

Review

Reviewed Work(s): Regionalism and the South: Selected Papers of Rupert Vance. by John Shelton Reed and Daniel Joseph Singal

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find this book enjoyable and informative. One has the sense that the authors know their study site intimately, almost in an anthropological style, and are immensely successful in bringing their personal and academic knowledge to our attention.

The book begins with an interesting foreword which reviews the New York case study and places it in comparative perspective. Of the 10 chapters that follow, the first two introduce the authors' theoretical perspectives on governmental relations and summarize the development of the New York region. The next two chapters are concerned with suburban governments' attempts to control the movement of people and industry. We learn how and why government seeks to regulate land use and the reasons suburban municipalities vary in their degree of success. The three subsequent chapters present the basic evidence regarding regional government. The regional agencies are introduced, and case studies of highway development and mass transit operation in the New York area are provided. Perhaps the planning needed to move people from home to workplace best represents the existence of and need for regional coordination in major metropolitan areas. The next two chapters review the planning initiatives in the region's urban core, citing the problems of resource allocation and urban renewal. The evidence in these instances offers a sobering perspective on the failures and complicated tasks associated with reviving older cities. The final chapter presents an overview and a look forward. Danielson and Doig do not present unrealistic solutions, and, perhaps correctly for this era, they predict little change in the patterns of government influence.

New York is an important addition to knowledge in urban sociology, political science, and regional science. It is an unusually thorough and carefully presented case study. It has few equals in examining the role of government influence on urban trends. It should inspire similar studies of other regions and complementary research focusing on topics other than urban development.

Regionalism and the South: Selected Papers of Rupert Vance. Edited by John Shelton Reed and Daniel Joseph Singal. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982. Pp. xxii + 353. \$26.00.

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Rupert Vance was a lifelong resident of the South and a sociologist who for a half-century helped to document and interpret the changes in that region. He is remembered for several major books, most notably *Human Geography of the South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1932), and for more than 100 articles contributed to journals, including this one.

From Vance's works, John Shelton Reed and Daniel Joseph Singal have selected 23 papers originally published from 1928 to 1971. The topics of

Regionalism in the South range from the study of a specific southern community (McRae, Ga.) to more general analyses of the region or aspects of it, such as family or economic and educational institutions, with emphasis on demographic changes and urbanization of the South, including Vance's suggestions for public policy and planning. Alternating with the empirical material are articles reflecting Vance's efforts to construct a sound theoretical basis for the specialty of regional sociology, an enterprise initiated by his department chairman and mentor, Howard Odum, who had come to Chapel Hill in 1920.

Today hardly any sociologists identify themselves as regional sociologists. Since the regional approach has thrived in other social sciences, the apparent fate of regional sociology is puzzling. Reed addresses this mystery in the introduction to this book and elsewhere (*One South* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982]). For example, here it is suggested that regional sociology, considered as a response to what is today termed "underdevelopment," was perceived as somehow less appropriate as the South modernized and that as a theoretical area, it probably became submerged in the development of human ecology.

Regionalism and the South conveys successfully the breadth of Vance's interests. Here is pithy detail from a man who knew his home region well and had a sincere desire (based partly on his own parents' fate in the cotton culture) to attack its major problems. One sees the reason for his conviction that all social sciences have to be brought to bear for full comprehension of a region. Although Vance was better at documenting problems than at spelling out solutions, he was still more skilled at the latter than most academic sociologists would be. He is also most readable. After enjoying his papers on the Brothers Taylor of Tennessee and "Jeff Davis the Little" of Arkansas, one wishes that Vance could have completed a study of political leadership that had been projected under the title *Spellbinders of the Old South*.

Anyone interested in the concept of the region as a social entity and in the need for scientific theory and methodology for regional research should read this book. Anyone interested in the history of American sociology, or in the history of the South, or simply in the intellectual development of one gifted scholar of the 20th century, also will find this a rewarding book, meticulously edited and handsomely produced.

A Deplorable Scarcity: The Failure of Industrialization in the Slave Economy. By Fred Bateman and Thomas Weiss. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1981. Pp. xiii + 237. \$19.00.

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Since the antebellum period ended, scholars and observers have argued widely that the economy of the South before the Civil War was traditional