

to its “broken history” (188). Similarly, quotidian encounters with the empty spaces of prewar Jewish life could be found in many other places on the European continent, as Europeans grappled with the legacies of the Nazi genocide of the Jews in both shared and divergent ways.

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Confronting Suburbanization: Urban Decentralization in Postsocialist Central and Eastern Europe. Ed. Kiril Stanilov and Ludek Sykora. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014. xxii, 333 pp. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Glossary. Index. Illustrations. Photographs. Figures. Tables. Maps. \$39.95, paper.

Post-socialist cities and societies have experienced a dramatic economic, social and political change. This book highlights some of these patterns of change embedded in the overall process of economic, social and political transformation that influence the spatial adaptation of post-socialist cities, focusing on suburbanization. It contributes to earlier edited volumes exploring the most salient characteristics of these multi-layered processes (see Sasha Tsenkova, 2006; Kiril Stanilov, 2007). While it may be too early for a convincing theoretical account of the transition process in post-socialist cities, the book provides a comparative analysis of key trends and processes of suburbanization in seven central and eastern European capitals and their metropolitan regions.

It is organized in three parts and includes contributions from 75 authors with a well-established reputation in post-socialist urban studies. The first part of the book introduces the theoretical arguments of the research by emphasizing the links of suburbanization to key structural forces of the transition to markets. Stressing the distinct characteristics of post-socialist suburbanization, Kiril Stanilov and Luděk Sykora advance the notion that explosive growth, uncontrolled suburbanization, urban sprawl and neoliberal planning define post-socialist suburbanization. The chapter maps out a methodological framework, which is systematically applied in the review of the seven case studies. This enhances the quality of the book and allows an exploration of similarities and differences in suburban metropolitan growth patterns (residential, retail, industrial, office) with a reference to planning policies and strategies.

The case studies include the capital cities of Budapest, Ljubljana, Moscow, Prague, Sofia, Tallinn and Warsaw with their newly defined metropolitan areas applying the official definitions and administrative boundaries in each country. The individual chapters present a well-researched and extensively referenced account of suburbanization, drawing on officially published research, census data and some qualitative insights. Several chapters (Prague, Tallinn and Warsaw) include a very interesting spatial illustration of suburban growth patterns. The analysis of planning policies and strategies is somewhat descriptive, but really well structured in the chapters on Ljubljana, Budapest and Prague. The third part of the book presents a summary of major trends in post-socialist suburbanization, highlighting similarities in the performance of metropolitan regions.

The case studies provide an overview of suburban metropolitan processes focusing on three interrelated domains: 1) residential development (due to changes in demand and growing affluence); 2) industries, office and retail (due to growth in services, privatization, globalization and de-industrialisation); and 3) suburban sprawl (due to new central-local relationships, deregulation and neoliberal planning). Sub-

urban locations have offered cheaper land, access to major transport networks, as well as recognized economies of scale for new retail and business parks. A considerable growth in the construction of single family dwellings and other low-rise housing provided by decentralized suppliers, often in the urban periphery, has created a new residential landscape of master-planned communities and gated developments (Warsaw, Moscow, Prague). Notwithstanding suburbanization trends, the individual chapters confirm that central areas continue to attract investment in services, offices, luxury housing and highly profitable urban functions (Moscow, Ljubliana, Budapest, Sofia).

The application of a common framework for analysis, however, maps critical differences in suburban metropolitan growth. National differences and the socialist legacy are powerful determinants of diversity and define the trajectory of spatial transformation. Budapest had past the peak of suburbanization, entering the stage of re-urbanization. Ljubliana and Prague capitalize on a dense settlement network in the metropolitan region, sustained during socialist times, that has intensified to accommodate a significant share of the population commuting to the capital city for work. Moscow oblast (metropolitan region) has 80 large and midsize towns with a population of over 5 million and is one of the most productive economic regions with free trade zones and business districts fueling suburban growth. Similar trends, although on a smaller scale, are documented for Warsaw. Finally, new suburban residential construction in Warsaw, Moscow and Budapest has improved the quality of housing, services, and infrastructure, while in Sofia it has aggravated the infrastructure deficits.

