

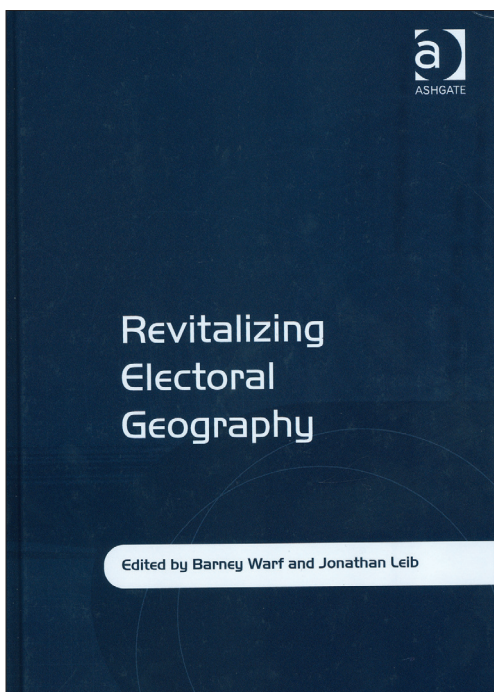
geology, climate and soils does not contain border of communes, therefore the localization of some phenomena challenges the reader. In addition, the soil map legend is constituted by eight categories but the summarizing cake chart includes only six ones. In several maps, contrary to the initial practice, the outlines of the settlements are missing. In case of the maps with landscape orientation in the historical-administrative section, it would have been better to orient them in the same direction.

On the whole, we conclude, that despite the minor cartographic problems, the Atlas of ATU Gagauzia is a well-designed work of high quality, which is recommended for everyone who would like to be acquainted in depth with this region and its cartographic representation.

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Warf, B. and Leib, J. (ed.): Revitalizing Electoral Geography. Burlington, Ashgate Publishing Company, 2011. 238 p.

Electoral geography has a long and complex history and once possessed a distinguished status within the discipline of political geography. This dominance decreased after 1980 and the thematic coverage of electoral geography became partially obsolete. While social



geography began to deal with more conceptual questions, electoral geography became utterly positivist and sank into its own 'moribund backwater'. Electoral geographers had to face the challenges of renewal, and this book is an important trial to revitalize electoral geography.

The book consists of three major parts and contains altogether twelve chapters. The first part of the book sets the conceptual background. Barney WARF and Jonathan LEIB, who are the editors of the volume, describe the need for revitalisation and summarise the messages of the studies included in the book. The editors emphasize that the overall goal of these chapters is to show some conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives for electoral geographers.

In the second chapter Jonathan LEIB and Nicolas QUINTON discuss the current trends in electoral geography. Authors analyse 224 articles published mainly in English language journals (e.g. Political

Geography, Regional Studies and Professional Geographer) after 1990. They come to the conclusion that 39 percent of the articles deal with the United States, 20 percent with the United Kingdom, in addition to the Anglo-Saxon dominance a lot of studies focus on the electoral processes of the Post-Soviet states. The bulk of the literature concentrates on the analysis of voting patterns, electoral systems, redistricting or pedagogic issues. Some of the major theoretical perspectives, e.g. spatial analysis, political economy, and post-structuralist interpretations also appear in the articles. As a reader, I found this chapter very informative and the comprehensive analysis of electoral geography publications provided a solid foundation for the book.

In the second part of the book case studies from the UK, Italy, Spain, Taiwan and Puerto Rico can be found. In the third chapter, Ron JOHNSTON and Charles PATTIE use the United Kingdom as a case study to describe the strengths and weaknesses of the wide varieties of electoral systems. They think that the geography is the core of most systems which use elect legislators to represent territorially-defined constituencies. There are no perfect systems but for the sake of social justice, it is necessary to examine the balance between advantages and drawbacks in electoral systems and geography plays a key role here.

The fourth chapter presents how geographic information systems and spatial regression methods can be used for electoral geography. Michael SHIN and John AGNEW focus on the objectivity of research methods in modern geography. Their case study is on the Lega Nord (North League) in Lombardy. Authors examine the differences between the statistical methods (territorial autocorrelation and geographical weighted regression) and the role of the scale. The anti-immigration and regional party has both positive (around Brescia and Sordio) and negative (east side of Milano) correlation with the rate of unemployment. This chapter can be perceived as a great methodological innovation regarding how spatial regression can be used to point out local differences behind the global correlations and regressions results.

