

of "American," with the work of Canadians, British, and even Israeli geographers cited.

This work will be useful to three groups. First, professional geographers everywhere will find it a ready source, given the extensive bibliographies which append each chapter. This group may find reading any one chapter frustrating as, given space limitations, it is not always possible to provide all the details about research issues which one may want. Second, graduate students will find the book a ready reference for the best search for future research areas. Third, non-geographers will find the volume an ample testimony to the excitement, richness and vitality which characterizes our research and teaching.

If *Geography in America* is to have an impact, the challenges facing the discipline must be quickly met. In the introduction, the editors cite five major challenges: an undercurrent of intolerance for approaches to Geography which differ from tradition and a resistance to change in general; the prevalence of geographic illiteracy which includes both the commonplace issue of general geographic illiteracy and our own intellectual deficiencies in quantitative methods, science, languages and cultures; the divergence of human and physical geography in their search for inspiration; the decline of international and regional interests and expertise; and the diminishing scale at which American geographers conduct their research. These issues must be resolved if Geography is to grow in stature within our Universities and attain credibility in its applied aspects. Widespread discussion and use of *Geography in America* will be an important first step in openly and honestly debating the challenges.

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THE METROPOLIS ERA. VOL. 2, MEGA-CITIES, edited by Mattei Dogan and John D. Kasadra. Newbury Park: CA. Sage Publications, 1988.

This is the second of two volumes dealing with the growing phenomenon of the world's Mega-Cities. The first volume, also edited by Dogan and Kasadra, reviewed various aspects of this phenomenon in more general and comprehensive terms. This volume explores in detail ten giant cities from around the globe.

The selection of cities is interesting, focusing on two of the three poles of the global cultural environments: four cities of the developed Western nations and six of the rapidly urbanized Third World societies. With the exception of Shanghai, presented in this volume as a unique case of the Third World Mega-City, there is no other discussion of large cities belonging to countries with "centrally-planned economies." This is a major shortcoming of the volume.

The volume, edited by a sociologist and a political scientist, incorporates contributions of six sociologists, three geographers, two planners, a political scientist, an economist, an architect, and an historian. This seems to be a very promising selection of writers. Yet, the dominance of the editors, and possibly their terms of reference, as

reflected in their introductory chapter, determines the nature of the papers as socio-political manuscripts, rather than reflecting an integrated multi-disciplinary approach to the Mega-City phenomenon. This is particularly true in reference to the structure and sub-topics of the manuscripts.

Other shortcomings of the volume are the out-of-date statistics and the poorly-supplied cartographics aids (maps). It is difficult to accept that a volume published in 1988 contains data from the 1970s and early 1980s. In only a few cases did the authors present more recent data. Similarly, it is hard to understand why a volume dealing with spatial entities, such as the world's giant urban centers, does not pay attention to the importance of maps. The whole volume contains seven maps: two for Shanghai, two for Lagos and one each for London, Delhi and Tokyo. This means that five Mega-Cities are discussed without any cartographic reference! Moreover, some of the maps do not appear in the right place; most lack any cartographic editing; and none serves the purpose of orienting the reader in finding his way among the extremely detailed geographical information mentioned.

Despite the fact that all papers attempt to follow a pre-determined layout, the volume lacks synthesis. Following a long and exhausting struggle with facts and figures, the reader is left alone to investigate the highlights. Being familiar with the essence of the first volume (see *Geography Research Forum*, Vol. 10, 1990) both volumes deserve a viable integrated analysis.

As in other edited volumes, this one contains some good chapters. Of particular value and quality are Ivan Light's paper on Los Angeles; Emerys Jones' analysis of London; the interesting chapter on Shanghai by Rhoads Murphey; and Martha Schteingart's review of Mexico City.

In addition to the prestructured analysis of the topics making the profile of the city (population, economic base, transport, socio-environmental problems and future policies) several of the papers provide some interesting messages and approaches. Of note are Sternlieb and Hughes analysis of New York within its three circles of influence—the global, the highly-developed nations, and the U.S.A.; Light's delicate and sensitive discussion of the minority structure of Los Angeles; Jones' description of socio-spatial inequality patterns in Inner London; Murphey's evaluation of urban textures and structures of Shanghai as well as his synthesis of the contribution of the Chinese Socialist regime to urban China; and the dilemmas presented by Nagpaul in reference to the urban development priorities of Delhi.

In spite of the inherent deficiencies of the volume it still constitutes a valuable source of information for students and for social scientists dealing with the world's giant cities. However, in order to find the way through the maze of facts and detailed information, it is highly recommended to acquire a good set of maps before reading.

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