

BETWEEN CITY AND SUBURB: URBAN RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN ISRAEL by Amiram Gonen. Aldershot: Avebury Press, 1995.

Patterns of residential segregation are marked in Israel. These include economic, ethnic and national patterns of segregation, within and between settlements. As the process of state building continues, so too do residential patterns and differentiation become even more marked than in the past. As society becomes more affluent however, what were patterns of ethnic and national segregation have now been joined by powerful processes of economic differentiation and the emergence of a new middle class landscape.

In his book, Amiram Gonen describes the residential mosaic of Israel through time and place. This ranges from the impact of the pre-state residential patterns and the mass immigration which followed the establishment of the State of Israel and the changing ethnic structure of the population. The impact of war on these patterns, resulting in the outflow of Palestinian refugees and the subsequent influx of the new Jewish refugees into the vacated homes, is an important theme in the historical discussion.

Three major patterns of residential segregation are identified. Economics and ethnicity are intertwined in the separate residential patterns of many Jews from Ashkenazic (European) and Sephardic (North African and Asian) extraction. This is particularly marked with respect to the development towns scattered throughout the Israeli periphery, as well as the poorer neighborhoods of the larger towns. The general increase in welfare and living standards over the past fifty years has partially closed this gap, as upwardly mobile second and third generation members of the Sephardic communities move into the middle class and suburban neighborhoods. However, the spatial concentration of these groups within the poorer towns and neighborhoods remains strong and this, in turn, is reflected in the continuation of ethnic politics and pressure groups within the political and electoral system.

A second pattern of residential segregation is that between the religious and secular populations of the country. This has increased during the past forty years, as the religious and orthodox groups have undergone significant demographic growth. They have largely opted to reside within their own separate neighborhoods, within which they are able to create their own institutions such as schools and synagogues. Within the larger towns, especially Jerusalem, these neighborhoods have grown at the expense of the surrounding areas, and are often viewed in alarm by the secular majority population of the country.

Gonen also discusses the patterns of residential segregation between Arabs and Jews. Most settlements in Israel are mono-ethnic in that they are occupied by either Arab or Jewish inhabitants. The main areas of Arab spatial concentration are in the Northern Galilee region, the Triangle Region around the old 'green line boundary' separating Israel from the West Bank, and the Bedouin communities of the Northern Negev. In addition, there are five 'mixed' towns within Israel, consisting of both Arab and Jewish population. Here too, the residents are highly segregated within

their own neighborhoods and quarters, the degree of segregation increasing during the past two decades as much of the Jewish population has moved out to middle class suburbs and exurban communities.

Recent processes of suburbanization have also resulted in new forms of residential segregation. The many exurban communities which have been established during the past two decades have created a new middle class, similar to that found in suburban and exurban communities throughout the western world. As society becomes more affluent, the socio-economic gaps between 'haves' and 'have nots' have increased and are increasingly reflected in living patterns and housing densities. This is part of the post-Zionist landscape which is slowly evolving within Israel and which is the result of universal socio-economic, rather than unique state building and Zionist, processes at operation.

Gonen adequately describes these varied and dynamic processes of change. He argues that what was a simple spatial structure in the 1970s has evolved into a complex mosaic. He attributes this particularly to the effects of suburbanization and the emergence of the new middle class, rather than to the continued, and in many cases increased, levels of ethnic segregative patterns, both amongst the Jewish population and between the Jewish and Arab populations. The release of agricultural lands within the rural sector for the expansion of the urban and metropolitan hinterlands will only serve to further these patterns of economic spatial segregation.

The book lacks an adequate theoretical frame. It is a book about Israel and the local patterns of residential segregation. Yet there is much to be learnt from the vast literature on segregation within the western world. It is precisely because of the move away from a unique to a post-Zionist landscape which makes the Israeli case study even more fitting for comparative analysis with other societies. Notwithstanding this fault, the book is an important text for students interested in the changing residential patterns of what remains a highly dynamic population.

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LEISURE/TOURISM GEOGRAPHIES, PRACTICE AND GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE by David Crouch. London and New York: Routledge, 1999.

This book presents an impressive collection of ethnographic and theory-oriented articles that illuminate various aspects of spatial practices in the context of leisure and tourism. The volume consists of one introduction chapter and eighteen articles that are contributed mostly by well-established scholars in the study fields of leisure and tourism from various countries, including the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Poland and the U.S.A. The articles cover a wide variety of leisure/tourism practices, such as gardening, caravanning, yachting, photographing, gazing, eating, smelling, sensing sexual relations, and engaging in virtual experiences. These practices are examined in different leisure and tourism spaces in the city and the countryside, including theme parks, national parks, sports stadiums,