

and Mouffe's radical democracy. The section explores the cultural and social aspects of emerging democratic subjectivities of civil activities, which are rooted in a range of spaces and scales.

The major contribution of the volume is the relocation of debates that radical geographers have been coping with recently within the broad scope of political theory in general, and democratic theory in particular. It does not suggest new debates for geography, rather a new-old frame of discussion, which can bring geography into mainstream critical social and political sciences. In this sense, the volume launches the bridges between geography and politics, which goes beyond the state-centric approach of political geography. This contribution should also be addressed to political philosophers and sociologists, as it emphasizes the contribution of space, scale and place in understanding the problematical characters of political activities.

However, and with great appreciation to the contribution of the volume to a serious examination of political issues from geographical perspective, there are two weaknesses that should be addressed: first, although the volume was published several years after September 11 and the new doctrine of the Bush administration of global democratization, mainly in countries from which terror emanates, there is a little attempt in the volume to reconsider the meaning of universalism in democratic theory. This new meaning underscores the fact that democracy is a cultural paradigm associated with the 'West'. It seems that the editors and contributors made insufficient efforts to update the papers, originally presented in meetings before September 11, to the 'new world order'. The second weakness is that the American and British geographers' perspective is dominant in the volume. It could be invigorating to bring more voices of non-Western points of view into the debates about democracy.

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URBAN TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOCIALIST STATE,
HAVANA DURING THE "SPECIAL PERIOD" By Andrea Colantonio and
Robert B. Potter. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006.

Urban Tourism and Development in the Socialist State is about the impact of urban tourism in Havana and the interrelations between urban tourism and the institutional reforms of the planning authorities and governance in Cuba. The main aim of the book in the authors' words is: "to examine the nature and the key characteristics of Cuba's transition and to assess the role played by tourism in the country's institutional and economic restructuring". A further object defined by the authors is to fill the gap that exists in the literature concerning Latin American cities.

The book is divided into three parts. The first one, the introduction, includes

five chapters that discuss in general urban tourism development and introduces the methodological approach of the authors. The first chapter displays the rationale of the research and the reason for choosing Havana as the case study. Furthermore, two issues are discussed: the influence of the internal and external forces on changes in managing the city and the effectiveness of the reforms in the 1990s on the decentralization process in planning.

Chapter 2 describes the methodology, which include qualitative and quantitative tools. Chapter 3 deals with tourism development in socialist countries, emphasizing the unique circumstances of Cuba. It seems a short discussion about the problematic and elusive definition of socialist and post-socialist states or more precisely, post-revolutionary states, would add to the discussion considerably. Furthermore, the discussion lacks reference to South-East Asian countries like Vietnam, which have been experiencing parallel processes. This kind of discussion would make the special political context of the Cuban case highly prominent.

Chapter 4 reviews the tourism development during the “special period” which started right after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The analysis shows clearly the crucial role of tourism in Havana in the development of Cuba. Chapter 5 is mostly a theoretical one, discussing the impacts and planning of urban tourism, as well as the multi-dimensional influence that tourism can generate in urban areas. The authors review a range of planning approaches in gearing tourism development in urban management and planning process, from centralized ones which were implemented in so called socialist states to decentralized ones which are practiced in democratic states.

The second part of the book focuses on the interrelations between tourism development and the development of Havana with regard to the environmental and urban development impact. The first chapter in this part (number 6) reviews the chronology of the tourism sector in Havana in relation to the changing political climate during the 20th century. Chapter 7 analyzes the main Socio-economic impact of tourism – the dual division of the city into two parts, the tourist one, which is well developed and the non-tourist, which is under-developed and neglected. In addition, there is a description of the emergence of the new actors and interest groups in Havana resulting from the tourism industry which had to survive the anti-private sector actions taken by the authorities.