Erinn P. NICLEY focuses on the cultural political economy perspective of elections. He points out that the Bloque Nacionalista Galego regional political party first rose and then fell between 1985 and 2005. Initially, the author restricts the terminology as the impact of the capitalist regulation on the identity of voters. The influences of the global political and economic shifts on voting behaviour are analysed, at the same time the effects of local cultural and ideological differences on political patterns are emphasised. In my view, this article provides a new perspective for electoral studies because it contains critical parts behind the main analyses of the results.

Although English language publications focus predominantly on the elections of North America and Europe, Daniel McGOWIN provides a unique chapter because his case study is Taiwan. Analysing the historical, identical factors of voting behaviour author comes to the conclusion that in the past, the main differentiating factor of voting behaviour was the progeny of people (Chinese or native). Nowadays, the main cleavages between the Kuomintang and the Democratic Progressive Party are not so much based on ethnic issues but more on the attitudes towards mainland China.

In the seventh chapter, Luis D. SÁNCHEZ-AYALA describes the problems and dilemmas of the extension of the voting rights in Puerto Rico. Could the electoral universe for a future referendum be limited only for those who have lived on the island or for those who were born on the island? These questions are hot because more Puerto Ricans live in the United States than in Puerto Rico. In recent decades, there have been three referendums and the voters were very much divided each time. The main cleavages in the Puerto Rican society are the attitude towards the United States, the differences between nationality and statehood and furthermore, the differing identities between the migrants and the islanders.

The third part of the book focuses on the United States. Barney WARE, in the eighth chapter, describes the impacts of class, ethnicity and religion on the presidential elections in 2008. The general stereotype about American voters is that working class people vote for the Democrats and the white and wealthier groups support Republicans. Author uses geographically weighted regression and shows why this class-stereotype is not applicable nowadays. Moreover, he notes that religion and ethnicity are more determining factors of voters' behaviour. I found this chapter highly informative because the author also highlights the main political impacts of neoliberalism after 1970. For instance, lots of Democrats became Republican voters because the Democratic Party overemphasized liberal and multicultural values. Toby MOORE, in his chapter, analyses the spatial dimensions of American voting in the 2008 elections, in the light of voter identification laws and voting technologies. The way how voters cast their ballots shows enormous differences across the United States. For example some states allow voters to register and cast their ballots on the same day. In another states, many people cast their ballots through e-mail. These kinds of regional differences also influence the electoral results.

In the next chapter, Fred M. SHELLEY and Heather HOLLEN examine the geographical aspects of pre-elections, which is rather new topic in electoral geography. Authors use the presidential primaries in 2008 as a case study and emphasize the cleavages within one party throughout the United States. On the one hand, Obama attract strong support in metropolitan areas, among ethnic minorities and highly qualified people. On the other hand, Hilary Clinton is more popular among elderly, lower-class people and in rural areas. Republican candidates also create their own cleavages; Romney is popular in urban areas while McCain in rural areas. In the next chapter, Nicholas QUINTON and Gerald R. WEBSTER try to make connections between conceptual approaches and quantitative methods. They use spatial autocorrelations and factor-analysis and compute the data of the Local Indicators of Spatial Association, presidential elections and electoral outcomes of referendums. As they found North Alabama has a white, conservative, republican voting behaviour pattern and the 'black belt' has a liberal, multicultural pattern with democratic dominance. This study is an excellent demonstration how quantitative methods can successfully be applied in post-structuralism paradigm.

Finally, Thomas CHAPMAN analyses the geographical features of the referendum about the same-sex marriage in Florida. This topic divided very much the population and finally the majority rejected it. However, there were several areas where the same-sex marriage got strong support, for example, in the neighbourhoods of the universities. The author describes the spatial patterns of this referendum through the lens of cultural politics of sexuality.

To sum up, I found the twelve chapters of this book highly informative and thought-provoking. I recommend this book for all those academics and researchers who are interested in electoral studies and would like to know more about the modern straits of electoral geography.

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