

---

## Reviews / Comptes rendus

*The Third World in Perspective*, by H.A. Reitsma and J.M.G. Kleinpenning / J. BARRY RIDDELL 372

*Costa Rica: A Geographical Interpretation in Historical Perspective*, by Carolyn Hall / W. GEORGE LOVELL 373

*Rural Enterprise in Kenya: Development and Spatial Organization of the Nonfarm Sector*, by Donald B. Freeman and Glen B. Norcliffe / RODNEY R. WHITE 374

*Regional Economic Development: Canada's Search for Solutions*, by Donald J. Savoie / JEAN CERMAKIAN 375

*Gentrification of the City*, edited by Neil Smith and Peter Williams / L.S. BOURNE 376

*Satellites et capteurs*, par Jean Cassanet, et *Les données-images*, par Gérard Joly / GAÉTAN L. LESSARD ET JEAN-MARIE M. DUBOIS 377

*The Good Life*, by Yi-Fu Tuan / PETER H.J. NASH 378

*Technological Transitions in Cartography*, by Mark S. Monmonier / C. PETER KELLER 379

### **The Third World in Perspective**

by H.A. REITSMA and J.M.G. KLEINPENNING, Rowman & Allenheld, Totowa, New Jersey, 1985, xxii + 420 pp, paper us \$27.50 (ISBN 0-8476-7450-9)

*The Third World in Perspective* is an outstanding example of a senior undergraduate textbook/reader: it is current, well written, and stimulating. Reitsma and Kleinpenning focus on underdevelopment in the Third World and the role of geographical analysis in the investigation of such deprivation. Their volume gives the lie to simple explanations of global poverty, such as environmental determinism and comparative advantage, and illustrates the complexity of the condition of underdevelopment. There are historical roots, a context is provided by both the physical environment and the cultural milieu, and within this setting factors such as rapid population growth, colonialism, class interests, neo-colonialism, and dependency operate.

In essence, this is a revision of a text published in Holland seven years earlier. It has been rewritten and updated into a challenging and contemporary survey of the issue: the mature writing style differs greatly from most dull and bothersome translations. This transferral from a European setting is exciting in that the plight of the Third World was of only peripheral concern to most North Americans until the horror of Vietnam.

Here, the Third World and its problems are brought into sharp focus: this is the central issue of the book. The study is prefaced by a chapter that provides a novel overview of the recent ties between academic concerns and global events, and the bibliography cites much literature that is unfamiliar to anglophones. This European perspective provides a refreshingly novel overview, even to those familiar with the issues and regions.

The book is especially appealing in that its explanation of underdevelopment is not strongly informed by

either of the colonial-diffusionist or the dependency-Marxist perspectives. This is refreshing, as virtually every other book or journal article related to the Third World is so conditioned, either explicitly or implicitly. It begins by examining the empirical reality of underdevelopment and its expression in both countryside and city (this is the concern of roughly half of the text's pages). Only after this attention to global poverty is the issue of explanatory theory addressed. In this section, both diffusionist and dependence perspectives are considered, and the framework of Lacoste (a geographer whose writing was published in France and is unfortunately little known beyond) is illustrated. With these considerations in mind, the concrete experience of four distinct national situations – Ethiopia, India, Cuba, and Taiwan – indicate divergent developmental paths. These case studies illustrate how historical understanding is vital to academic analysis, and they provide empirical testing grounds for the several theoretical positions.

One might rail against issues not considered in the book: the food crisis, the debt problem, the actions of states, issues related to national integration, and the several separate modes of geographical inquiry. However, these are made trivial when the work is so successful at what it attempts. This reflects the authors' decision to provide penetrating analyses of a limited number of key topics rather than to deal superficially with all aspects of underdevelopment.

After focusing on the meaning and indexing of development, they approach it from a geographic point of view in terms of the dichotomies of town and country, core and periphery, and differentiation and integration. The frame is provided by rural and urban: agriculture is considered in terms of land-holding systems, techniques, and production methods; urban places are discussed in relation to manufacturing, the tertiary sector, housing problems, and urbanization. This is not just a mass of factual information, but rather, a well-organized presentation about problems, causes, and possible avenues of solution.

