

related areas, and to discuss the costs and benefits of the modeling and the marginal contribution of improved resolution. In many cases, the marginal decision-making benefit of better models might be small. What do decision-makers, meaning various publics, need to know? Value must be assessed by more criteria than a user friendly GIS.

In the epilogue, the editors report on the finds of breakout groups of the 600 scientists at the conference. It is impossible to summarize all these findings, but there are many ideas for profitable research activities in this vital area of application of GIS.

The book is an essential addition to the bookshelves of researchers and teachers involved in the application of spatial modeling to environmental problems. Priced at \$65, the book is a good value in a field in which high book prices are the rule. The book is certainly not for novices in the field, but it would be ideal for graduate-level reading, or possibly as a textbook in courses in advanced GIS and/or modeling in resource management, environmental science, and geography programs. Key Words: *environment, GIS, modeling, policy*. G. T. McDonald, Griffith University, Australia.

The Slow Plague: A Geography of the AIDS Pandemic. PETER GOULD. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1993. ix and 228 pp., maps, diags., index, and biblio. \$44.95 cloth (ISBN 1-55786-418-7); \$19.95 paper (ISBN 1-55786-419-5).

The title of this book is eye-catching. I cannot think of a more appropriate name to describe the phenomenon of the AIDS pandemic, which was virtually unknown to many of us a decade ago. By placing AIDS as a form of slow plague, the historical settings of the disease and its significance become apparent. After all, we human beings have experienced many epidemics in the past. Can we learn something from the past to cope with the present problem of AIDS?

This book is written with an intended audience described as "the very busy public." As a result, the style is simple but sensational, sometimes with a little exaggeration; and the emphasis is on storytelling, albeit a very sad story. There are very few numbers, tables,

equations, models, or analyses, but there are maps and diagrams, which communicate effectively to the audience on the various topics. The book is quite comprehensive and information rich and covers a little bit of everything; therefore, it could serve as the first book to read in order to understand the overall picture of the AIDS pandemic in a relatively short time.

The book has 16 chapters, with about two-thirds (10 chapters) devoted to the discussion of the origins, processes of spread, spatial patterns, and associated symptoms and effects of the AIDS pandemic, with a closeup look at four places of varying geographical scales—Africa, Thailand, the United States, and South Bronx in New York. Supplemented with various details of the culture and the social, geographical, and political facets of these places, the author paints a vivid picture of how hopeless it is for these places to curb the spread of the deadly disease. The stories on the African continent and Thailand are extraordinary. The last third of the book (six chapters) is largely on criticizing the existing governmental strategies and funding agencies for excluding geography in the research and prevention of the disease. The 16 chapters are carefully linked, with proverbs and quotations highlighted at the beginning of each chapter. The author is successful in bringing the audience the sentiment, the anguish, and the frustration of not being able to do more about saving lives from this deadly disease. It is terrible to say that I really "enjoyed" reading the book and it is "entertaining," though the topic is depressing.

But the book is not without its controversy, depending on whether you are a geographer, or rather a bureaucrat, or not. Two themes dominate the book: the explicit and repeated message of advocating the need for a geographic perspective and its usefulness in coping with the pandemic, and the constant criticism and accusation of the medical research community and the funding agencies for not being open-minded about including such a perspective. There is a chapter devoted entirely to the author's personal unsuccessful story in seeking funding from NIH for his geographic AIDS research. In fact, nasty words denouncing the existing power structure appear everywhere in the book, including criticisms of academia (such as deans, university administrators), pro-

professionals (epidemiologists, medical doctors, engineers), federal agencies such as NIH and CDC, and politicians and police in African countries and Thailand. Some examples are: "the story of research is deeply blemished by overwhelming arrogance, false claims, catastrophically dysfunctional rivalries . . . that science is always a socially negotiated and socially interpreted endeavor" (p. 4); "One dean of a medical school, in a surprising burst of honesty that tends to be rare in a profession not noted for its modesty . . ." (p. 11); "particularly where highly trained but distressingly uneducated engineers become administrators . . ." (p. 138); "Any epidemiologists . . . with the slightest geographical awareness should have been thinking along these lines . . . using common sense rather than pretentious, and largely useless, computer models" (p. 121); "Perhaps somewhere some epidemiologist made a map or so earlier, but then had not had the faintest idea what to do with it except hang it on the wall" (p. 124); and finally a question from a medical doctor in a conference: "Are you real doctors, or just PhDs?" (p. 144).

As a geographer doing similar research, I can appreciate the author's noble courage in putting all the arguments forcefully and vividly for the need of geography and sympathize with the frustration one may have in getting geography "recognized" in the medical community. But the book may have overdone it and may have already generated negative effects, such as the devastating review in *The New York Times* by Erik Eckholm (July 18, 1993). It is a pity that the real messages of this book are blurred by the sarcastic tone mixed with personal endeavors such that they become unconvincing and unacceptable to the wider medical professional community. Key Words: *HIV/AIDS pandemic, medical geography*. Nina Siu-Ngan Lam, Louisiana State University.

The Restless Urban Landscape. PAUL L. KNOX, ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993. ix and 285 pp., maps, diags., tables, index, and biblios. \$32.00 cloth (ISBN 0-13-755414-1).

The late 20th century is witnessing a dramatic restructuring of economic and urban geographers across the face of the planet. The collection of essays (10 in all) herein presented ex-

amines how what some have called "the post-modern turn" is affecting the physical form of the built environment in a number of Western and non-Western cities, how it is shaping cultural practices and attitudes towards urban life in these societies, and how it is expressed through new urban geographies of wealth production and consumption, urban politics, and social organization. The collection provides a timely overview of new developments in urban geography (as an academic practice) and urban geographies (as material cultural products). The book contains an interesting mix of supporters and detractors of the postmodern thesis (at least with regard to acceptance of the alleged emancipatory possibilities of postmodern urban forms), although my impression is that the emphasis tends more towards the latter than the former.

Personally, I found the chapters by John Logan (on the globalization of the real estate industry), Darrel Crilley (on the politics of urban redevelopment in New York's Battery Park City and London's Docklands), Robin Law and Jennifer Wolch (on transformed means of social reproduction in U.S. cities), and Paul Knox's own contribution (on the "postmodernization" of Washington, D.C.'s urban and social landscape) the most interesting. The chapter by Law and Wolch, in particular, identifies a crucial lacuna in much contemporary theorizing about urban life and its transformation during the past two decades or so, namely the general failure to integrate organically the spheres of production and labor force reproduction—indeed, the frequent tendency to conceptualize these spheres as largely discrete entities. Thus, they argue, using social reproduction as the point of entry for any analysis of contemporary urban change is critical for it "allows commodity production to be seen as part of a broad and shifting division of labor, which encompasses goods and services produced and labor performed in a variety of sites and conditions, including the home, factory, local voluntary organization, and state agency" (p. 165). Other chapters cover such topics as changing patterns of investment in Philadelphia's housing market (by Robert Beauregard), the globalization of urban cultural forms (by Anthony King), media images of New York (by M. Christine Boyer), urban change in 20th century Berlin (by Scott Lash),