

everything is no more than a matter of personal outlook and therefore the importance of facts is negligible. For this reason, apparently, he completely conceals the existence of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel and raises the claim that the occupation of the West Bank is of extreme importance for Israel because it receives eighty percent of its water from that area. This erroneous statement is all the more amazing in the light of the author's own unfounded assertion that, 'the West Bank is a region which is predominantly dry upland...' (p. 241). It would seem that this methodology is also the reason that the book hardly mentions the issue of 'virtual water' (that is, a hidden source of water contained in agricultural products (Allan, 1998), although it is an important source of water in some countries of the Middle East and has far-reaching consequences for their development and their political and social stability.

In addition, there is his portrayal of the relatively minor border disagreement between Saudi Arabia and Yemen as one of the most complicated international conflicts, which, nevertheless, was resolved a year later (p. 262); the fragile nature of relations between neighboring Israel and Egypt (p. 216); and the marginal importance of the threat of Islamic fundamentalism (p. 302). These illustrations of ungrounded assessments and interpretations suggest inconsistency with regard to the rule that demands the presentation of fundamental, familiar and agreed facts as the basis for interpretation as well as the introduction of a political outlook in place of profound and balanced scientific analysis. Any of these features alone and particularly their combined existence in one book casts a dark shadow on its reliability and, more importantly, on its scientific credibility.

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TIMESPACE: GEOGRAPHIES OF TEMPORALITY edited by Jon May and Nigel Thrift. London and New York: Routledge, 2001

The relationships between space (geography) and time (history) have been one of the central issues in geographical discourse from its early steps as a modern discipline. During the 1970s, new concepts of space were developed in human and social geography, and the relationships between time and space(s) were re-examined.

One formulation was Hagerstrand's time-geography, which proposed a combined conceptualization of a single four-dimensional time-space system and offered very flexible (individual- and group-based) scale for geographical research. Time-geography subsequently gained a great deal of attention within the field of geography as well as in other disciplines. For example, Giddens has used it to elaborate a social time-space framework for his social theory, alongside the concepts of Heidegger and others.

However, as the editors of this volume argue, many, including those who advocate the interweaving of time and space, relate to them as if they could be treated separately. This volume offers the notion of TimeSpace so as to move away from such distinctions and as a point of departure from a four-dimensional time-space concept into a multi-dimensional concept of TimeSpace(s). The collection of articles in this volume demonstrates the importance of this step by re-examining the 'standard narrative' of time-space compression. Usually, a generalization of globalization is used to describe the time-space compression. In contrast, this volume considers various aspects of uneven, multi-oriented, discontinuous, fragile and complex TimeSpace(s) to reveal processes that exist behind the standard narrative.

The introduction of this book is used as a vital corridor for comprehending the notions and ideas that appear in the articles that follow. For convenience only, the volume is divided into two parts: the first part deals with 'Practicing (Making Living) of TimeSpace', and the second part, with 'Imagining (Living Thinking) of TimeSpace'.

In the first part the articles re-examine changes in TimeSpace systems that follow technological progress and describe their influence upon various domains. Hetherington explores early ideas of modernization and progress, and Frow looks into some of the consequences of imposing these ideas upon other, quite different understandings of time (those held by the indigenous peoples of Australia, for example). Johnson's focus is on the various ways in which these ideas have been used in narratives of nation and national identity. Following Hetherington's concern with 'Industrial Time' (the substantive focus of his essay being the early factories of eighteenth-century England) the remaining essays in Part I (by Stein, Shaw, Davies, Wolch and DeVerteuil) are each concerned with some notion of TimeSpace emerging out of the intersecting domains of instruments and devices and systems of social discipline. Stein is exercising with charting a more sophisticated account of those changes usually described as part of a thesis of time-space compression; Shaw, Davies, and Wolch and DeVerteuil elaborate on the various ways in which people in differing positions of social power negotiate those changes.

The overall picture arising from these articles reveals a very complicated and uneven reality of time-space compression. Rather than a uni-directional movement, there are multiple processes that are neither unified and continuous nor uni-directional. A very different picture thus emerges, which is much more detailed, diverse and, in many cases, contradictory to the standard narrative of time-space compression.

The second part of the book deals with 'Imagining (Living Thinking) of TimeSpace', or more accurately, of affecting and reflecting upon TimeSpace(s) in connection with time-space compression. Some articles (Game, Metcalfe and Ferguson) turn to phenomenology, some (Gren) to a reworking of time-geography. In his chapter, Crang reviews the attempts of those working from a variety of perspectives to unpack the lived experience of the city and its rhythms, including Tortsten Hagerstrand, Henri Lefebvre, Merleau-Ponty and Martin Heidegger. In the final essay, David Loy returns to debates around time-space compression, seeking an answer to the profound disorientation such processes are widely assumed to engender by stepping outside of the canons of Western philosophy and social theory altogether and turning instead to the insights of Buddhism.

The broad discussion of this volume should be positively noted. The multi-disciplinary issues of the discussion, including such areas as geography, sociology, international studies, gender studies and English literature provide a wide picture of phenomena connected with time-space compression, as do the variety of examples from different times and places throughout history.

This volume provides an important contribution to the discussion of time-space compression. It proves that when the discussion departs from the basic notion of TimeSpace(s), one gets a much more accurate picture or approximation of the substance of reality than that obtained from generalizations which characterize the way of thinking grounded within the framework of a single Western four-dimensional time-space.

The volume exemplifies the extent to which our notions of time and space (and the relationships between them) dominate our grasp of reality that is in fact much more complicated and multi-faceted than can be controlled with one absolute oriented framework of time-space. It proves how much our Western concepts of time and space provide the basis for generalizations and separations that often distort our conception of the world (and hence our human behavior). The awareness of multiple TimeSpaces with their variations stemming from the vast number of cultures and beliefs is vital for a closer understanding of reality and perhaps can lead to a greater tolerance of the 'Other'. Indeed, this book focuses on the issue of time-space compression. But the new concept of TimeSpace and the debate surrounding it in this book reveal new possibilities for re-examining additional areas. It raises questions about generalizations in other fields, which continue to ignore space and time or separate space from time or remain satisfied with a four-dimensional time-space system. The insight of multiple TimeSpaces in this volume may stimulate the re-examination of other issues in geography as well as in other disciplines from a new and fresh perspective, which undoubtedly will reveal new aspects of reality that were concealed before.

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