*The Third World in Perspective* will be of limited appeal to research workers, as it covers well-travelled ground and omits the works of many writers. Also, the peculiar critique of dependence theory is bothersome. However, these are items that can be 'corrected' in classes.

This book will serve a course on the geography of the Third World or will provide a stimulating set of comparisons for students in regional courses focused on parts of the Third World. It penetrates beyond political coups,

famines, economic crises, environmental disasters, and mounting population numbers to address objectively what and why. Geographical analysis pervades the writing but does not dominate. The seminar leader will find the book strong on depiction and case study; but the theoretical material will have to be augmented.

J. BARRY RIDDELL  
Queen's University

### **Costa Rica: A Geographical Interpretation in Historical Perspective**

by CAROLYN HALL, Westview Press, London, 1985, xxi + 348 pp, US \$24.85 (ISBN 0-8133-7128-7)

Over the past several years, political turmoil in Central America has triggered a publishing boom that has made available, for academic and lay consumption, a plethora of material seeking to explain aspects of the region's complex and contradictory reality. Despite (or because of ?) this deluge, our knowledge remains blurred and our understanding shallow. O. Henry's view persists of 'little *opéra-bouffe* nations ... reclined, in the mid-day heat, like some vacuous beauty lounging in a guarded harem.'<sup>1</sup> Such myths reflect ineffective communication and perishable scholarship and are likely to persist as long as there remains little awareness of, or sensitivity to, context and perspective.

Carolyn Hall's *Costa Rica* is therefore to be welcomed, for it is a solid contribution designed to endure. Hall, a professor of geography at the University of Costa Rica, modestly labels her work 'an interpretive synthesis' intended to serve as 'a point of departure for future research' (p 309). It certainly is. In tight, encyclopaedic prose she distils a massive amount of information difficult to obtain outside the country. Her bibliography shows that she reads widely, and the monograph indicates a keen eye for detail in the field.

*Costa Rica* is a six-part regional geography composed in a 'holistic' and 'dynamic' fashion, an approach Hall considers essential in order to portray the nation's unique and remarkable diversity of ecological relationships. Chapter 1 describes the intricacies of the physical landscape and traces with sensitivity how indigenous peoples before contact 'successfully occupied over thousands of years a tropical environment that Europeans and their descendants have exploited so destructively in recent decades' (p 50). Two chapters review the evolution of the cultural landscape from Spanish incursions in the sixteenth century to the arrival of the United Fruit Company in the late nineteenth, and

two more examine rural and urban landscapes. Chapter 6 integrates place variation in a discussion of regional structures identifiable within the boundaries of the nation state.

Just one of several fallacies that Hall dispels concerns the racial mix in Costa Rica. The population has been described as predominantly white Euro-American, and certainly the cultural roots are European or North American. Although blood group evidence indicates a modern population 40 per cent European, 48 per cent Negro, and 12 per cent Indian (p 70), Costa Rica 'falls rather into the category of Mestizo-American, where profound racial mixing was accompanied by the implantation of a European way of life and the development of a culturally homogeneous, Hispanic American society' (p 61).

Hall believes that the establishment of geography as a separate undergraduate discipline in Costa Rican universities and the securing, by Costa Rican citizens, of master's and doctoral degrees in geography from foreign universities have put the country today 'on the threshold of a new era of intellectual development, not only in this field but in the social sciences as a whole' (p 309). Her optimism – and her book – are pleasant signs of change for those of us less accustomed to hope than to despair when confronting the prospects of meaningful academic inquiry in Central America.

