

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.

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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

of structure. In the second chapter, Giddens addresses self-analysis, focusing on authors who have made basic contributions to psychological theory (e.g., Freud, Bergson, and Goffman). The book's third chapter is devoted to the time-space contextuality inspired by Hägerstrand's time-geography and Goffman's front/back regions.

Chapter four centers on social structure, presents a critique of Durkheim, and attempts to integrate structuration with the familiar concepts of structure, society, and social systems. In doing so, the author develops two neologisms: intersocietal systems and system integration. The fifth chapter discusses power throughout history and is again centered on earlier writers such as Carneiro, Marx, and Parons) and on structuration terms (e.g., allocative and authoritative resources). Finally, in chapter six, interconnections between sociology on one hand, and history and geography on the other are shown, preceded by a reiteration of the major aspects of structuration.

In assessing this wide-ranging and somewhat difficult volume, separate attention must be given to its outline of structuration; the author has not fully integrated the concept into the constitution of society. The three chapters devoted to this topic, numbers two, four, and five (covering the self, structure, and power), include only partial exposure to structuration and leave the reader wanting more information on the role of agency in the evolution of the self and the interrelationship with societal powers, especially because such a strong case is made for blurring the boundaries between the micro and macro scales. In addition, such a structure could have been used to mediate between self, power, and structure. Rather than presenting a coherent argument, Giddens delves into detailed dialogues with the work of earlier writers and leaves the reconstitution of society *viz.* structuration unfinished and unclear. Although there is nothing inherently wrong with adopting this kind of eclecticism (to which the author himself refers), it is not useful when the reader cannot see light at the end of the tunnel.

The concept of structuration is by far Giddens' most important contribution. The increasing number of studies, especially in the field of geography, that adopt a structurationist framework attests to its importance. Geographers will enjoy the author's explicit acknowledgement of the importance of geography to social theory in general and to structuration in particular. This focus culminates in the concluding sentence of the book, which states: "there are no logical or methodological differences between human geography and sociology!"

However, Giddens' view of the scope of geographical contribution to the interface between geography and sociology is restricted to time-geography in this book. The tribute paid to David Harvey's work in earlier works by

this author is missing in the *Constitution of Society*. Because Giddens has used the terms temporality and spatiality, there is no reference to Ed Soja, and Peter Sanders is also excluded in the authors' overlapping of geography and sociology.

In addition, Giddens' incorporation of geographic notions into structuration needs far more attention. Hägerstrand's time-geography was related to the individual's time-space, and interpreted time and space as movement resources only: Giddens, in his time-space distancing and time-space edges, treats the society at large, and refers to time-space as expanding dimensions and as resources of exchange values (i.e., production resources). This focus again exemplifies the difficulty of moving smoothly from micro to macro views, and from the compositional to the contextual, two of Giddens' aims in developing structuration.

Structuration in this book is formulated in similar terms as in the earlier *Contemporary Critique*, although the author has added several neologisms including intersocietal systems, system integration, and world time. The point-summary on p. 281-4 is very helpful, but chapter six repeats chapter one to a large degree. It would have also been informative to learn about the role of technology in the structuration process in capitalist societies. Another important contribution of this book is the "glossary of terminology of structuration theory." Several terms, however, are missing, including agency/human agency and the commodification of time and space. And speaking of definitions, spatiality and temporality are also in need of them. It is interesting to note that Giddens avoided the use of the term "superstructure" in this volume. The glossary leaves the impression that structuration is a new language for social theory. The book also has some inconsistencies between the text, bibliography, and index.

Despite its deficiencies, however, Giddens' latest work in social theory is an important contribution to the field, and its failings demonstrate that the full development of new constructs requires much careful effort.