Chapter 8 focuses on the impact of tourism on the environment during the “special period”, which resulted in mixed influences: upgrading the infrastructure in some areas of Havana and environmental degradation in others. The authors draw our attention to the fact that positive and negative influences are evident in the two polar zones of the city (the tourist one and the non-tourist). The next chapter (number 9) analyzes the perception of the impact of tourism in Havana by the local residents. In general their findings meet the “classical” attitudes of local residents in development countries toward tourism. On the one hand they are positive in general due to the economic benefits and the improvement in quality of life, and

on the other hand they express their disfavor of the negative social impact due to re-emergence of prostitution and crime. The survey also reveals the lack of participation of the locals in the planning process of the city. It should be taken into account that the tools which were used by the researchers might reveal the perceptions of the locals only partially due to employing a close questionnaire method. The use of other qualitative research approaches, such as open interviews, could achieve more comprehensive understating of local perceptions. Chapter 10 focuses on tourism and governance. The analysis of this aspect was supposed to add a new dimension to the theoretical outcome of the book. Thus it should have discussed those matters more broadly. The two main conclusions that are presented in the chapter are, first, that the "special period" generated changes in the mechanism of planning practices, and second, while the planning process proceeds from the national level down to the municipal and neighboring level, the constitutional frame of Havana prevents public participation in this process.

In the last chapter (number 11) there is a final discussion about the findings of the book. The most salient impact of the tourism development is the emergence of urban duality in Havana in terms of environment, economy and society which is evidence in two noticeable areas: the coastal strip that draws the tourism development and the inland zone which has almost no tourism infrastructures. This shows that Havana is no different from most tourist destinations in developing countries that often have to challenge socio-economic and spatial polarization, environmental destruction, cultural alienation and the loss of social control and identity among host communities.

One interesting conclusion that remains fuzzy is the concentration of international tourism only in few certain places. The authors claim that this allowed reducing the negative political and cultural influence of tourism on the local population in the eyes of the government. From the discussion it is not however clear if this pattern of tourism development is a consequence of planning or is an outcome of other factors.

The discussion about the interrelation between tourism, institutional reconstruction in planning and management institutes, democratization process and the emergence of civil society is also blurred and the authors prefer to avoid decisive conclusions. They claim that the contribution of the economic transition to the decentralization of governance is unclear at this moment. In addition they claim that the economic reforms of the 1990s did not bring any change into the vertical decision making process "from top to bottom" by the government in Cuba and Havana which still lacks public participation. On the other hand the authors claim that international tourism causes the emergence of a private sector that includes new stakeholders and activities of a civil society.

The end of the last chapter is dedicated to a discussion of the unique characteristics of the regime in Cuba under Fidel Castro which do not exist in other (post) socialist states. The most significant characteristic is the political stability for dozens

of years under a charismatic leader that had a crucial roll in uniting the Cuban people under the revolutionary ideas. These special characteristics are the very reason for the difficulty of comparing or drawing analogies from the Havana case to other (post) socialist cities or states. Still however, the significant contribution of this book is in the field of urban tourism and development in developing countries. This book is introducing a case study that illuminates the main issues that should be taken in account in the case of analyzing the impact of tourism on (post) socialist states and the interrelation between tourism development and the dynamic of planning and managing in this kind of political climate.

Speaking about the idiosyncratic context, the timing of publishing the book makes its findings very interesting and important as they reflect the current situation in Cuba in what seems to be the last days of the “special period” under dying Castro.

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DYNAMIC TRIP MODELING – FROM SHOPPING CENTERS TO THE INTERNET by Robert G.V. Baker. New York: Springer, 2006.

This book develops a model, RASTT (Retail Aggregate Space Time Trip), to analyze shopping-trip behavior, and offers a way of studying local, regional and global flows of traffic and how they change over time. The model uses a differential equation allowing for a study of the impact of time on spatial distribution.

The model examines distance-decay, gravity-type interactions for various shopping situations—walking from parking, driving to a shopping center, surfing the internet—and tests the time-minimization strategy in various empirical studies. It takes an aggregate approach, with an emphasis on the sub-population at shopping centers at a particular time rather than on individuals in residences widely distributed over the spatial domain. This is a different approach from the one used in the travel-behavior discipline, which looks at households and individuals and models their daily activity and trips. The approach is more efficient in terms of data collection; however, it loses some information that could be gained by looking at individual trip-making behavior rather than just at trips to various shopping areas. The book’s literature review extensively covers retail and consumer modeling, but it only partially examines the travel-behavior literature. In particular, it lacks a discussion of the recently developed and applied activity-based modeling, which looks at people’s daily activity and travel schedules. Truly activity-based modeling has not hitherto focused specifically on shopping, except for a few examples, mostly by Chandra Bhat, and therefore does not provide the same depth of the RASTT model in regard to some shopping issues; however, given the great potential of the former