

context, urban history with all its affinity for detailed analyses of local conditions may offer manifold empirical evidence for global history's expanding field.

Notes

- 1 P.-Y. Saunier/S. Ewem (eds.), *Another Global City. Historical Explorations into the Transnational Municipal Moment, 1850–2000*, New York 2008.
- 2 P.-Y. Saunier, *Going Transnational? New from down under: Transnational History Symposium*, Canberra, Australian National University, in: *Historical Social Research/Historische Sozialforschung* 31 (2006) 2, pp. 118–131, here p. 128.
- 3 S. Conrad, *Globalgeschichte. Eine Einführung*, München 2013, p. 17.
- 4 C. H. Nightingale, *Segregation. A Global History of Divided Cities*, Chicago 2012.
- 5 C. H. Nightingale, *The Seven Cs. Reflections on Writing a Global History of Urban Segregation*, in: N. Kenny/R. Madgin (eds.), *Cities beyond Borders. Comparative and Transnational Approaches to Urban History*, Farnham Surrey, Burlington VT 2015, pp. 27–42, here p. 36.
- 6 *Ibid.*, p. 41.
- 7 N. Kenny/R. Madgin, 'Every Time I Describe a City'. *Urban History as Comparative and Transnational Practice*, in: N. Kenny/R. Madgin (eds.), *Cities beyond Borders. Comparative and Transnational Approaches to Urban History*, Farnham Surrey, Burlington VT 2015, pp. 3–23, here p. 4.
- 8 *Ibid.*, p. 5
- 9 J. Osterhammel, *Global History*, in: M. Tamm/P. Burke (eds.), *Debating New Approaches to History*, London 2019, pp. 21–34, here p. 29.
- 10 Cf. D. A. Smith, *The New Urban Sociology Meets the Old*, in: *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 30 (1995) 3, pp. 432–457
- 11 Cf. N. Brenner, *The Urban Question as a Scale Question. Reflections on Henri Lefebvre, Urban Theory and the Politics of Scale*, in: *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 24 (2000) 2, pp. 361–378.
- 12 G. Koller, *Geschichte digital. Historische Welten neu vermessen*, Stuttgart 2016, pp. 11, 36.
- 13 Cf. <https://www.brown.edu/academics/spatial-structures-in-social-sciences/urban-transition-historical-gis-project>.
- 14 S. Gunn/L. Faire, *Introduction: Why Bother with Method?*, in: S. Gunn/L. Faire (eds.), *Research Methods for History*, Edinburgh 2016 (second edition, p. 3f.)
- 15 A. K. Sandoval-Strausz/N. H. Kwak, *Introduction. Why Transnationalize Urban History?*, in: A. K. Sandoval-Strausz/N. H. Kwak (eds.), *Making Cities Global. The Transnational Turn in Urban History*, Philadelphia 2018), pp. 1–16, here: p. 6.
- 16 *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- 17 Kenny/Madgin, "Every Time I Describe a City", p. 22.
- 18 S. Conrad, *What is Global History?*, Princeton 2016, p. 224.

Diana Mishkova/Balázs Trencsényi (eds.): European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History (European Conceptual History, vol. 3), New York: Berghahn Books 2017, 410 p.

Reviewed by
Kiran Klaus Patel, München

Conceptual history belongs to those fields of historical enquiry where the full impact of the spatial turn has only recently started to be felt. While for the longest time, research questions mainly addressed the national level, this book contributes to this new current by analysing how “European transnational (meso)regions have been, and are being, conceptualized and delimited over time, across different disciplines and academic traditions, in different fields of activity and national/regional contexts.” The volume, which mainly discusses the 19th and 20th centuries, presents the results of a multi-year research project hosted at the Center of Advanced Study Sofia. The

book's introduction offers a succinct summary of the chosen approach. At the most general level, the project seeks to reveal the historicity of mesoregions as spatial categories which their users often naturalized and objectified (in parts of the literature, the term mesoregion is applied only to sub-national units; here, the term means transnational regions that span several nations or even empires, while also demonstrating that certain entities, such as the Baltics, have been re-conceptualized in the course of time from the subnational to the supranational). In doing so, the various chapters do not just analyse the uses of a given terminology and its contexts, but also seek to factor in boundaries, delimitations, discourses of othering and counter-concepts.

