

*The Spatial Theory of Voting: An Introduction.* M. Enelow James & M. J. Hinch, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1984.

*An Electoral Atlas of Europe, 1968-1981.* John Sallnow & Anna John, London: Butterworth Scientific, 1982.

*Reviewed by: David Newman*

The 1970s were years of activity within electoral geography. During a period when political geography was searching for a new agenda, electoral studies temporarily filled the vacuum. Such studies were particularly suited to the state of research and activity within human geography of that time. The availability of data about voting patterns was used as the raw material with which to feed many of the statistical techniques that were the legacy of the quantitative revolution. The packaging of such data in neat areal units, ranging from states to local polling booths, was viewed as being specifically geographical in emphasis and orientation. In addition, the comparative nature of electoral data with other available socioeconomic variables resulted in the many ecological areal studies in which cause and effect were thought to be simply derived.

Both books reviewed here relate in content, if not in time, to the quantitative and descriptive nature of this early electoral geography. However, they reflect different aspects of such studies, and are conditioned by the disciplines of their respective authors. *An Electoral Atlas of Europe* presents a cartographical description of European election results from 1968-81 and is aimed at introducing the student to the general political patterns in Europe. Following an introductory chapter in which the authors present an overview of the electoral patterns in Western and Central Europe during the period being studied, election results for each country are presented: Europe is divided into Central, Maritime, Mediterranean, and Nordic Europe, with cross-regional political patterns made implicit within these four areas. For each country, the structure of the major political parties is described in lexicon form. Particularly useful is the inclusion of data on countries newly returned to the democratic process, such as Spain and Portugal. The atlas ends with two brief but useful appendices, one that presents referendum results in the four countries considering joining the European community, the other briefly describing the way in which the most common electoral systems in Europe function.

The atlas is first and foremost an introductory and descriptive text. It

does not explicitly ask questions concerning the influences on voting behaviour in Europe through the period under study, nor does it try to relate changing voting patterns—presented only at national aggregate levels—to patterns of socioeconomic behaviour and change. However, such questions are implicit in a simple comparison of maps, particularly as regard cross-country and regional analyses of political parties with similar ideologies such as socialism, conservatism, and various centrist philosophies.

By contrast to the simplicity of *An Electoral Atlas of Europe*, Enelow and Hinch's *The Spatial Theory of Voting: An Introduction* is a more complex, mathematically-oriented book. Written by non-geographers, the book's use of the term "spatial" is somewhat misleading in the title. The authors develop a spatial theory of voting that is subsequently transformed into a model and tested against the reality of a specific electoral situation. This theory provides quantitative definitions for the behavioural assumptions concerning voter evaluation of candidates on the one hand and the means by which the candidates attempt to appeal to the voters on the other. The spatial input to the model is broken down into a number of factors that include candidate characteristics, budgetary issues, voter uncertainty, and the role of institutions. These elements do not necessarily constitute geographical space, but are more accurately described as environmental factors.

While the majority of the book is concerned with the construction and modification of the mathematical model, there is a too-brief introduction that attempts to explain and compare spatial and social psychological voting models, the latter—in view of the authors—having been traditionally preferred. This introduction is followed by a mathematical description of unidimensional and two dimensional spatial voting models. The final model, after it has been constructed, is tested against the reality of U.S. elections of 1976 and 1980. The authors show themselves as satisfied with the outcome of this test, noting that centrist results may be expected in both mass elections and committee voting situations.

While the *Electoral Atlas of Europe* is a geographic production par excellence in form and presentation, the *Spatial Theory of Voting* is a mathematical text. The latter volume does not draw any support or complementary material from any reference to geography, but instead presents a predictive model by which electoral results can be analysed. Neither of these two vastly-different texts relates to the central problem of electoral studies in general, and electoral geography in particular: the nature of power and the relationship between power, political parties, and the State. Both books are concerned with the presentation or analysis of voting statistics. The substantive questions arising from both volumes, therefore, are implicit rather than addressed directly. The atlas is recom-

mended to students of European political systems for its simplicity and clarity of presentation. The *Spatial Theory of Voting* is oriented toward researchers and students interested in predictive models. Taken together, both texts are only peripheral to the subject matter that now constitutes the heart of electoral geography.

*Reflections on Population*, Rafael M. Salas, London: Pergamon, 1984.

*Reviewed by: Jon Anson*

In 1974, the Bucharest Conference agreed on a World Population Plan of Action, which called for the channelling of international aid to help national governments control their population processes, reduce mortality, make fertility control a viable, personal option, and create balanced spatial population distributions. The United National Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) was set up to direct this aid, and its executive director has written this book to set forth the issues that faced demographers and population planners who attended the 1984 International Conference on Population in Mexico City.

First and foremost, this book assesses the achievements in international population planning since 1974, and addresses what is yet to be achieved. Its major chapters discuss fertility, mortality, population distribution and its growth and structure, conditions under which population programmes can succeed, and prospects for the year 2000. The book also includes the author's State of World Population addresses for 1980-84, and presents extracts from his many statements on population matters.

The book, then, is a veritable gold mine of information on population facts and figures, the rate of world population growth, location and extent of fertility turn-about, high-mortality locations (i.e., life expectancy of less than fifty years), and problems of the world's burgeoning primate cities. It also provides a very succinct summary of the consensus of informed professional opinion on the reasons for and ways of combating world population problems. The excerpts from the author's statements comprise half of each chapter and the thirty-page appendix make this a veritable "Little White Book" on population planning.

As can be expected, the book sets out to be strictly neutral on all controversial issues. Salas succeeds in discussing the major problems of world