#### Reference

1 O. Henry, *Cabbages and Kings* (New York: Doubleday, Page and Company 1909) 9.

W. GEORGE LOVELL  
*Queen's University*

#### **Rural Enterprise in Kenya: Development and Spatial Organization of the Nonfarm Sector**

by DONALD B. FREEMAN and GLEN B. NORCLIFFE, University of Chicago Department of Geography, Research paper No. 214, Chicago, 1985, 180 pp, paper US \$10 (ISBN 0-89065-119-1)

Freeman and Norcliffe present a detailed picture of the rural non-farm sector of Kenya based largely on extensive surveys carried out in 1977. In so doing they help to clarify operations of a neglected part of the Kenyan economy. They begin by asking whether this sector should be regarded as a relic or an embryo. Is it doomed to wither under competitive expansion of urban-based activities as distribution networks improve? Or is it a much-needed engine of growth for the rural economy as

a whole? The authors do not really answer this question, although it is obviously their preference that it will turn out to be the latter. However, in their final chapter ('From Description to Prescription') they seem to doubt the willingness of the central government to undertake reforms that, in the minds of Freeman and Norcliffe, might impoverish the national bourgeoisie.

The opening chapter, in which the relic or embryo question is raised, includes a rapid review of theories of development along the spectrum from revolutionary to gradualist. It is followed by a historical review of the non-farm sector in the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. Happily, the authors are not overly preoccupied with lamenting the penetration of international capital, nor do they naively assume that 'letting the market operate' will initiate an era of rapid growth. This certainly is a pleasant change from much of the recent writing on economic development in Africa. The two central chapters describe the national results of the 1977 survey (referred to somewhat cryptically as the 'IRS Nonfarm Module') and of a more detailed survey in Central Province. Relations of the rural non-farm sector to resource extraction, agriculture, and the urban economy occupy two chapters, followed by a final chapter of recommendations.

It is difficult to write a book on this topic for two reasons. First, the object of study is largely informal. Thus, apart from the survey itself, quantitative data are hard to find. Second, rural non-farm activity is a residual category that includes everything that is not farming, and it is almost impossible to give coherence to a topic defined in this way. *Rural Enterprise in Kenya* does not have the intrinsic structure of a classic geographical study of one activity in one place, such as a recent monograph on small-scale fishing in Senegal.<sup>1</sup> Lack of a clear definition of rural non-farm activity exacerbates the problem. For example, exclusion of resource extraction (meaning forestry in the Kenyan context) is not evident until chapter 5, and not until page 55 is the diversity of activities within the non-farm sector mentioned. But even then one has to look at percentages in the appendix to develop some idea of the relative importance of these activities. The lack of corroborative data also makes interpretation difficult, as the authors admit in their discussion of linkages with other sectors.

Particular readers may be surprised that some important topics receive only passing mention: gender, the demographic explosion, and the environmental crisis, for example. Geographers interested in spatial organization might consider themselves misled by the title, for the distance variable is not analysed at all. But, de-

spite these omissions and the problems inherent in the subject matter, this is a valuable contribution to the literature on African economic development. *Rural Enterprise in Kenya* is an honest book that makes no inference beyond the limits of the data. It raises some intriguing questions for future research, especially regarding intersectoral linkages. In these days when all kinds of ideological extremism are presented as development theory, it is refreshing to read a book that is based on data collected in the field.

### Reference

- 1 Régine Bonnardel *Vitalité de la petite pêche tropicale, pêcheurs de Saint-Louis du Sénégal* (Paris: Mémoires et Documents de Géographie, Editions CNRS 1985)

RODNEY R. WHITE  
University of Toronto

### Regional Economic Development: Canada's Search for Solutions

by DONALD J. SAVOIE, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1986, x + 212 pp, cloth \$25 (ISBN 0-8020-2589-7), paper \$12.50 (ISBN 0-8020-6614-3)

Cet ouvrage du professeur Savoie se veut une synthèse d'un sujet complexe, politiquement controversé et dont les politiciens canadiens (aussi bien au niveau fédéral que provincial) ont fait l'un de leurs chevaux de bataille depuis vingt ans. Pour eux, comme d'ailleurs pour tous les citoyens du Canada (en particulier pour tous ceux qui travaillent sur les problèmes du développement économique régional : économistes, géographes, sociologues, politologues et spécialistes en administration publique), ce livre vient combler une lacune considérable dans un domaine d'importance capitale pour l'avenir du Canada.

