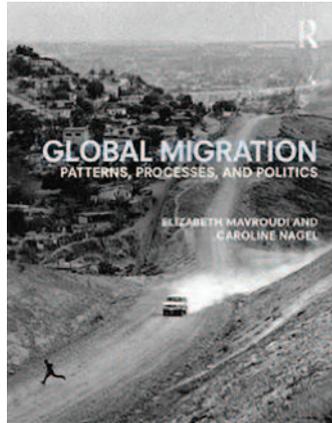


Reviews

edited by Hedley Knibbs



Global Migration: Patterns, processes, and politics

Elizabeth Mavroudi and Caroline Nagel

Abingdon: Routledge, 2016
242pp, 19x24.5cm, Pb: £29.99,
ISBN 978-0-415-68387-6

Global Migration is a valuable, up-to-date and highly readable account of contemporary migration, its processes, politics, and geographical causes and consequences. Based upon the combined experiences of Mavroudi and Nagel's teaching on migration at British and American universities respectively, this textbook offers a wealth of well-researched case studies that will be of use to teachers, academics, and students at undergraduate and A level.

The book covers the main dimensions of global migration, from the history of migrations and its links to global economic change, development and globalisation, to the political challenges of migration in terms of refugee displacement, border enforcement and the nature of integration and citizenship. Its key strengths lie in its comprehensive coverage of issues at the heart of understanding migration, such as the role of categories in shaping migrant experiences and opportunities across the world, and its ability to combine detailed quantitative analysis of trends and patterns,

with focused case studies that foreground the human stories behind migration. This is particularly evident in the final chapter's focus on migrant identities, transnationalism, and the challenges of making a 'home' in new surroundings.

The global reach of the book could be a little more comprehensive, as latter chapters on border enforcement, citizenship and identity tend towards a focus on the Global North, but this is a relatively minor concern in what is otherwise a very useful text. Indeed, at a time when migration is at the very forefront of political, economic and social concerns, and is of growing significance to the A level curriculum and many geography degree programmes, this book offers a timely and much-needed introduction to this key topic.

Jonathan Darling
University of Manchester

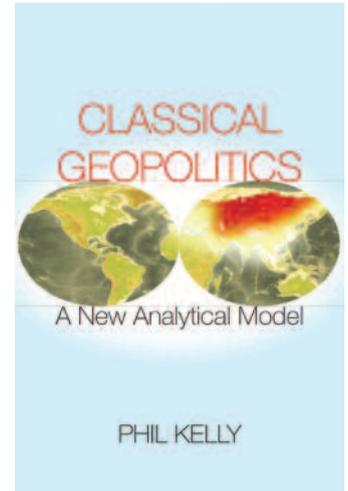
Classical Geopolitics: A new analytical model

Philip Kelly
Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press, 2016

210pp, 15x29cm, Pb: £21.99,
ISBN 978-0-8047-9820-4

In this timely book, Philip Kelly introduces the reader to classical geopolitics and his approach speaks to a whole series of timely issues involving territory, borders, resources and location. It is a polemical book in the sense that he mounts a spirited defence of political realism and classical geopolitical approaches as opposed to critical geopolitics and constructivism. For many British geography students, it should make for some salutary reading because so much of university teaching is informed by critical geopolitical literatures.

The difference between the two schools of geopolitical thought can be over-drawn but Kelly draws out



clearly why physical geography and location do shape and constrain a state's foreign and security policy choices. Unlike critical geopolitics, which is more comfortable being descriptive (albeit critically) rather than prescriptive, Kelly's approach is firmly rooted in explanation and prediction at a systemic level. In his reading of geopolitics, the focus is on global competition and balance of power politics, rather than, say, intersectional identity politics and everyday geopolitics.

In his reading of historical events stretching several thousands of years, Kelly considers how geographies of the global politics deserve to be better appreciated. As a South American geopolitical expert, he is astute on the regional histories of nationalism and territorial conflict. More widely, the book suggests that global politics in the future will be shaped by regions like South Asia being caught up in great power rivalries. The term used by Kelly to describe such spaces is shatterbelt, which owes a debt to the writings of an earlier American political geographer, Saul Cohen.

Armed with a theoretical model, with some 11 assumptions considered axiomatic to classical geopolitics, Kelly has set out to defend the record of classical geopolitics and show why it matters in the future where territorial

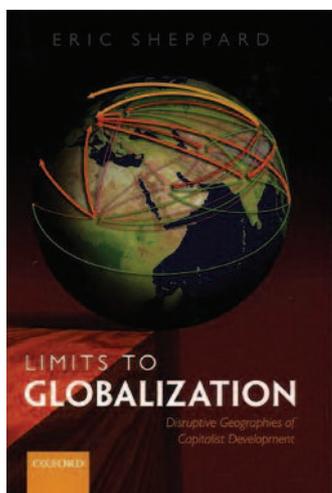
nationalism and populism will make for a heady mix.

Klaus Dodds
Royal Holloway,
University of London

Limits to Globalization: Disruptive geographies of capitalist development

Eric Sheppard

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016
 212pp, 16x24cm, Hb: £30.00,
 ISBN 978-0-19-968116-7



A better title for this book would be 'Why Economics Fails'. The author says he does not want to set geographers against economists, and that is perhaps sensible. Economists would likely laugh if they ever spent a few hours looking at the papers most human geographers write in leading human geography journals. As it is, they don't look. However, the key message of this book is that the way in which economists think about geography is wrong. Unfortunately, the few geographers interested in this question have not found a way of explaining this that can be understood by economists. This is probably not the fault of the economists.

