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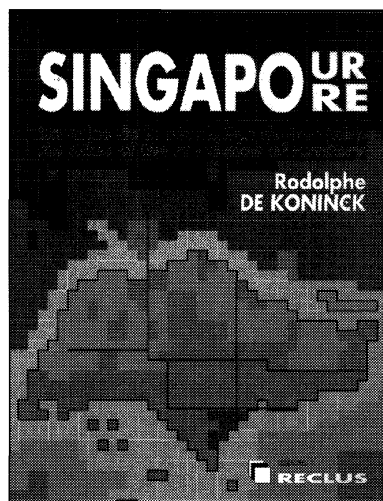
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Current trends in the urbanization patterns of the developing countries are of considerable concern. In most countries, city growth is occurring at rates almost double that of the nation at large and the surge of population is creating major urban problems associated with urban infrastructure, energy provision, waste removal and adequate provision of urban services such as water and sanitation. In many cases, these cities are characterized by large segments of their population remaining in poverty and surviving in a variety of marginal occupation.

Within the developing world, Singapore is a notable exception to this dismal picture, for Singapore is a city state that has experienced high rates of economic growth, the emergence of a large relatively affluent middle class and an urban system that functions efficiently. Indeed it is the subject of envy, by not only city governments of the developing world, but also the developed world. So De Koninck has seized upon a very "special case" to test out his theory of the "revolution of territory". Central to his arguments developed in an earlier paper in this journal (vol. 34, n° 92, sept. 1990) is his thesis that the state has manipulated spatial change as a tool to develop territorial allegiance to the republic of Singapore.

De Koninck is well equipped to test out this thesis, having carried out research in Singapore over the last 25 years. From the days when he zoomed around the city on a battered motorbike to the present, he has intimacy with the island which informs his study. He has produced an informative, attractive and persuasive study utilising intuitive maps which record the transformation of Singapore over the last 30 years. He shows the spatial dimensions of the territorial revolution in all its dimensions in a most comprehensive manner.

The book is organized around a number of themes. The emergence of Singapore as an international city state : the historical background, the revolution of territory with a series of maps illustrating such aspects as the leveling of the hills of Singapore, the reclamation of land from the sea, the housing of people, the new networks of transportation. Most of these aspects are illustrated by clear and some

cases very dramatic maps that show the major changes between the sixties and the late nineteen eighties. Of course, in this type of study there is never enough. For example, Singapore's role as a major shipping centre might have been developed in the section on «Taking on the World». But this is a very minor criticism.

There are more important issues raised in this atlas of the revolution of territory in Singapore. Perhaps most important is the fact that this book is a very positive statement of the role of geography in communicating the features of spatial change. For some considerable time, I have observed that the francophone tradition of geography has shown an exciting flair for the "graphic and cartographic expression" of geographical research. Just look at the difference in the style of cartography in the *Cahiers de géographie du Québec* and *The Canadian Geographer*. There is a sense of visual excitement and an ability to communicate information in the current francophone style which in some ways is simply an updated computer aided application of the early traditions of, for example, some of the cartography in the earlier editions of the *Géographie Universelle*.

Apart from being an excellent general text on the city state of Singapore, this volume is also an exemplary reminder to geographers of the central role of spatial change and representation in their art. As such, the atlas may be thought to be "traditional" but, in the current "turmoil" of contemporary human geography, it represents a vibrant effort to reestablish the honoured traditions of geography. It may also act as a model for many other atlases of cities undergoing territorial change.

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