En guise d'introduction, la première partie de l'ouvrage (pp 1–18) brosse un tableau rapide des différentes théories du développement régional et des concepts de région et de régionalisme, pour définir ensuite la relation qui existe entre le développement économique régional et les relations fédérales-provinciales. Dans sa deuxième partie (pp 19–104), l'auteur fait un historique détaillé et anecdotique des politiques fédérales en matière de développement économique régional. Enfin, la troisième partie (pp 105–65) consiste en une évaluation critique des politiques fédérales en matière de développement économique régional depuis 1968, date à laquelle fut créé le ministère de l'expansion économi-

que régionale (MEER), jusqu'à l'avènement du gouvernement progressiste-conservateur en 1984. Cette partie se termine par un bref exposé des perspectives d'avenir du développement économique régional du Canada, et par des propositions visant à améliorer le fonctionnement du processus de prise de décision dans ce domaine. La fin de l'ouvrage (pp 167–212) comprend trois annexes (annexe A : bilan financier des accords fédéraux-provinciaux conclus jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1982 ; annexe B : description des programmes de développement industriel et régional (PDIR) ; annexe C : composantes de l'indice de développement utilisé dans la formulation des PDIR), des références, une bibliographie sélective et un index.

Si l'on se réfère au texte proprement dit, il faut tout d'abord noter que plus de la moitié du livre consiste en un récit très détaillé et fort bien documenté de l'évolution des politiques fédérales-provinciales en matière de développement économique régional et de l'impact de ces politiques sur les hauts et les bas des rapports de force fédéraux-provinciaux dans ce domaine de 1968 à 1984, période de ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler 'l'ère Trudeau.' L'auteur fait très bien ressortir à quel point l'idéologie du développement régional a été au cœur du débat politique et constitutionnel au Canada durant cette période. Il souligne également le lien étroit entre les politiques en question et les fluctuations dans la popularité des différents concepts de croissance régionale qui ont été utilisés successivement, et de manière souvent contradictoire, par le gouvernement fédéral pour 'changer de cap' dans ses politiques en matière de développement économique régional. D'autre part, il insiste sur la marque qu'ont laissée les différents ministres responsables du MEER, du MEDER (ministère d'Etat au développement économique et régional) et du MEIR (ministère de l'expansion industrielle régionale), en termes de formulation et de réorientation des politiques. Enfin, il illustre, au moyen de nombreux exemples (en insistant beaucoup sur les dossiers concernant les provinces de l'Atlantique, ce qui s'explique aisément par les origines acadiennes de l'auteur et par les montants considérables qu'ont reçus ces provinces en matière de développement régional), l'impact régional des politiques fédérales de subventions et de péréquation au profit des régions défavorisées du Canada.

Par contre, si l'on peut critiquer ce livre, c'est en raison du peu de place que l'auteur y consacre aux points de vue des gouvernements provinciaux (en particulier ceux de Québec et des provinces de l'Atlantique) et aux politiques de développement régional que ces derniers ont élaborées de concert avec le gouvernement

fédéral, ou à l'encontre de ce dernier. En effet, comme le souligne l'auteur lui-même dans la deuxième partie de l'ouvrage, les vingt dernières années ont été marquées plus souvent par l'affrontement que par l'identité de vues dans ce domaine entre Ottawa et les capitales provinciales. D'autre part, les géographes resteront sur leur faim en lisant la troisième partie du livre ; en effet, on aurait pu s'attendre à y trouver une analyse plus détaillée de la répartition géographique des subventions fédérales en matière de développement économique régional. Enfin, dans les dernières pages du texte, l'auteur esquisse des solutions sans aller au bout de sa logique. Aussi peut-on lui suggérer de consacrer un futur ouvrage à une discussion plus approfondie de ces solutions.