The discipline of economics fails to explain why people do not become ever better and better off. The answer being: a lack of appreciation of the geographical repercussions of economic actions. Almost always 'wealth creation in some places results in

impoverishment elsewhere'. Uneven economic development is what capitalism produces. It is not a result of market imperfections. The market creates a few temporarily prosperous winners and many increasingly precarious losers.

This book ends with a list of what geographers need to do to help explain this. Firstly, geographers need to create a 'nuanced spatial history of capitalism'. Secondly, they need to study transport, telecommunications and cyberspace more. Thirdly, economic geographers need to learn that there is more that matters than just economic geography. Fourthly, they need to look at alternatives to capitalism 'in the wild'. This list makes sense. But with so little done and so much to do, this interesting, short and very well referenced book does not instil confidence that it will be academics working as geographers who come to explain most clearly why there are such strong limits to the global social success of globalisation as capitalism currently operates.

Danny Dorling
University of Oxford

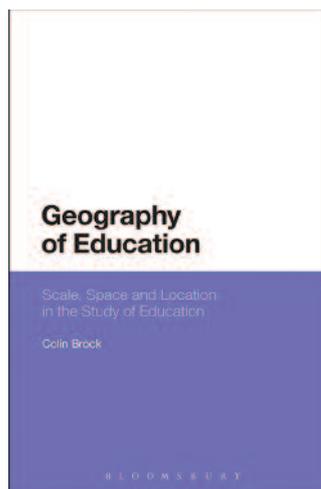
Geography of Education: Scale, space and location in the study of education

Colin Brock

London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016
 222pp, 16x24cm, Hb: £95.00,
 ISBN 978-1-4742-2324-9

This book is aimed at students of educational studies who are interested in the geographies of education, that is to say, how education systems vary around the world and how the varying geographies of the world influence those education systems. Indeed, a title of 'The Geographies of Education' might have been more representative of the content.

The text is presented in five chapters, each considering a different aspect of the geography of education. Chapter 1 examines synergies between geography and educational studies as composite disciplines. Chapter 2 considers



what Brock terms, 'the geography of educational reality', looking at how the academic discipline of geography has changed since the 1960s and how this can be related to educational phenomena. Chapter 3 looks at the development of formal education systems over time and how they vary through space and time. Chapter 4 investigates the geographies of non-formal and informal education, while the final chapter looks at geographies of cyberspace and learning.

The book is a wide-ranging attempt to link the two disciplines. Perhaps, as a result, there are times when the narrative appears a little lightweight. For instance, the discussion of eight sub-disciplines of geography in less than 20 pages might be considered too superficial. Nevertheless, the book draws from a wide range of interesting examples taken from around the world. As such, it is a reasonably effective attempt to add a clear geographical dimension to education studies and provides a range of insights and references that may prove useful, particularly perhaps for postgraduate students on Masters courses in education.

Charles Rawding
Edge Hill University

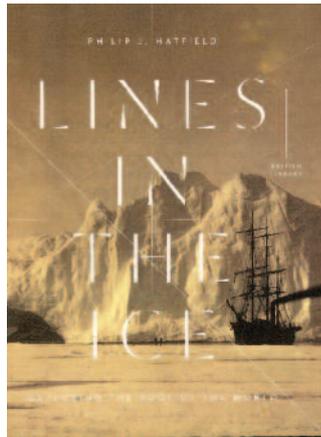
Lines in the Ice: Exploring the roof of the world

Philip J. Hatfield

London: British Library, 2016
 256pp, 23x29cm, Hb: £25.00,
 ISBN 978-0-7123-5606-0

Early geographies were based on accounts of travel, exploration and

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discovery. Drawing on similar sources, in responding to the Columbus quincentenary historians wrote and gave identity to a somewhat different but related genre: encounter literature. It focused on interactions between indigenous peoples and alien intruders within specific regions, the consequences for both and for the contacted environments. Although it does not claim to be encounter literature, much of *Lines*

in the Ice focuses on such interactions and consequences within parts of the Arctic during the last almost five centuries.

Formerly the curator of the British Library's extensive Canadian, US and Caribbean collections, the author has a unique awareness of primary sources. This is reflected both in the book's strengths and limitations. The regional emphasis is on parts of what are now Canada's Northwest Territories. Conversely, the Eurasian Arctic fringe is hardly mentioned. Secondary publications are included in a list of only 50 inadequately-cited post-1950 books and there is only one citation to a periodical.

Described encounters are numerous and sometimes surprising. For example, those with the Inuit include Christian missions and the removal of children from native communities, the influence of syllabic books, the impact of commercialisation on art including sculpture and the use of oral

history in helping to locate historic explorer sites. Conversely, Inuits were sometimes taken back to Europe in order to counter sceptics who doubted the veracity of oral written reports about strange lands and peoples. In retrospect, inevitable overwintering in the ice had resulted in prolonged encounters, closer relationships and hence much better intelligence than that from shorter explorer stopovers in the world's less hazardous regions.

Eminently readable with many short stand-alone chapters, this book is well indexed, full of the author's insights, aesthetically attractive, reasonably priced and richly illustrated with colour reproductions of maps, prints and artefacts. As such, *Lines in the Ice* deserves a place in college and universities libraries. However, because of its focus, it is unlikely to supplement many syllabus-linked school textbooks.

G. Malcolm Lewis
Sheffield

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