Interlocality Competition as a State Project: Urban Locational Policy and the Rescaling of State Space

Neil Brenner

in New State Spaces: Urban Governance and the Rescaling of Statehood

This chapter investigates the rescaled, growth-oriented, and competitiveness-driven forms of state spatial policy and urban governance that began to crystallize as of the late 1970s, in conjunction with widespread concerns about urban industrial decline, intensified interspatial competition, welfare state retrenchment, European integration, and economic globalization. It argues that during the 1980s and 1990s, these new urban locational policies served as key catalysts and expressions of broader processes of state rescaling; they also contributed to an enhanced geographical differentiation of state regulatory arrangements and to an intensification of uneven spatial development across western Europe.

Building sustainable communities

Mike Raco

In 2003 the Labour Government published its ambitious Sustainable Communities Plan. It promised to bring about a ‘step change’ in the English planning system and a new emphasis on the construction of more balanced, cohesive, and competitive places. This book uses historical and contemporary materials to document the ways in which policy makers, in different eras, have sought to use state powers and regulations to create better, more balanced, and sustainable communities and citizens. It charts the changes that have taken place in community-building policy frameworks, place imaginations, and core spatial-policy initiatives in the
UK since 1945. In so doing, the book examines the tensions that have emerged within spatial policy over the types of places which should be created, and the forms of mobility and fixity required to create them. It also shows that there are significant lessons that can be learnt from the experiences of the past, which can be used to inform contemporary policy debates over issues such as migration, uneven development, key-worker housing, and sustainability.

Property
Peter Knoepfel

in Public Policy Resources

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The application of the resource-oriented approach used in this book confirms the prominent role of the resource Property in the resource portfolios of each of the three policy actors. Property consists of the ownership of property and use rights to material and immaterial (natural, manufactured, social and/or human) resources and the various bundles of goods and/or services they provide to the owner. One of the prominent services of such resources involves their role as policy resource (abstract use of such resources as opposed to concrete uses). The most prominent material resource is the ownership of (strategic) land, which enables both public and private actors to play a predominant role in policy formulation and, especially, implementation processes. The chapter illustrates the mobilization and use modes of the resource Property in the areas of spatial planning, institutional policies (creation of a Swiss canton), public accounting and state infrastructural policies (land acquisition policies for communal land use policy). It stresses the role of legal appeals by target groups or beneficiary organizations and the privileged position occupied by landowners in the planning and implementation of large urban projects.

Changing times, changing places
Mike Raco

in Building sustainable communities: Spatial policy and labour mobility in post-war Britain

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Item type: chapter
This chapter introduces readers to the main topic of this book, which is labour mobility and spatial policy in post-war Britain. The first section presents the main aims of the book, and is followed by a discussion of some of the core themes that surround the relationships between ‘balanced’ community building and spatial policy. The discussion then sheds some light on the key concepts that are used in the analysis in the following chapters. The second section focuses on the value of using a historical methodology. The chapter ends with a summary of the main contents of the book and its key points.

Spatial policy, sustainable communities, and labour market-building: towards a new research agenda

Mike Raco

in Building sustainable communities: Spatial policy and labour mobility in post-war Britain

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This concluding chapter combines all the key findings under the four themes that have helped shape the analysis. These themes are the imaginations of place and space; the processes, practices, and politics of mobility; the engendering of particular forms of citizenship and subjectivity; and the changing perceptions and realities of state capacities and modes of regulation. The chapter argues that in each case, a historical narrative has allowed new insights to be developed and the continuities and changes in policy emphasis to be established and contextualised. The latter portion of the chapter has a discussion of the directions that future research on spatial policy and governance might take, and the key questions that could inform such research.