Malgré ces quelques réserves, il demeure que l'ouvrage du professeur Savoie représente une contribution significative à la littérature canadienne en matière de développement économique régional.

JEAN CERMAKIAN

*Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières*

### **Gentrification of the City**

edited by NEIL SMITH and PETER WILLIAMS, Allen and Unwin Inc., Boston, 1986, xii + 257 pp, cloth us \$29.95 (ISBN 0-04-301201-9), paper us \$13.95 (ISBN 0-04-301202-7)

Students of the city have been waiting for several years for a comprehensive assessment of gentrification. This fascinating but still ill-defined process, whereby middle- and upper-income households invade, renovate, and ultimately dominate low-income neighbourhoods in the inner city, has now become a central concern in urban research. This volume, widely advertised since 1984, attempts to fill this void. The editors, both acknowledged authorities on the subject, are ideally suited to undertake this task. Their efforts, however, are only partially successful.

The volume consists of a substantive introduction and conclusion, prepared by the editors, and nine contributed papers. The starting point, as might be expected, is the need to move beyond orthodox explanations of gentrification (whatever they are) toward a broader interpretation, based on capital and class, of the restructuring or urban space within advanced capitalist economies. On the whole the editors see gentrification as a massive return of capital to the city, with capital defined as the key instrument of ruling-class domination of the housing market and thus of the poor. The latter are displaced, only to have their housing problems recreated else-

where. Gentrification, it seems, is essentially class warfare.

Four explanatory factors for this phenomenon are emphasized in the conclusion: the new international division of labour, which has deepened existing social inequalities and nurtured the emergence of a new wealthy class; the changing functions of cities, notably the expansion of the service sector; the continuing economic crisis; and the supporting role of the state. These are all plausible as conditioning factors, but, in my opinion, are not sufficient as either descriptions or explanations of why, where, or through whom gentrification occurs.

The task of responding to these issues is left to the contributors. Three initial essays examine the major forms and directions of urban restructuring (Smith), the ideology and epistemology of gentrification (Beauregard), and the role of class identity and consolidation in gentrification in Britain, the United States, and Australia (Williams). Subsequent papers describe the contribution of design and life-style aesthetics to gentrification in Melbourne (Jager), flat (i.e. tenure) conversion in London (Hamnett and Randolph), the linkages between housing abandonment and gentrification in Manhattan (Marcuse), and the extent of gentrification-induced displacement in the United States (Legates and Hartman).

One other informative paper – by Cybriwsky, Ley, and Western – departs from the overall framework in approach and vocabulary and compares the origins of two inner-city 'revitalized' communities, Society Hill in Philadelphia and False Creek in Vancouver. The latter, as readers are aware, is primarily a redevelopment scheme (and a successful one) re-using derelict non-residential land) and is thus an example of urban revitalization rather than of gentrification. This paper illustrates the importance of local politics and of individual agents of change, relative to broad structural forces, in shaping the process of revitalization.

Do these valuable papers add up to more than their individual contributions? The answer is debatable. The editors, in attempting to define a comprehensive theoretical framework, have achieved the opposite – a narrowing of the problem focus – through excessive dependence on structuralist arguments. The papers themselves are broader in scope, richer in detail, and more flexible in their interpretation. Also missing is a sense of the dynamic context, the complex and concrete urban reality, in which gentrification operates as but one process of change. How does gentrification fit into this dynamic context? What are the elements linking different forms of neighbourhood change, housing market

dynamics, demographic change, and evolving life-styles, as well as public and private institutional behaviour? These questions are not, as the editors suggest, trivial.

Since *Gentrification of the City* will be widely read and frequently quoted, two further notes of caution are warranted. One is the danger of a lemming-like pursuit of such a trendy subject as gentrification by an entire cohort of students. Exclusive focus on this phenomenon, especially in isolation from its immediate context, may redirect limited scholarly resources, and public attention, from the more serious problems facing the vast majority of needy households and neighbourhoods. Marcuse clearly makes this connection in his study of Manhattan.

