

1. Synopsis of book

Title: “ Globalisation and Integrated Area Development in European Cities ”

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The book looks for answers to the following questions: What is the real impact of globalisation dynamics on cities and local communities? Does the global economy leave room for local development strategies and policies? Can local development programmes conciliate economic, social and ecological agendas? Can grassroots movements improve the pro-activity of local governance? Which macro-economic conditions should be met to let socio-economic local development strategies work?

CHAPTER 1 GLOBAL COMPETITION, SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND LOCAL RENAISSANCE

This introductory chapter establishes the links between contemporary problems of inner cities in Europe and the socio-economic crisis, which have haunted the continent since the middle of the 1970s. Complementary and conflicting explanations of local crises or the particular forms of global crises are examined and confronted with redevelopment strategies applied by local governments and development agents. The liberal *reveal* and the corresponding new economic policy (NEP) are severely criticised on the basis of its failure to solve the problem of socio-economic disintegration of cities. In fact, it is found that NEP, even when economically successful, sharpens social polarisation in the urban society. A call for more socio-political support towards initiatives in the socio-economy is made. This, however, requires a change in macro-economic policy from neo-liberal to post-Keynesianism and international regulation of capital.

CHAPTER 2 GLOBALISATION, CITIES AND THE SOCIAL QUESTION

Chapter 2 evaluates 'globalisation' as an economic theory, an economic practice and an ideology. The often-praised innovative character of globalisation as a new stage in the internationalisation of the economy is challenged. In fact, globalisation is found to be a sophisticated form of neo-colonialism (free market forces, exclusion of entire geo-regions from economic progress, deregulation of trade and labour markets, abandoning social protection of unskilled labour). It offers very few opportunities for social progress, except to the professional labour class in the top tier cities and the capitalist class in most parts of the world. Therefore, as a theory, 'globalisation' adds very little to the existing theories of internationalisation of the economy and corporate capital already available in the 1970s. But as an ideology 'Globalisation' legitimises the most unscrupulous behaviour of footloose capital, as if after the chaotic impact of economic reshuffling at the global scale, all countries and social groups would be better off when international capital becomes more and more involved in global competition. The working agenda of many MNC's radiates globalism. But for the international society, globalisation is a process of generating spatial mechanisms producing social exclusion. The beneficiaries of this process are concentrated in the rich continents and the new industrial countries - although the latter are in real big problems since a few years, whereas entire continents (Africa) or subcontinents (India, central aboriginal Australia) undergo the negative consequences: exhaustion of natural resources, ongoing impoverishment of the majority of the population

The fragility of the globalisation thesis also means that in reality the worsening of the social question in the big cities should only be partly attributed to globalisation, which can also be considered as a perverse stage of post-fordist restructuring. It is argued that the roots of the problems lie with the structure of the fordist city, its social fragmentation, its fragile production and reproduction structure. Thinking about the renaissance of the fordist city must start by interpreting the features of the fordist city. This interpretation is made by use of regulation theory, one of the most powerful tools to analyse the consequences of the crisis of fordism and the potential to surmount it.

CHAPTER 3 A NEW APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

Common practice in the analysis of local development is rather disappointing. Descriptive monographs without clear methodological choices, sectoral and mono-disciplinary approaches, short term views, etc. have engendered a scattered panoply of hardly comparable experiences and strategy recommendations. To increase the effectiveness of the analysis, a multi-dimensional, institutional and historical reading of development stories, following a common framework is needed. This is all the more true if the development potential of areas with a long-standing trajectory of decline and socio-economic disintegration is to be discerned. Only a balanced approach taking into account socio-economic history, cultural traditions, political governance, local socialisation processes, etc. can uncover this potential. The authors show how regulation theory - already introduced in chapter 2 - can be adapted for the analysis of local development and for designing redevelopment strategies and policies in disintegrated areas. Examples from a detailed European study are used to illustrate the power of this approach.

CHAPTER 4 INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

Local development analysis in chapter 3 shows that disintegrated urban areas (inner city neighbourhoods, run down production centres, manufacturing districts specialised in crisis sectors, etc.) cannot conceive their redevelopment strategies using the well-known recipes of urban renovation, investment in high technology and professional service activities, training of high-skilled professionals. These advocacies which may work well for a limited sample of industrial districts, CBDs, high technology parks, etc. are completely detached from the life-sphere of disintegrated areas traumatised by decades of economic discouragement, destruction of social capital, annihilation of socio-cultural relationships, lack of creative work and production opportunities, poverty with all its facets, neighbourhood insecurity, etc.

It is argued how the 'renaissance' of these places depends on social innovation both in the sense of the rediscovery of basic needs and the re-invention of local governance (grassroots democracy, decision making procedures, communication with development agencies in other areas at other spatial levels). This double character of social innovation is enhanced by the integrated area development strategy pointed out in figure 4.1.

CHAPTER 5 EXPERIENCES IN INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT

In this chapter more or less successful experiences of integrated area development or multi-dimensional development projects are briefly presented and compared: deprived neighbourhoods in Antwerp, Hamburg, Gerona, Bilbao, Rostock, Charleroi. Four of these cities are on average very successful urban societies, but they 'host' areas with severe disintegration problems. The mechanisms which are at the basis of this disintegration are briefly examined, past policies and development strategies evaluated and contemporary integrated actions presented. The various aspects of social innovation which were already laid out in the previous chapter are examined in detail for most of these case studies.

CHAPTER 6 FROM CITY-HALL ADMINISTRATION TO LOCAL PRO-ACTIVITY

The analysis of the regulation of production systems has stirred the debate on the notion and practice of local governance. The orthodox interpretation of local governance as a political-administrative system steering or accompanying the socio-economic process at the local level has become gradually replaced by a more societal reading of local governance. All in accordance with the regulationist interpretation of institutional dynamics, local governance is interpreted here as the ensemble of institutions (habits, rules, organisations) which directly or indirectly catalyse socio-economic development of a local community. Governance systems grow, disappear and resurrect in the course of the socio-economic history of the community. They can be important carriers of local renaissance, but equally well blocks or conservative forces.

On the basis of the analysis of governance systems in a number of localities, including the case studies of chapter 5, shifts in local political regimes, coalitions, the role of social and political movements, socio-economic organisations, etc. are examined. It is found that today local governance systems reflect the complexity the local pro-activity or passivity and that in order to make disintegrated local communities move, social innovation in governance systems is necessary.

CHAPTER 7 SOCIAL FUTURE AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

New forms of international and national regulation could increase the possibilities for integrated area development significantly. Restoration of world monetary order, fair trade agreements, world-wide ecological treaties, minimum social protection norms, extension of human rights to economic democracy, etc. are prime targets in a new world order. And a post-Keynesian redistribution policy encouraging the redistribution of work and the reduction of labour-time, new income distribution mechanisms among socio-professional groups and between the private and public sector, could become the national macro-economic companion of local renaissance initiatives. These new forms of national and international regulation are discussed in this final chapter.

Appendix on the Methodology of Local Development Analysis. This is a more technical elaboration of the empirical tools referred to in Chapter 3.

The book is written by a 'collective author'. Chapters 1 through 3 and chapter 7 are written by Frank Moulaert, chapter 4 is written by Jean-Cédric Delvainquière and Frank Moulaert also using research results of the whole group. Chapter 5 is written by all authors except Serena Vicari.

Serena Vicari writes chapter 6. All chapters are re-edited by Frank Moulaert with the editorial assistance of Marian Martinez.

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