growth and migration to cities. Given budgetary constraints, DFI was the most obvious source of new sources of housing.

Manuscripts sent to Ashgate for publication are supposed to be in copy-edited, camera ready format. This was not entirely the case for the volume under review. For example, the author appears not to be a native speaker of English and at times his use of colloquial expressions involves inaccurate use of vocabulary. Second, there is a lot of duplication and overlap between chapters, hence this review did not follow the usual chapter by chapter summary of the book’s content. Finally, the author is somewhat disingenuous in his discussion of the sources of land available for urban development. His discussion of what appear to be unfair, unjust, and corrupt land appropriations from householders and landlords is minimal. That buildings and neighborhoods that are unsightly, even when they are of historic interests, get condemned and torn down in the name of urban renewal is not mentioned. Revitalization and/or gentrification are rarely used as mechanisms for urban redevelopment and are not considered. The treatment of farmers is somewhat more comprehensive, including the observation that the actual compensation farmers actually receive is usually less than the maximum allowed by regulation, namely thirty times the value of the annual agricultural output of the land being taken. It could be argued that this issue is beyond the scope of the book. However, the land acquisition process is frequently associated with disrupted lives, severed social networks, and the loss of livelihood as urban development results in urban displacement. Such displacement is an integral part of the evolving Chinese urban landscape and merit at least some mention in any volume dealing with any aspect of China’s new urbanization.

These criticisms aside, Wang’s text provides a succinct and useful overview of the role foreign direct investment has played in transforming the urban landscape in China over the past several decades.

Roger Mark Selya
University of Cincinnati


This book explores many of the major issues of tourism and development in third world countries by examining the case of Cuba. It is inspired by the author’s PhD dissertation on the convergence of development and tourism in Cuba.

The book comprises an introduction and three parts, each of which has two chapters. Much of the introduction is not just an introduction to the book, but rather to Cuba itself. This is very helpful as many readers presumably do not know much about Cuba. This generates trust between the writer (Spencer), who ‘guides’...
us through Cuba, and the reader. Spencer seems to know Cuba, and to identify strongly with the land and the people.

Although Spencer is an anthropologist, her study is an interdisciplinary one, which draws on anthropology, sociology, human geography and tourism studies, and uses theoretical approaches from post-development discourse analysis, post-structuralism and the anthropology of tourism. Her methodology is qualitative, and includes participant observations to a number of NGO study tours focusing on social and physical development. Her writing is ethnographic at times and as a reader, I quite often felt that through Spencer’s style of writing I was on a guided NGO tour of Cuba.

The book’s greatest flaw is that it lacks two important aspects of contextualization. The first is its ignorance of the vast literature on island tourism in general, and SIDS (Small Island Developing State) tourism in particular (see for example: Andriotis, 2004). Although Cuba is a unique case, it shares with other island destinations many of the problems that tourism islands have, such as the dependence on tourism, and the general ambiguous attitude that “tourism is the evil we have to have.” In my opinion a comparison with some other tourism island destinations would have been very helpful for this book. The tourists that Spencer describes are perhaps somewhat different—possibly more “… experienced travellers, educated, independent, flexible and environmentally concerned” (p. 62). However, the well-researched problems of host-guest relations and cultural sustainability are much the same. Spencer does mention briefly the island of Bali, but without any reference to the research literature.

The second aspect of contextualization missing from the book is placing it into the tourism arena of Cuba. When reading Spencer’s work, one can easily get the (false) impression that most tourists to Cuba are ‘new tourists’ (Mowforth and Munt, 2003), but according to the research literature most of Cuba’s visitors are ‘old (mass) tourists’ that seek pleasure and hedonism in a Latino tropical island environment (see for example: Cabezas, 2009). The NGO tours described by Spencer are but one form of tourism to Cuba. Moreover, when reading the book, one has no idea about the size and impact of this type of niche tourism.

The book is well written and interesting and it is a very good text for anyone interested in NGO tourism in Cuba and in the nexus between tourism and development; but there is more to this book than ‘just’ that. It is deep and insightful in its discussions of ‘new tourism’, solidarity through tourism, responsible tourism and the morality of tourism, and its insights are applicable to several destinations in less developed countries.

REFERENCES


Amos Ron
Kinneret College