

indicates a major imbalance between country and MSA scales. The number of foreign acquisitions by U.S. firms is less than the number of U.S. firms acquired by Canadian companies. Canada illustrates the effects of a major imbalance in that 2,064 Canadian companies were acquired by U.S. firms, while only 1,000 U.S. firms were acquired by Canadian firms.

One of the major findings is the strong tie between the U.S. and Canadian mergers and acquisitions, and that this is not exclusively to Canadian acquisitions. In fact, acquisitions have been concentrated in the core-periphery region of Canada stretching from Toronto to Quebec City with the most frequent location for target firms in the population rank-size class. Some data are presented showing that the proximity to Canada has an effect on the number of U.S. acquiring firms. The book shifts to a consideration of the core-periphery class patterns of U.S. firms. An association is found between the size classes and types of mergers and acquisitions. The core-periphery class with machinery, retail, holding companies, and banks being the most frequent and acquired firms. The book provides a limited test of the core-periphery theory to interindustry merger patterns.

The book summarizes the book's findings and suggests future directions. Green calls for more research on economic, political, and social activity and the effects of external control on economic activity.

Some of the criticisms of this book are that it is too brief (only 175 pages of text) and that the treatment of the core-periphery model is too brief. More discussion of the observed patterns would be helpful to the reader. In particular, the applications of the core-periphery model to the procedure and gravity model are too brief and could have been more detailed. The book also has a few errors, but the frequency of such errors is low. The book suggests the need now for

more narrowly focused research on mergers and acquisitions, i.e., research focused on a particular industry sector or region. These more focused studies would further our knowledge of the merger process and might help produce a greater understanding of the effects on local and regional economies. We do not know to what extent these effects can be generalized across industry types. For example, the impacts from mergers and acquisitions in the manufacturing sector may not be the same as in retailing or banking. A better knowledge of the impacts on local or regional economies has important value in terms of policy concerns. Case studies may offer the most feasible approach given the complexity of the issues involved.

Green's book helps answer the recent call by Clark for more research on how activities such as leveraged buyouts (LBOs), mergers, and acquisitions are remaking the map of corporate capitalism (Clark 1989). These actions have ushered in a new era when corporations are being bought or sold not for their productive value or functional worth, but rather for their asset value or disassembled worth. Clark refers to this new form of capitalism as the arbitrage economy. An arbitrage economy can bring about some important geographic consequences as it alters the geography of corporate management. Although Green's *Mergers and Acquisitions* does not deal specifically with LBOs, mergers and acquisitions can produce some of the same spatial impacts.

The Geographer's Art. Peter Haggett.

Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990. xviii and 219 pp., maps, diags., notes and index. \$39.95 cloth (ISBN 0-631-17144-4).

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Peter Haggett's *The Geographer's Art* is a collection of eight essays written over seven years between 1983 and 1989, years which were interrupted by terms as Vice Chancellor of the University of Bristol and as a member of the Thatcher government's powerful University Grants Committee. It is a book about

Mergers and Acquisitions will be a valuable resource for those conducting research on corporate geography. It will serve as an important reference source not only for its own findings, but also because of its extensive bibliography. Although the author did not intend the book to be an in-depth literature review, it does contain numerous references on research either directly or indirectly related to mergers and acquisitions.

The author should be commended for his efforts at tying together the several chapters on the empirical patterns of mergers by use of the core-periphery model as a means of examining spatial structure. The core-periphery model succeeded quite well in providing an adequate description of merger and acquisition patterns. Any reader must also be impressed with the tremendously large database that the author assembled in order to carry out this study. This book does indeed make a significant contribution to the study of corporate geography.

Key Words: corporate control, mergers, external control, core-periphery model, acquisition fields.

Reference

Clark, G. L. 1989. Remaking the map of corporate capitalism: The arbitrage economy of the 1990s. *Environment and Planning A* 21:997-1000.

the experience of being a professional geographer, written from the personal perspective of one who has played a remarkable role in the development of the discipline over the past three decades. Just as geography touches all of us in many ways and forms, so Peter Haggett's own contribution to Geography has

enriched the professional lives of many of us over the years with its unique, somewhat self-effacing and ingenuous but at the same time awesome command of the best the discipline has to offer. *The Geographer's Art* recalls the early delights of *Locational Analysis in Human Geography*, but at the same time updates it with glimpses of the author's recent work in the geographical analysis of distributions of disease. No other geographer could give the reader quite such a sense of lifelong commitment to the marriage of intellectual challenge and curiosity with practical relevance.

An enigmatic illustration on the dustcover shows two small islands in the Maldives, surrounded by blue sea. Both have forested "heads" and long coral "tails" stretching into the distance, and one seems to be tentatively swimming toward the other. Are these the human and physical subdisciplines, or the past groping toward an allegorical future, or analytical systematic geography reaching out to synthetic regional geography? All seem appropriate given the intellectual positions which the author has taken consistently throughout his professional career, and which are represented strongly in the book's themes. This is an integrative overview by someone known for his ability to integrate, and to write with wit and charm.

