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*China's Spatial Economic Development: Restless Landscapes in the Lower Yangzi Delta*  
By Andrew M. Marton  
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Scholars have attempted to adopt existing western theoretical framework to interpret rapid urban and regional changes in China as well as explore alternative frameworks to accommodate new patterns of spatial development in China. In this book Andrew Marton, a reader in Chinese Geography in the university of Nottingham, attempts to develop an alternative theoretical framework of rural transformation and urbanization in post-reform China. This is one of the books in “Routledge Studies on China in Transition” series edited by David Goodman.

Andrew Marton has remarkable knowledge about China after traveling to every region of the country in the past sixteen years. The book has seven chapters. Chapter 1 and 2 introduce the study area and the alternative approach, the “new” regional geography which focuses on the linkages between the characteristics of locality and the processes through which the social and economic relations of production are established and modified. Chapter 3 illustrates the historical and geographical patterns of transformation in the region. Chapters 4 to 6 focus on the transformation in Kunshan. The nature and transformation of local government and its relationship with rural industrial enterprises are analyzed, revealing the institutional and transactive contexts of rural industrialization and urbanization. Four case studies focus on the transportation, a town, a village and special development zones. The proliferations of 28 development zones all over the territory of 865 km<sup>2</sup> in Kunshan illustrates the intensive forces of local towns and villages in serving their local interests. In Chapter 7, the author considers the theoretical implications of the empirical analyses and revisits the new approach advocated in Chapter 2.

The author argues that the regional development in lower Yangzi delta is linked to intensely localized characteristics. External economies are less significant than endogenous forces. This view is different from the globalizing discourse emphasizing the role of global capital and the global-local linkages. The theoretical insights of the book are bounded to the particular historical and spatial context of the study area. This is not a weakness of the book as none social-economic process has universal impact on various places with the same intensity. Overall, this is a stimulating book full of empirical materials and theoretical insights.

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