Second, from my viewpoint, the scale, impact, durability, and complexity of gentrification have been seriously exaggerated. It is limited on any scale to a few major cities, including the places of residence of the editors (and this reviewer), and to a few neighbourhoods within those cities. The process has also probably peaked. Many of the contributing factors, such as demographic transition, have largely worked themselves out, and the number of suitable neighbourhoods has diminished.

Nor is the process entirely new. People have always moved into and out of diverse neighbourhood settings. Canadian readers (at least those over age 40) may also recall that a major report on Canada's needs and resources (Wilson et al 1965), prepared before the term *gentrification* was coined in Britain, noted a return of many middle-income households to older neighbourhoods in Canada's cities. The report referred to the process, equally inappropriately, as reurbanization, a term that has only recently reappeared in the European literature. This is not to imply that class is unimportant as a social construct or as an explanation of gentrification. Rather, it is only one of many important considerations. A class-based analysis does not in itself explain gentrification or tell us why that process (however defined) occurs in some cities and neighbourhoods but not in others.

In the final analysis *Gentrification of the City* is an impressive, well-written, and useful anthology. Subject to the stated reservations, it should be read by all those who are interested in the evolving social and residential fabric of cities and the future of inner-city neighbourhoods. The policy agenda for those neighbourhoods, however, is still to be written.

L.S. BOURNE  
University of Toronto

### Satellites et capteurs

par JEAN CASSANET, Paradigme, Caen, France, 1985, 128 pp, 80 FF (ISBN 2-86878-008-3)

### Les données-images

par GÉRARD JOLY, Paradigme, Caen, France, 1985, 133 pp, 98 FF (ISBN 2-86878-007-5)

'Télé-détection satellitaire,' collection dirigée par Fernand Verger, se présente en petits fascicules abondant, dans un ordre structuré, des thèmes précis de la télé-détection par satellite. Visiblement orientée vers la compréhension, le traitement et l'application des données satellitaires, cette collection possède un style direct. Presqu'un ouvrage de vulgarisation mais davantage un outil pédagogique, le propos de cette collection est accessible à l'étudiant en formation et au professionnel dont les connaissances de la télé-détection sont limitées. Le chercheur aguerri y verra plutôt un guide ou un aide-mémoire pratique puisque ces fascicules, ceux parus du moins, récupèrent une masse appréciable d'informations parsemées dans la littérature, surtout anglophone, ou dans des ouvrages très techniques publiés par les organismes responsables de la commercialisation des données des différents satellites. Les deux premiers numéros, l'un sur les satellites et capteurs, l'autre sur les données-images, ont respectivement pour auteur Jean Cassanet et Gérard Joly.

Les titres des fascicules répondent parfaitement du contenu de ceux-ci et le lecteur bénéficie d'un index pour une recherche rapide de l'information. Toutefois, l'absence totale de références dans ces fascicules est certainement source de frustrations et entache la qualité de la collection. Une prochaine mise à jour pourrait corriger cette carence sans toutefois enlever le caractère manuel au profit d'un ouvrage scientifique.

*Satellites et capteurs* se présente en deux parties. La première est consacrée aux généralités sur les satellites artificiels et les capteurs, incluant quelques éléments de mécanique céleste et quelques notions relatives à la mise en orbite d'un satellite. Soulignons, en rapport avec cela, qu'il est l'un des rares ouvrages à s'y attarder. Dans la deuxième partie, l'auteur passe en revue une douzaine de missions satellitaires. Les satellites météorologiques, multispectraux et radars, les laboratoires spatiaux et même la navette : il semble tous y être, de la première génération de satellite à la plus récente. On y retrouve, en outre, les caractéristiques orbitales de chaque satellite, ainsi que la fiche technique (des performances) du ou des capteurs embarqués à bord. C'est une compilation relativement exhaustive que l'on ne retrouve pas souvent dans un même ouvrage.

