

BOOK REVIEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT by Timothy Beatley, David J. Brower and Anna K. Schwab. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1994.

Coastal environments present the world with a bounty of tangible and intangible economic, recreational, and aesthetic benefits and provide a wealth of resources to humankind. Coastal regions are home to an intensively growing population and serve as a very sensitive and, lately, very often endangered habitat to many marine and land species. At the end of the 20th century, due to enormous human pressures and a lack of proper management, the very attributes that make coastal areas important and attractive are deteriorating and being destroyed.

An Introduction to Coastal Zone Management is an important and comprehensive introduction to the subject. This book is one of the first constructive works helping to introduce professionals, students and the wider public to the new field of coastal zone management.

The seven chapters following the detailed introduction deal with the physical and dynamic aspects of the coast, coastal pressure and management issues, the management framework, federal coastal policy, state coastal management programs, regional planning and ecosystem management, and local coastal management. The book concludes with a chapter on future directions in U.S. coastal management.

Readers interested in the physical characteristics and natural processes present in the coastal environment will find a brief introduction in Chapter Two. Any attempt at coastal management must begin with an understanding of the physical elements of the coastal environment: a definition of the coastal zone, types of coastlines, and different coastal habitats, such as beaches, barrier islands, estuaries and coastal marshes; important coastal forces, such as wind, waves, and currents; and the resulting processes, such as sediment transport and the effects of storms and sea level rise.

The third chapter outlines the pressures on coastal areas from land use patterns and human alteration of the coastal environment, due to patterns of ownership and control. The problems and potential problems lead to a presentation of policy issues and the planning options needed to address them. Some of the policy issues discussed include shoreline erosion and sea level rise, coastal storm mitigation, strategic retreat or coastal reinforcement, protection of coastal wetlands and coastal waters, biodiversity and habitat conservation, the coast as a recreation commons,

and various socio-economic issues, such as private property versus the public interest, urban design and social equity in coastal planning. The various policy issues are addressed at federal, state, regional, and local levels.

The next several chapters briefly lay out the main contours of the framework, the extant types of coastal management programs and policies, and the extent to which they are successful or effective in accomplishing coastal management goals.

Chapter Four provides a broad overview of the coastal management framework in the United States. It shows the fragmentation of responsibilities and authorities among federal, state, and local government bodies, and the interplay with other non-governmental stakeholder groups.

Chapter Five briefly reviews several of the primary federal programs, laws, and policies which influence the coastline. It discusses the effectiveness of the federal programs and shows the lack of integrated national planning and the lack of a mechanism for coordinating the many different federal programs and policies.

The following chapter deals with state coastal management programs and the collaboration and partnership between the federal government and state governments. It shows that while the stringency of the coastal management varies substantially from state to state, significant progress has been made since the 1970s in ensuring safer and less destructive coastal development patterns.

Chapters Seven and Eight deal with regional and local perspectives and discuss the primary benefits of these approaches. Very often coastal ecosystems and coastal problems extend beyond local (and often state) jurisdiction boundaries. Regional management and planning approaches can help to overcome this difficulty. The book emphasizes that regional, ecosystem-oriented strategies should constitute an integral element in effective coastal management in the United States and elsewhere.

The last, concluding chapter makes it clear that any progress toward sustainable coastal development will require the concerted efforts of all jurisdictional levels: federal, state, regional, and local. However, this chapter makes it clear that the book addresses the U.S. market and the American system.

Produced in an inexpensive, paperback format, this book treats the various issues and aspects of coastal zone management in a comprehensive way. Each chapter is followed by a short summary and conclusions. Relative to the size of the book and its format, the index is detailed, and the bibliography at the end of the book gives the reader a useful list for further reading.

Unfortunately, in spite of the multi-level approach toward coastal zone management, there are some major weaknesses in the book. The fact that the authors are all located in departments of planning or regional studies is reflected in its content. It might be expected that such a book would include chapters or more information about ecosystem management, more attention to geological and geomorphological aspects, and chapters regarding engineering activities and the relationship between coastal problems and hard or soft engineering. The issues of education and public awareness are neglected as well and demand special treatment. The same goes for information concerning environmental economics or project and post-project ap-

praisal. The biggest drawback for the non-American reader is the fact that the book addresses only American readers, as it is entirely focused on coastal zone management issues in the U.S.A.—a limitation not reflected in the book's title. Thus, some of the chapters dealing with philosophical aspects, policy issues, and managerial tools are not directly applicable to other countries. The same exclusively American focus is present in the examples and case studies, and a more appropriate title might have been, *An Introduction to American Coastal Zone Management*.

Daniel Hartmann

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
and Achva College

GEOGRAPHY OF TRANSPORTATION by Edward J. Taaffe, Howard L. Gauthier, and Morton E. O'Kelly. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2nd edition, 1996.

First published in 1973, Taaffe and Gauthier's *Geography of Transportation* became the main textbook in transportation geography courses. Despite a world-wide demand for textbooks in the field, most of the books published since 1973 were not comprehensive enough to provide a full geographical view of the study of transport. A partial and essential contribution was Hanson's 1986 volume on the geography of urban transportation, which complemented the basic textbook.

While the field of transport geography made only slow progress since the mid-1970s, the field of transport planning has already changed a few research paradigms and branched out, especially delving more deeply into transportation logistics, transportation behavior, transport modelling, and transportation policy.

This new second edition of *Geography of Transportation* has doubled in size. Both theoretical and empirical material from the 'pure' transportation field have been added. The pioneering authors, E. Taaffe and H. Gauthier, welcomed aboard a third co-writer, M. O'Kelly, who helped to expand the book which is now divided into three parts.

The first part, entitled 'Introduction to Transportation Geography', includes six chapters. The first two chapters deal with the basic notions of spatial organization, both physical and economic. The remaining four chapters describe several aspects of the U.S. transportation system including its evolution, current organizational and operational trends, and selected dimensions of urban transportation. Characteristics of urban travel behavior are still missing. The second edition of such an important textbook should have also included non-U.S. examples. The over-emphasis of American situations somewhat reduces the general applicability of the book.

The second part provides an introduction to transport analysis. It covers four topics: spatial interaction models (mainly the gravity model), network analysis, allocation models, and a newly introduced model on the urban transport planning system. The discussion of the transport planning model is brief, describing the basic techniques used but supplying very few examples.