In fact, the individual chapters document a lot of diversity in post-socialist cities. The narrative seems to be more complex and nuanced. In the final part of the book, Stanilov and Sykora argue that post-socialist suburbanization has three common characteristics: 1) suburbs grew faster than metropolitan core; 2) suburbanization is driven by the flight of upper and middle income households from city centers to metropolitan edges; and 3) spatial pattern of suburbanization is fragmented and dispersed, typical of urban sprawl. The latter is not necessarily consistent across the seven case studies and there is limited supportive evidence, perhaps due to methodological issues in the definition of metropolitan boundaries and the lack of systematic data on central cities and the suburban periphery. Despite such issues, the discussion of suburban growth management is valuable, pointing out to the lack of metropolitan-level governments, jurisdictional fragmentation, weak regional governance, and growth boosterism. The pro-growth policies of suburban local authorities need to be reviewed and evaluated in the context of overall institutional transformation on the one hand, and in the context of rapid economic and political system change, on the other. This undeniable complexity creates unique challenges for urban and metropolitan planning and urban policy (see Tsenkova, 2014).

The book will be of interest to academics, planners and policy-makers engaged in planning and management of post-socialist cities as well as to urban geographers and urban sociologists exploring urban social change. It makes a contribution to the academic literature on the topic of suburbanization and explores a very dynamic spatial process in a systematic manner. The case studies provide a well-illustrated account of the transformation in the metropolitan periphery of post-socialist cities, which has creating a hybrid landscape with a cosmopolitan look that blends retail strips, residential, and small scale industrial developments along the main transportation corridors. Finally, the book aims at defining a common approach for confronting suburban sprawl, but the suggestions for change remain limited. The future management of metropolitan growth might be more complex, requiring nuanced approaches to regional planning that accounts for diversity of local development pressures, institu-

tional capacities, and mechanisms for effective collaboration in order to create plans that are economically feasible and politically viable.

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Religion in the Post-Yugoslav Context. Ed. Branislav Radeljić and Martina Topić. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2015. xviii, 254 pp. Notes. Index. Figures. Tables. \$95.00, hard bound.

The Revival of Islam in the Balkans: From Identity to Religiosity. Ed. Arolda Elbasani and Olivier Roy. The Islam and Nationalism Series. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. xvi, 257 pp. Notex. Index. \$105.00, hard bound.

The Balkans are Europe's southeastern periphery, ignored by the west except when regional wars trigger international turmoil. Hence, in order to make research on the Balkans academically marketable today, one needs to refer to either to the legacies of the recent Yugoslav wars or to the currently popular issues concerning Islam, which is one of the indigenous religions of the Balkans. *Religion in the Post-Yugoslav Context*, edited by Branislav Radeljić and Martina Topić, presents a study of something called "the post-Yugoslav context," which most of the local population is probably unaware of, since Yugoslavia has been forgotten by now. While the wars of the 1990s have ended, the postwar is still there and relevant. *The Revival of Islam in the Balkans. From Identity to Religiosity*, edited by Arolda Elbasani and Olivier Roy, earns attention thanks to the notoriety of Islam in our times. In any case, both volumes are about southeastern Europe and its majority religions. The first volume attributes a greater relevance to public religions and religiosity blended with ethnicity while the latter volume provides a more colorful portrait of Balkan faiths and ethnicities.

The Radeljić-Topić volume is primarily concerned with the interaction between religion and nationalism in the aftermath of the Yugoslav wars. The Elbasani and Roy volume, by contrast, is influenced by anthropologist Ger Dujzings' 2000 study on religious minorities and folk religiosity in Kosovo, and follows the Dujzings' trail across a somewhat larger area. In the postwar Balkans, the Radeljić-Topić volume finds troubles continuing, struggles with transitions, and religions not helping the recovery. By contrast, Elbasani, Roy, and their contributors are less preoccupied with the major religious institutions as nationalist-homogenizing mechanisms. In the shadow of mainstream religious nationalism, they discover revival of popular religions and diverse forms of religiosity.

Overall, most case studies in both volumes are about Kosovo, Albania, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia are the focus of a few chapters, while a single chapter per country represents Greece, Bulgaria and Montenegro. The thematic concerns involve, among other things, religion in postwar and transitional societies, ethnoreligious nationalism, church-state relations, religion and ethnic conflict, the role of women, interfaith and interethnic tensions, and folk religiosity. The case studies and articles sometimes overlap but overall complement each other. The Radeljić-Topić volume focuses mostly on the so-called western Balkans and successor states of the former Yugoslavia. The Elbasani and Roy volume focuses on the eastern Balkans, excluding the western states of former Yugoslavia, ascribing a special importance to Kosovo and Albania while also making room for Greece and Bulgaria. Regarding the central theme of religion, the Radeljić-Topić volume highlights religions as national institutions and ethnonational identity markers.