Les données-images renseigné dans un premier temps sur les sources et les types de données satellitaires et détaille, dans un second temps, les données des satellites mentionnés dans le fascicule précédent. En bref, le lecteur, en défilant les pages, suit le cheminement de celui que veut acquérir une image satellite de type précis et qui veut connaître la codification de l'information sur le médium imposé ou désiré (disquette, bande magnétique, disque rigide). On y passe les missions LANDSAT, NOAA, HCMM, NIMBUS-7, SEASAT-1, SIR-A, SIR-B, et SPOT.

L'éditeur prévoit une mise à jour régulière ; les ouvrages présentés ici sont d'ailleurs la mise à jour numéro un des volumes publiés (peut-être à faible tirage) en 1984. Il est aussi prévu deux autres numéros sur les traitements des fichiers-images (G. Joly) et sur la cartographie topographique et thématique (P. Foin), mais on ne sait le nombre de fascicules que comptera la collection complète ni le rythme de parution.

Comme la facture est de qualité moyenne, comme le coût est élevé et comme il y a interdépendance entre les fascicules, le lecteur sérieux devra acheter toute la collection, ce qui peut apparaître trop coûteux. Cette collection sera donc une collection de bibliothèque ou de laboratoire mais ne pourra peut-être pas être recommandée comme manuel de cours.

GAËTAN L. LESSARD ET JEAN-MARIE M. DUBOIS  
Université de Sherbrooke

### The Good Life

by YI-FU TUAN, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986, vii + 191 pp, cloth us \$19.95 (ISBN 0-299-10540-7)

When Yi-Fu Tuan, John Kirtland Wright Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, received an honorary doctorate in Environmental Studies (DES) at the University of Waterloo in 1985, he was cited as an 'example of the widest range and highest quality in scholarship in Environmental Studies, whose neo-Taoist approach to the understanding of earth and anthropos has not only sharpened the sensitivity of his colleagues and students, but has made the subject of active interest to the public.' This newest little volume continues the tradition of his nine previous monographs and books, including *Dominance and Affection: The Making of Pets* (Yale University Press, 1984). Tuan has come from topophilia to vitaphilia but is still grounded strongly on terra firma!

The book is short — an evening's comfortable 'read.'

Yet it is rich: It gives more than just the flavour of the multitudes of thoughts of moral philosophers, learned historians, cultured cultural geographers, and illustrious poets: it gives nourishing detail. And the general public, hoping to be provoked and entertained, will also be satisfied. Some may even consider the little volume to be poetry in prose.

*The Good Life* is divided logically into major themes, of which the individual chapters are composed. After an introduction and an analysis of individual experiences, cultural models are examined: Eden, farm life, pastoral nomadism, hunters and warriors, comfort versus splendour, bourgeois interior, and city. The next focus is stability and continuity: nature, human bonds, tradition, and artefacts. This is followed by growth and progress: space and community; and by austerity and truth: simplicity and freedom, hard truths, bourgeois sorrows, and urbanity — defects of excellence. Logically, at the end, we read about old age and the good life: dim eyes, clear vision, delusion and hope, and poverty and death. Then there is a summary and some stimulating pages of notes that show Tuan's omnivorous appetite in literature from an amazing number of sources from many lands. Meticulously there are no notes, but a workable index.

What can one say about a former geomorphologist/climatologist who can almost bring tears to your eyes as he writes about joys and sorrows and the final slide into oblivion? Here we have a scholar who has the scientist's grasp of the physical landscape, who understands the moral flavour in the arguments of the philosophers, and who has the compassion of a deeply religious person concerned with the welfare of the individual. Tuan shows that the good life cannot be confined to direct experience, which is too limiting. And he also clearly demonstrates that the good life implies choice and a habit of reflection — to be able 'to confront the world's horror without denying its magnificence' (p. 150).