Chapter one provides the general introduction, and develops the theme of the map as the geographer's mirror, in the sense of both a reflecting surface and a window. The author sees the geographer as driven by a search for order and meaning on the surface of the earth, armed with a kit of appropriately designed analytical and modeling tools. But while this may sound too much like the early days of spatial analysis, and might suggest that we should place the author in the set of Hart's "tidy-minded souls" (1982, 8), the chapter also includes a discussion of the difficulties of distinguishing signal from noise, and the importance of the framework used to search for order—the eye of the beholder.

The next four chapters give the author's personal view of the nature of geography, in the form of four essays. The theme developed in the first chapter, of the map—and geographic information—as an organizing framework, persists here. Chapter two deals with levels of resolution, scale and sampling, and their significance, chapter three with intellectual con-

structs of space and the power of multidimensional scaling, chapter four with the concept of regions and its role in the search for spatial order, and chapter five with time-dependent phenomena, asymmetry, and flow. The style is consistent throughout, combining a very broad perspective with well-chosen, even exotic examples.

Chapters six through eight turn from a discussion of the nature of geography to geographers themselves, from the search for order to the searchers. Chapter six looks at the roles of individuals, using the author's own work on the significance of key geographers since the late eighteenth century, supplemented by a discussion of Buttimer's work on the impact of Hägerstrand, Stoddart's on the growth of the published literature, and Gatrell and Smith's recent analysis of geographical citations, among others. Chapter seven is a memorable essay on changing styles of geographical research, paradigm shifts and intellectual catastrophes. Finally chapter eight, boldly titled "Geography Future," offers thoughts on the prospects for major breakthroughs in geographical research in the next decade. While many of these are quite technical, such as the development of robust methods for analyzing spatial series, we are left with two clear messages—of the author's confidence in the continuing intellectual challenge of geographical research, and of his deep fascination with geographical reality and its occasional spectacular symmetry.

To be successful, a book of this nature must find a delicate balance between personal detail and general overview, and Haggett does this superbly. Examples from the author's own work, such as the modeling of measles diffusion in Iceland, mix smoothly with discussion of Sauer or Spate. The book works at this level because we see Sauer's work through the author's own eyes, through the details of an early meeting at Berkeley in 1962, and there are similar personal recollections of many of the geographers in the book to add a sense of reality and immediacy to their work. But this style carries a danger, that the process of geography will overpower its purpose—that the geographer's art will appear too literally an art.

Neither is this the art of all geographers. Bristol and Cambridge figure strongly, as does UC-Berkeley, with the links to Sauer and later

the power of multidimensional four with the concept of symmetry in the search for spatial order, five with time-dependent geometry, and flow. The style is elegant, combining a very clear layout with well-chosen, even

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Stoddart. The personal experience that forms the basis of the book is both its strength and its weakness. But overall I think the book succeeds, not because it pretends to be comprehensive, which it doesn't, but because the author's own work is so impressive and is discussed with such a sense of enthusiasm, and because his lifelong array of personal contacts leads in such interesting directions. At the same time, it is obviously difficult for material of this nature to give the reader any strong sense of what it is to be an ordinary geographer, or what geography is about, or in what way it is unique. One cannot avoid comparing the book to Peter Gould's *The Geographer at Work* (1985), which is more a view of the discipline as a whole, albeit from an equally personal perspective and with a very different style.

Haggett's is a book that any professional geographer can read with pleasure and delight. As a book to inspire the student of

geography with a sense of energy and purpose, it's probably without equal in the recent literature of the discipline. To the contemporary graduate student contemplating the seemingly unsurmountable heights of modern academe, with its daunting tenure process, this is a book to treasure for its ability to rise above the everyday realities of academic life in such an apparently effortless and civilized way.

Key Words: Cambridge, Bristol, epidemiology, diffusion, paradigms, modeling.

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River Towns in the Great West: The Structure of Provincial Urbanization in the American Midwest, 1820-1870. Timothy R. Mahoney.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. xi and 319 pp. maps, charts, photos., tables, apps., and index. \$39.50 cloth (ISBN 0-521-36130-3).

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River Towns in the Great West deals primarily with the port towns along the Upper Mississippi between Dubuque, Iowa and Galena, Illinois on the north and Alton, Illinois at the south, all north of St. Louis. They are studied largely as parts of a transport and mercantile system based on St. Louis. The places examined most closely are Galena, Dubuque, Davenport, Iowa, and Quincy, Illinois; Burlington, Iowa, Keokuk, Illinois, and Alton receive somewhat less attention. Many others are mentioned. Galena, as entrepôt of the lead trade, which is credited with initiating the mercantile system, receives most attention.

Galena, located on a then-navigable tributary of the Mississippi, was at the outset in an island-like node of settlement in advance of pioneer agricultural settlement. The wheat and flour trades, based on expanding settlement on both sides of the Mississippi, soon

aided in adding numerous port towns. Roads widened the hinterlands of these river towns, or at least of some of them. The chief economic function of most may have been serving as supply points because the value of imports exceeded exports in most places for which figures are given. Blacksmithing, lumber-milling, and some manufacturing both of local surpluses, as of flour, pork, brew, and lead (at Dubuque), and outfitting of settlers, as in making ploughs, carriages, and shoes, added to the importance of some of the towns. We don't know how many. Statistics from the censuses of 1850 and 1860 are cited for Galena, Dubuque, and Davenport.

The first three chapters are introductory. Both physical geography and the history of settlement are presented under the heading of human geography and the structure of regional life. The chapters of central impor-