a lot of papers that tackle economic geography using the mode of production approach in a critical way; none of them found their way into the book.

A question to the editors: Why not keep the articles intact, as they were originally published? While in the earlier book, each article has its own bibliography, this book has a consolidated bibliography at the end, just before the excellent index. The presentation of each paper with its own bibliography could better serve the reader.

All these comments and critiques do not mean that scholars and students of economic geography will not appreciate the appearance of this book. The editors have done a marvellous job in putting together some of the best-known and widely cited papers published over the last twenty years. For that matter, the book is well-structured and organised, thus providing those interested in the subject an in-depth view of the underlying processes, phenomena, concepts, and issues central to the current debates in economic geography. My students and I are going to enjoy this book.

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THE INFORMATION AGE: ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND CULTURE. VOL II. THE POWER OF IDENTITY (second edition) by Manuel Castells. Malden MA, Oxford, Carlton: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

In the midst of the European football cup Euro 2004 (a global event by the look of it) one of the Dutch team top players, Rood Van Nistelroij, addressed the issue of the coming match against the German team in the following manner: "We are going to play our very best against the Germans. We do not forget what happened 60 years ago during WW2". It seems to me that Castells' *The Power of Identity* is all about these typical tensions and constant contrasts of our current era, that revolve around living global and feeling local (or is it the other way around?). This review celebrates the second edition of The Power of Identity, of which the first was published in 1997. *The Power of Identity* is the second part of a formidable trilogy, indeed an *opus magnum*, titled *The Information Age*. The main stance of the trilogy—a product of a life time interest with our world and our lives according to Castells—may be summarized around three independent processes that became gradually effective since the late 60's: the information technology revolution, the economic crisis of capitalism, and the blooming of a new social movement that produced the new society now becoming of age: the information society. These processes, combined together, are affectively responsible for three common characteristics of our times: the creation of the network society, a globally informational economy, and the 'real virtuality' culture.

The Power of Identity explores and explains how power is diffused and changed in the various global networks mainly by focusing on how identity and its various

forms informs projects and movements of resistance. Castells postulates that in the network society (our world and societies in the late modernity) meaning is organized around a primary identity, which is self-sustaining across time and space. Since identity is always formed through the context marked by power relation and in a concrete place, three forms of identities are to be found in the network society: legitimizing identity, resistance identity, project identity. The book deals through its different parts with identity formation and identity projects around the world, aiming to describe and uncover the tensions and discrepancies between the self, state and the net (global). The empirical data was collected for nearly three decades and Castells supplies the reader with ample examples stretching from Islamic fundamentalism to social movements, from environmental action groups to new types of family in the Information Age, going even as far as exploring the state of democracy world wide. These are all samples aiming to show how identity is used within the new global network society to invert the terms of oppressive discourse and hence explain why they are all expressions of the exclusion of the excluders by the excluded. Castells' conclusion is that the key features of the social structure in the Information Age are no longer a product of civil society as in modernity but rather products of new forces that have ultimately lead to the becoming of the net and the network society. These characteristics of our era of late modernity (post modernity for some) are indeed the sources of the crisis of the state and of civil society which inform and enable those new forms of identities and identity projects world wide.

It is indeed an overwhelming work in the sense that one may be lost with the endless examples bringing a worldwide view of various identity projects opposing the global forces of the net. This may be a blessing in disguise as it presents most cases not as people and individuals as instigators of their identity but mainly as part of a process of reactive identity doing the work against the global forces. Indeed, there are still corners of the world where human strive for identity (be it religious, cultural or even national) as a way of connecting to their fellow humans and of having a sense of place as a way of making sense of their lives. Having said that, Castells' trilogy and in particular *The Power of Identity* is a challenging and inspiring work that forces one to rethink one's understanding of one's life and world.

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RESHAPING REGIONAL PLANNING: A NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE, edited by Folke Snickars, Brita Olerup and Lars Olof Persson. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002.

Contemporary regional planning faces enormous new challenges, affecting both developed and developing countries alike. One such challenge is the process of