Is *The Good Life* a 'geography book' — that is, a book on geography? The word 'geography' is never mentioned, if I remember correctly, although some geographers are (for example, Carl Sauer offering the attractive image of a bilateral protohuman family; p. 28). The word 'epistemology' is absent, although a recurrent theme of the volume is that a world 'imaginatively appropriate can seem more real than the one with which our senses are directly engaged' (p. 160). 'Phenomenology' and 'existentialism' are not mentioned specifically, but Tuan quotes Albert Camus, who wrote admiringly of the young men of Algiers who 'wagered in the flesh, knowing they were to lose' (p. 164). So this is not a book for pedants. On rare occasions Tuan's de-

lightful subtlety gets tripped up and leaks a minor blemish, such as the inappropriate term '*practical futurologist*' rather than the more felicitous '*practicing futurist*' (p. 157). Importantly, the volume engages the reader in intimate conversation throughout. Tuan talks about life's most salient issues and reveals them layer by layer. *The Good Life* is good!

Tuan states at the end of his introduction that his book is also clearly an argument for liberal education, based not on some vague general principle of broadening the mind or on the desire to preserve a great heritage, but on demonstrating how such an education necessarily affects the nature of our experience, the spaciousness and colour of our lived world, and hence the quality of our daily existence. It is fashionable to lament that so very, very few books are written by geographers for the general public. But here is a wonderful book that you can give to a person you love or respect on an appropriate occasion!

PETER H.J. NASH  
University of Waterloo

### **Technological Transitions in Cartography**

by MARK S. MONMONIER, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1985, xix + 282 pp, cloth us \$25 (ISBN 0-299-10070-7)

*Technological Transitions in Cartography* examines significant inventions and technological changes in cartography from ancient times to the present. Following a general introduction to the rate of technological progress in mapping, Monmonier focuses on the map as an aid to navigation. Commencing with the early charts of the Marshall Islanders, the reader is led rapidly forward to identifying location by satellites, using Doppler shift, and the routing of unmanned cruise missiles. A chapter on surveying runs from ancient Babylonian surveys of the Nile Valley through to aerotriangulation, inertial positioning, and the function of geodesy as a public utility. On aerial reconnaissance and land coverage inventories, history starts with the nineteenth-century expeditions of Lewis and Clark in the United States and continues with administrative policies and social reasons for introducing various types of surveys. It con-

cludes with Landsat's multispectral scanner system, image analysis, and image enhancement. Chinese censuses, dating back to before 2000 BC, introduce Monmonier's section on decision support systems; it continues with more recent censuses, national atlases, data banks, DIME files, Turnkey systems, and data structure (both raster and vector). Monmonier pleads for the increased co-operation necessary to develop compatible programs and synchronized data. In a final historical traverse, the reader is taken from the earliest days of lithography, through photography, to the demise of the paper map in favour of digital maps, graphic hardware, and electronic data communications. Monmonier gives particular attention to the challenges of adapting to electronic technologies, especially to accessibility and security.

Monmonier seeks to 'explain to students why my introductory course in cartography pays little attention to drafting maps with pen and ink' and to indicate 'the extent to which computers and other electronic technology will alter the form of the map, increase map use, and reduce the skill and training required to obtain a decent looking, convincing cartographic display' (p xvii). Unfortunately, he does not go far beyond the argument that cartography is no more drafting than journalism is typing or chemistry is cooking. Perhaps teaching should move from an emphasis on drawing ability to an increased focus on design and the role of mapping in public policy and management, but why we should no longer bother teaching university students the skill of drawing with pen and ink is not explained. The usefulness of *Technological Transitions in Cartography* as an introductory text should be questioned, but it is an ideal text in advanced cartography, bridging the gap between an introduction and a specialized course in automated cartography, computer graphics, and geographical information systems. It makes excellent reading for those wishing to update, and place in historical context, their knowledge of cartography. The chapters are well complemented by an extensive bibliography, a glossary of terms, and a subject index. I very much enjoyed reading the book but wished that many of the topics had been covered in greater detail.

C. PETER KELLER  
University of Victoria