The book has two main parts. In the first set of contributions, each chapter deals with the uses of one key concept, such as "Western Europe", "The Baltic", "Iberia" and "Eurasia". While other European mesoregions, for instance, the Benelux, could have been added to the list, the volume does assess the most important spatial concepts of this genre. The second part scrutinizes the key disciplinary traditions of regionalization. Chapters in this section discuss the contributions of fields such as linguistics, political geography/geopolitics, historical demography. The book's structure and composition are highly convincing and reflect a well-conceived project that brings together various lines of research that have not been in a real dialogue thus far. This approach is all the more impressive given the tremendous imbalances in the state of the art: while some of these concepts, such as "Central Europe" or "The Balkans", have already at-

tracted considerable research, this is much less true for others such as "Iberia". Moreover, the multidisciplinary composition of the chapters, with several contributions by non-historians particularly in the book's second part, is very welcome.

Overall, the book underscores how regional categories always been volatile and subject to change. Their geographic scope has varied massively, as has their relevance in terms of groups and historical phases. For example, regionalist terminology was on the rise during the late nineteenth century, and increasingly undergirded by academic input from various disciplines, but in many cases faded during the Cold War years. Moreover, terms often appeared in clusters of concepts, such as the Balkans/Southeastern Europe and *Südosteuropa*, a conceptual issue further complicated by the linguistic richness of the various debates. These are only two of the overarching conclusions, which the book's introduction draws together very convincingly. While the overall composition of the book is impressive and several of the chapters are written by leading experts in their respective fields, the dialogue between the contributions could have been stronger. Given that regionalist concepts often overlapped (as the authors readily admit) and interacted with each other, cross-references and links would have deserved even more attention. There is also a tension between some of the chapters' claims. To give a concrete example: The chapter on "Eastern Europe" convincingly argues that this concept has almost always been a term denoting an "other"; that it was not a term used by people in the region itself. However, it also claims that this was "(c)ontrary to most other concepts of European mesoregions"

(p. 189) – yet several other chapters, for example on the Balkans, the Mediterranean, and Iberia, arrive at similar conclusions. A stronger editing hand would also have been useful for other issues. For instance, a longish quote from Halford Mackinder crops up in two of the chapters (pp. 215, 262), and to make matters worse, they quote the same passage in slightly different ways. And while the multidisciplinary nature of the project has to be applauded, some of the authors have evidently struggled with the conceptual history approach. The piece on economics, for instance, often falls into a mere description of present-day models of regionalization. Some of the chapters that do live up to the book's agenda restrict themselves to what in German would be called *Höhenkammdebatten* (concentrating on prominent intellectuals at the expense of socially wider uses of a concept). Moreover, the concepts and the individuals contributing to their intellectual and political implementation tend to get much more space than the social and institutional backgrounds. The book thus offers conceptual history without further embedding the findings in the history of knowledge. Asking for more of the latter would probably have been too much. The book as it stands provides many fresh and fascinating insights and owes a lot to the editors' efforts to come up with shared questions and summarize the main findings. For anyone interested in the field, this book will be an indispensable reference for years to come. At the same time, it demonstrates how much there still is to discover.

Jean-Christophe Merle / Alexandre T. G. Trivisonno (eds.): Kant's Theory of Law. Proceedings of the Special Workshop "Kant's Theory of Law" held at the 26th World Congress of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Belo Horizonte, 2103 (= Archiv für Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie Beiheft 143), Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft 2015, 138 S.

Rezensiert von
Helmut Goerlich, Leipzig

Der Band, mit einer Ausnahme in englischer Sprache gehalten, enthält sieben Beiträge zur Rechtsphilosophie von Immanuel Kant. Er zeigt, dass Kant weltweit unverändert ein Thema der Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie ist. Und wer an der Debatte um diesen Autor teilnehmen will, sollte nicht nur die Fachsprache der einschlägigen Philosophie in ihrer deutschen Fassung kennen, sondern darüber hinaus die englische Entsprechung, derer sich hier auch Autorinnen und Autoren bedienen, die von Hause aus eher Spanisch oder Portugiesisch publizieren. Der schmale Band erscheint in der Reihe, die regelmäßig die Tagungsberichte der Internationalen Vereinigung für Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie enthält. Er ist sorgsam ediert und zugänglich, sieht man einmal vom Preis für das Heft im Buchhandel ab.

Am Anfang steht ein Beitrag von Fiete Kalscheuer zu „Human Dignity as Justice