

For me, as an Israeli, the way he described the effect of the second Intifada on Israel was both shocking and revealing. After mentioning the drop in tourism, he writes: "Those numbers are terrible, but they pale alongside the silent fears that Israelis repress every time they put one of their children on a bus". Why not spell out the simple word "terrorism"? Maybe because it would undermine the picture the author was keen on conveying to his readers. Ironically in the introduction the author dismisses those who think that "words are the only reality".

The presentation of the Israel/Palestine conflict reveals a fundamental shortcoming of an approach that favors 'facts' and "factual density": the extent to which 'facts' can not be divorced from pre-conceived opinions. Views and points of view are entwined. The author's surprise to discover British military cemeteries in Jerusalem and Khartoum—"There are military cemeteries in unexpected places"—is instructive. It tells us that a global view is always paired with a parochial perspective. It can not be otherwise, no matter how noble the intentions are.

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URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA, Edited by Aimin Chen, Gordon G. Liu and Kevin H. Zhang. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2004.

Urban Transformation in China is a collection of 15 articles, 13 of which were selected from 90 papers originally presented at the international conference on Urbanization in China: Challenges and Strategies of Growth and Development organized by the Chinese Economists Society and held in Xiamen, China, in June, 2001. The other two papers were included as they compliment those that were presented at the conference. The papers from the conference include a topical identifier based on the *Journal of Economic Literature* Classification System. There is a preface by D. Gale Johnson, who died before this volume appeared, and an introduction by the three editors who while summarizing the content and commonalities of the papers make no attempt to resolve apparent contradictions between papers regarding the sources of urban growth. The papers are grouped according to four major themes Characteristics of China's Urbanization, Changing Urban Population, Urban Spatial Structures, and Urban Growth and Productivity. All of the papers are relatively short, averaging about 16 printed pages.

It appears that these essays are intended to be read independently of one another, since there is a degree of sameness that permeates virtually all the articles. For example, we are repeatedly told that China's experience with modern urbanization is both late and unique; we are reminded of the limitations and weaknesses of the demographic and economic data being used in the analyses; the same data sources are reviewed and critiqued time and again; regression is the mandatory statistical

technique used to test hypotheses; the role of China's *hukou*, population registration system, in determining the size and direction of urbanization is repeatedly stressed; the political dangers of increasing economic disparities between and within regions are reiterated either directly or indirectly. Minor lapses of English usage, especially in regards to the lack of definite and indefinite articles, are common. A distracting stylistic lapse occurs when articles by multiple authors often contain statements starting with expressions such as "I investigated..." while single author essays contain expressions such as "We investigated..." Finally, bibliographies often contain incomplete journal title references.

If the papers are to be read separately, then they can be regrouped into three classes: reports that are 'must' reads for everyone, papers for novices or general readers, and papers for experts and specialists in Chinese urban studies.

There are two articles that are 'must' reads by anyone interested in Chinese urban systems. The first by Wang Fei-ling, describes the history, rationale, legal framework, and actual administration of the *hukou* system. The system has three unique functions: administrative control of domestic migration and urbanization, the management of temporary residents or visitors in urban areas, and a tiered management of key or special segments of the population. In practice the Chinese population is divided into two general segments: those with rural (or agricultural) *hukou*, and those with urban *hukou*. This distinction was especially important during the early history of the People's Republic of China when there was defacto rationing of food and housing, especially in the urban areas. However, given the growth of the Chinese economy after 1974, access to food and to a lesser extent housing in urban areas is more a function of free markets, thus permitting freer rural-urban immigration. Nevertheless for two reasons there is a need to reform the *hukou* system. First, the system has been seen as an inhibitor of efficient economic growth. Second, there is an ethical concern of the impact of the system in terms of different rights and opportunities for rural and urban citizens. It is important to realize that the system is not unique to the post-1949 period in Chinese history: a similar system was in place under the Qing dynasty and was and remains a part of the lives of citizens of the Republic of China.

The second 'must read' article, by Daniel Goodkind and Loraine A. West, deals with the concept of Floating Populations. Since *permanent* changes in one's household registration were and remain extremely difficult to make, rural migrants attracted to urban centers by the prospect of better employment opportunities are in a form of legal limbo and are collectively referred to as a floating population. However, it appears that when alternative sources of population data including censuses, population registers, and surveys are compared both the size and status of these apparently footloose migrants are more complex than a strict interpretation of *hukou* rules would suggest. Similarly, when urban areas are spatially disaggregated into broad classes such as old urban core, new suburbs, and rural areas deliberately included in over-bounded cities, the size of the floating population changes appreci-

ably. In the future, layoffs by state-owned enterprises, as well as technological changes, may reduce the need for unskilled labor, which may in turn either reduce the size of the floating population or redirect its flows back to interior provinces. Regardless of either future demands or flow directions two things are apparent about the floating population. First, it represents a severe threat to the central government's ability to control the Chinese population. Second, local governments are finding ways to accommodate the housing and educational needs of floating populations, even within the construct of *hukou* rules.

