

The Power Of Place Dolores Hayden

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The Power of Place (RLE Social & Cultural Geography)
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throughout chinese history mountains have been integral components of the religious

landscape they have been considered divine or numinous sites the abodes of deities the preferred locations for temples and monasteries and destinations for pilgrims early in chinese history a set of five mountains were co opted into the imperial cult and declared sacred peaks yue demarcating and protecting the boundaries of the chinese imperium the southern sacred peak or nanyue is of interest to scholars not the least because the title has been awarded to several different mountains over the years the dynamic nature of nanyue raises a significant theoretical issue of the mobility of sacred space and the nature of the struggles involved in such moves another facet of nanyue is the multiple meanings assigned to this place political religious and cultural of particular interest is the negotiation of this space by daoists and buddhists the history of their interaction leads to questions about the nature of the divisions between these two religious traditions james robson s analysis of these topics demonstrates the value of local studies and the emerging field of buddho daoist studies in research on chinese religion

the indigenous communities of the lower fraser river british columbia a group commonly called the stó lō have historical memories and senses of identity deriving from events cultural practices and kinship bonds that had been continuously adapting long before a non native visited the area directly in the power of place the problem of time keith thor carlson re thinks the history of native newcomer relations from the unique perspective of a classically trained historian who has spent nearly two decades living working and talking with the stó lō peoples stó lō actions and reactions during colonialism were rooted in their pre colonial experiences and customs which coloured their responses to events such as smallpox outbreaks or the gold rush profiling tensions of gender and class within the community carlson emphasizes the elasticity of collective identity a rich and complex history the power of place the problem of time looks to both the internal and the external factors which shaped a society during a time of great change and its implications extend far beyond the study region

frazier s comparative study of popular protest in twentieth century shanghai and mumbai highlights recurring debates over migration and citizenship

the world is not as mobile or as interconnected as we like to think as harm de blij argues in the power of place in crucial ways from the uneven distribution of natural resources

to the unequal availability of opportunity geography continues to hold billions of people in its grip we are all born into natural and cultural environments that shape what we become individually and collectively from our mother tongue to our father s faith from medical risks to natural hazards where we start our journey has much to do with our destiny hundreds of millions of farmers in the river basins of asia and africa and tens of millions of shepherds in isolated mountain valleys from the andes to kashmir all live their lives much as their distant ancestors did remote from the forces of globalization incorporating a series of persuasive maps de blij describes the tremendously varied environments across the planet and shows how migrations between them are comparatively rare de blij also looks at the ways we are redefining place so as to make its power even more potent than it has been with troubling implications

this collection of papers is the fourth in a series of volumes on the work of the comparative austronesian project each paper describes a specific austronesian locality and offers an ethnographic account of the way in which social knowledge is vested maintained and transformed in a particular landscape the intention of the volume is to consider common patterns in the representation of place among austronesian speaking populations

ecologists can spend a lifetime researching a small patch of the earth studying the interactions between organisms and the environment and exploring the roles those interactions play in determining distribution abundance and evolutionary change with so few ecologists and so many systems to study generalizations are essential but how do you extrapolate knowledge about a well studied area and apply it elsewhere through a range of original essays written by eminent ecologists and naturalists the ecology of place explores how place focused research yields exportable general knowledge as well as practical local knowledge and how society can facilitate ecological understanding by investing in field sites place centered databases interdisciplinary collaborations and field oriented education programs that emphasize natural history this unique patchwork of case study narratives philosophical musings and historical analyses is tied together with commentaries from editors ian billick and mary price that develop and synthesize common threads the result is a unique volume rich with all too rare insights into how science is actually done as told by scientists themselves

reflecting the revival of interest in a social theory that takes place and space seriously this book focuses on geographical place in the practice of social science and history there is significant interest among scholars from a range of disciplines in bringing together the geographical and sociological imaginations the geographical imagination is a concrete and descriptive one concerned with determining the nature of places and classifying them and the links between them the sociological imagination aspires to explanation of human activities in terms of abstract social processes the chapters in this book focus on both the intellectual histories of the concept of place and on its empirical uses they show that place is as important for understanding contemporary america as it is for 18th century sri lanka they also show how the concept can provide insight into old problems such as the nature of social life in renaissance florence and venice the editors are leading exponents of the view of place as a concept that can mediate the geographical and sociological imaginations

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