewed more specifically, using several Third World countries like India and South Africa, where existing patterns can be equally traced to an earlier period of colonialism. In the final section, the book's focus is shifted to the First World metropolis, where the problem of plural societies has been reversed due to the recent settlement of migrants from ex-colonies to major urban

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centers: issues related to Puerto Rican migration to the U.S. and that of West Indians and Asians to Great Britain are among the examples discussed in this section.

The subject of ethnic pluralism is represented, therefore, at every geographic level, ranging from the larger subcontinental scale—as in Canada and India—to the micro-scale, as in the case of tiny Easter Island. The geographic dimension is present where ethnic diversity implies regional inequalities or spatial segregation: indeed, spatial segmentation often reflects and provides an important analytical tool of ethnic social relations.

The book also deals extensively with various aspects of ethnic pluralism as regards their cultural, social, and political dimensions. Ethnic identity is alternately defined according to race, national origin, caste, and cultural components including religion and language. In fact, ethnic identity is often a behavioral or transactional quality and can vary with time or a changing geographical setting; this possibility is evident in the selective racial identity imposed on Puerto Ricans in the U.S. and the non-differential attitudes toward groups of Asians and West Indians in Great Britain.

Ethnic differentiation is typically expressed in patterns of social class and in the economic sphere. Indeed, the relationship between ethnicity and social stratification is the main issue discussed for both Third World countries and minority immigrants to Western cities. Differences in cultural heritage, economic opportunities, and power relations are often causes of political conflict, and can involve state or regional policies as has happened in Canada and India.

Evidently the overlapping of ethnicity with social class and political authority varies greatly by specific cases. The most extreme contemporary case is represented in the book by that of Capetown, South Africa, where political domination is enforced by overall segregation and spatial manipulation. At the other end of the continuum, the case of first-generation Irish migration to Britain is presented to illustrate full structural integration despite cultural differentiation.

In reviewing the multidimensional aspects of ethnic pluralism, these editors provide a most instructive discussion of the relevant concepts and theories developed in geography and various social sciences, ranging from pre-war observations and concepts formulated by Paul Paget and his followers at the Oxford School of Geography regarding multiracial colonial societies to more recent behavioral and sociological approaches concerned with contemporary, multifaceted plural societies. Core-periphery and other dependency theories among others are introduced to help integrate the various case studies into a broader conceptual framework.

It is precisely the overall conceptual interpretation of empirical evidence that proves to be the most challenging task. This task seems even more

demanding because the studies reviewed in this volume are extremely varied. However, the volume is also selective: like most geographic literature, the volume is limited to cases in Great Britain's ex-colonies and the English-speaking world. It can be argued that historical evidence of ethnic relationships might be different in ex-French and Spanish colonies or the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, or Ottoman empires. Available material on the Brazilian model of race relations or that of foreign workers in European countries other than Britain could provide equally revealing case studies. Incorporating such additional evidence and reexamining the validity of generalization and conceptualization is a task worthy of geographers anxious to broaden the scope of reference and increase comprehension of the relationship that exists between geography and ethnic pluralism.

References

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The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration. Anthony Giddens, Berkeley: Univ. of California Press/Oxford: Polity Press, 1984.

Reviewed by: Aharon Kellerman

Anthony Giddens is surely one of the most prolific writers in the area of contemporary social theory. His third volume on structuration, *The Constitution of Society*, follows *Central Problems in Social Theory* (1979) and *A Contemporary Critique of Historical Materialism* (1981) and includes the term in its title. The book has an introduction, six chapters (with "critical notes" added to five), a glossary of structuration, and an extensive bibliography.

In the introduction, structuration is put in context with some basic aspects of social theory/sociology: micro/macro analysis, objectivism/subjectivism, and functionalism/structualism. The first chapter presents the theory of structuration and emphasizes the notions of agency and duality