The two papers for the novice or general reader deal with the demise of industry in Hong Kong and the rise of Shanghai as China's New York City. The articles by Tao Zhigang and Y.C. Richard Wong, and Lu Hanchao, respectively, retell well known stories, albeit in a clear and engaging manner.

The remaining papers for specialists are highly technical. In separate papers Johnson and Dong argue that government regional development policy must emphasize the growth of rural-based industries in order to avoid the negative externalities of over-urbanization. Teng and Swanminthan's comparison and contrast of China and India's urbanization and echo Johnson and Dong's conclusions. Wen's research finds that along the coast industrial agglomeration has changed the distribution of cities, while inland the growth of township and village enterprises has inhibited the growth of major cities. His call for more investment in large inland cities apparently contradicts the findings of Johnson, Dong, Teng and Swanminthan, as well as those of Pan and Zhang who find that urban growth can be best explained by localization effects, not urban agglomeration. Kevin Zhang traces the evolution of China's urban system by diving the period 1949 to 2000 into three stages, noting the impact of food shortages and limited job creation on urban growth. Chen and Coulson identify the determinants of urban migration, noting that quality of life variables are not significant in attracting migrants, especially when a city features both the presence of entrepreneurial activity and a strong service sector. Xie and Zhang find that urbanization in China is related to economic development, but that the reserve is not true. Song and Zhang report that the distribution of Chinese cities is more even than the rank-size rule would predict, in part because the central government favors the growth of small cities. Zhang Xiaobo explicates the conflict between government policy designed to preserve rural land for agriculture and the pressure to convert such land to urban uses. He provides a series of policy remedies for increasing food production on a diminished agricultural land base. Lin and Song attribute urban growth to the availability of foreign investment and government investment on science and technology.

Although virtually every paper in the volume provides either insights or suggestions for new research, there are three reasons geographers will be somewhat disappointed with the collection, and especially with the section dealing with Urban Spatial Structures. First, the vast *geographical* literature on Chinese urbanization is hardly used or referred to. The net result of this is that conclusions that the authors

claim as new or unique are in fact neither. Second, there are no maps in the volume and very few graphs. Their absence leads to conclusions that geographers would not readily accept given the problems associated with official Chinese data and official Chinese concerns about regional disparities that have developed as a result of the post-Mao economic reforms. Third, it appears that virtually no field work was done when writing these papers, so that conclusions regarding land use changes or the impact of over-bounding of cities, while statistically correct, do not reflect the changing realities of Chinese urban landscapes.

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KNOWLEDGE, INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT, INSTITUTIONS AND INNOVATION IN TERRITORIAL PERSPECTIVE, Edited by Roger Hyter and Richard Le Heron. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2002.

Knowledge, Industry and Environment is the outcome of a meeting of the IGU (International Geographical Union) Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Space, held in Dongguan, Southern China, in 2000. At the core of the volume's assembled articles is the geographical debate over the twofold, somewhat conflicting attitudes and priorities toward *economics* and *environment*. A key theme of the collection is the impact of education, learning and innovation, and institution and technology on the formation and realization of development strategies capable of supporting sustainable [green] societies. Within the economic geography domain, the spatial and territorial aspects of *knowledge, industry, and the environment* constitute the heart of efforts to conceptualize the interface between economy and environment.

Knowledge, Industry and Environment emphasizes the link of knowledge, industrial processes, and the environment in making a 'new green techno-economic-[spatial] paradigm of capitalism'. In so doing it covers four themes:

- (1) A review of the theoretical qualities of techno-economic paradigms and industrialization, aimed at revealing the leading factors for institution-building strategies geared to innovation and sustainable development;
- (2) The role of the world's agglomerated territorial spaces as the arena where viable and growing economic activities challenge the environment;
- (3) An evaluation of how regulation and governance of industrial-environmental processes have led to sustainable interactions;
- (4) The role of new knowledge and of learning in shaping the dynamics of spatial coexistence between industry and the environment.

Like most collections of articles, *Knowledge, Industry and Environment* contains good and less impressive presentations. This review covers a selection of relevant