

moves to the era when, in the name of comprehensive and equitable welfare services for everyone, a centralistic system of service provision was installed, continues to a third era, when it became apparent that the Welfare State ideals were not exactly reaching everyone, and ends with the modifications in the original concept, with the introduction of 'neo-corporatism', i.e., privatization, in fields of service which used to be within the public domain. These four different eras brought about different pressures on the neighborhood level, and in turn created four different types of neighborhood organizations that had to cope with them. The book analyzes these processes and organization types. Surprisingly or not, it appears that similar overall conditions in Canada and Israel bring about similar responses and similar types of neighborhood organizations. This conclusion can be considered a most important contribution of the book.

While the book focuses on neighborhood (geographic community) organizations and not on other types of citizens' grass-roots organizations, it does not take into account the major 'explosion' of such activity in the past 10-15 years, what Salamon (1994) terms the 'Global Associational Revolution', suggesting in effect that the growth in associational activity of *all* types is not limited to one country or continent, nor even to the developed Western World. The organizing principle for such associations is no longer the geographic community; it can be a life condition, handicap or other predicament, or any other common interest. Some of the associations, as we know, have been quite successful in mobilizing resources and changing policies and public attitudes. Modern communication technologies, no doubt, have greatly aided such organizations, which could not have existed in the 1950s or 1960s. Does this development signal the end of neighborhood organizations? Probably not, as the neighborhood still serves as an organizing framework for several very important functions in the lives of people. How will these developments impact on neighborhood organizations? Future studies should address this issue.

#### Reference

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WOMEN AND THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION by Tamar Mayer (editor).

London: Routledge, 1994.

This collection of essays highlights women's lives in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It focuses on women in both Israeli and Palestinian societies during a continuing national struggle that has often been characterized by violence, in particular since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the

Golan Heights after the 1967 war. Since both societies are deeply affected by the national conflict, and women play a secondary role in it, women's lives are often a forgotten facet of the conflict.

The book emphasizes women with divided loyalties. Their loyalties to their own people unite them with the men, whereas their loyalties to other women motivate them to advance women's cooperation toward peace. This duality is expressed differently among three groups of women. While the exclusion of Israeli Jewish women from combat projects men into the national security debate, women are expected to encourage their sons, brothers and spouses to take part in military actions. This produces personal anxiety and marginalizes women's opinions. Israeli Arab women and their male peers demand equality within Israeli society for themselves and national rights for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. However, the double standards of the males in respect to women's equality is usually overlooked, especially in the private sphere. Palestinian women in the Occupied Territories are more concerned with national liberation. This often includes social equality, but their own emancipation has been negligible and is rejected by Islamic fundamentalists. National agendas are therefore determined by the political conflict, while social gender relations are put aside.

This volume consists of eleven articles, most which have been written by women who are peace activists. As often occurs in such collections, some papers merit greater attention than others. The most notable papers include Semyonov's analysis of Palestinian women in the labor force, Sharoni's interesting essay on the impact of military violence on gender relations in Israeli civilian society, and Assaf's paper pointing to the ways in which Palestinian women are affected by environmental problems caused by political upheavals.

The virtue of this volume lies in making women visible in a particular political conflict. However, the lack of a theoretical base is disturbing. Thus, an understanding of how military occupation has determined women's lives, which should provide the context for these specific power and cultural relations, is usually missing (the review of Kofman and Peak, 1990, could provide a starting point in this instance).

Most writing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not value-free, and this volume provides a further example. Although the editing of this book has produced a work that is less misleading than in other cases (see Kliot and Waterman, 1990, for a detailed discussion and examples), it undoubtedly creates ambiguities in an attempt to escape disagreements. It does not reflect the wide variety of women's political and feminist opinions within each society. Several other petty examples can be found in the opening chapter which sets the context. The biased presentation which cannot be ignored, especially by geographers, is clearly demonstrated in the map of Israel and the Occupied Territories in 1993 (facing p. 1). Important Israeli locations, such as Tel-Aviv, Israel's largest urban core, are absent, whereas even minor Palestinian locations are carefully located.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, this book could be useful for undergraduate social science students as it introduces the reader to part of women's activities in this particular conflict and emphasizes the complexity of women's lives in respect to their social standing and demands for equality.

#### References

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FULL CIRCLES: GEOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN OVER THE LIFE COURSE by Cindi Katz and Janice Monk (editors). London: Routledge, 1993.

*Full Circles: Geographies of Women over the Life Course* takes us into an exciting exploration of the various meanings of *space* for women in different stages of life and in different cultural, economic and political contexts. By exploring the different *geographies of women*, the book addresses the experience of *transition* in women's lives, especially the transition between production and reproduction.

This viewpoint adds another and perhaps missing dimension to the already known analysis of time-space in geography: not only the daily, weekly or monthly movements, but also the longer, periodical movements of the life course that actually change the perception and use of space. This spectrum of analysis is also widened by looking at women not only as mothers, wives and workers, but also as daughters, grandmothers, aunts and so on, thereby emphasizing different and sometimes unfamiliar perspectives on women's lives.

The chapters can be read in sequence or, as the authors suggest, the reader may 'hopscotch'. I choose to review the book by using the three main themes that run through it: the different perceptions of space, the nature of transition, and the flexibility required from women in their life course in different parts of the world, depending on cultural, class, economic, and ethnic dimensions.

The journey starts for me with the theme of employment. Hanson and Pratt, Christensen, Fagnani and Rosenblum write about space and the life course as related to employment in the US and Europe, where production and reproduction interact. Hanson and Pratt and Rosenblum argue that spaces for married women are the most constrained, because of family commitments and problems of distance from the workplace, a point which is also highlighted by Fagnani in discussing dual career couples in Paris and its suburbs. Rosenblum also argues that this is more true of married mothers than of single mothers.