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Book Review

Frank J. Lechner and John Boli (eds) (2004) *The Globalization Reader*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd. pp.

This is a fully updated, wide ranging and thought-provoking book which aims to describe and explain the course of globalisation and the shape of its outcomes. As pointed out in the general introduction, the Globalisation Reader tries to answer to a set of general questions: 'What does globalisation involve? Is globalisation new? Is globalisation driven by the expanding market? Does globalisation make the world more homogeneous? Does globalisation determine local events? Is globalisation harmful? What does globalisation mean?' (pp. 1–4). The volume successfully answers to these questions by exhaustively combining theory with empirical studies of how global processes operate.

The volume is structured in **ten parts** each one consisting on a brief introduction by the editors, sixty selections or excerpts from well-known voices on the globalisation debate and a number of questions about the main concepts developed and compiled at the end of each part. Regarding its contents, three main general sections could be distinguished: a first one which addresses the debates, explanations and experiences of globalisation (parts I to III); a second one focussed on the main dimensions of globalisation: economic, political and cultural (parts IV to VIII); and a third one dealing with the major changes and resistances to globalisation (parts IX and X).

Part I. Debating globalisation, aims to 'illustrate the major positions in the global debate about the merits and direction of globalisation' (p. 7) by paying attention to both the benefits and unjust consequences that globalisation poses. The readings in this part indicate a global common consciousness about globalisation, though not, as the editors point out, a global consensus (p. 8). This is clearly expressed in the contrasting views on globalisation processes stated by J. Micklethwait and A. Wooldridge in the Hidden promise as compared to S. Huntington's argument about the clash of civilizations. Particularly interesting in this part are the fears expressed B. Barber on the expansion of the so-called McWorld and J. Gray's severe criticism on the expansion of an unsustainable global free market. A. Sen's more reflexive and conciliatory writing sums up the inadequacy of judging globalisation as a totally perverse or as a fully profitable phenomenon.

Part II. Explaining globalisation advances the different available accounts of globalisation connecting them through a hypothetical question: 'how would a newly discovered island society be incorporated into world society?' (p. 54). The editors point out that four major explanations have been developed so far about how this incorporation could take place: *through economic exploitation, political agreements and alliances, institutional reform or through self-reûexive cultural identiûcation* (pp. 55-56). Each of these explanations is linked to a well-deûned corpus of knowledge, namely, the World System Theory; the Neorealism/Neoliberal Institutionalism; the World Polity Theory and the World Culture Theory. Readings in this part range from the more structural and macro analysis of I. Wallerstein to the more socio-cultural analysis by A. Appadurai or U. Hannerz.

While part I and II offer a collective and institutionalised point of view on globalisation, **Part III.** Experiencing globalisation addresses it from an individual lived dimension. This part highlights that *globalisation is not a one-way process and that people participate and respond to it in many different ways* (p. 120). The experience of globalisation is explored by dealing for example with changes in diet, tastes and music (see J.L. Watson), the expansion of formal education as a world institution (see Bruce Fuller) the experience of travelling beyond communities (see M. Albrow) or the analysis of the identity struggles performed to become a 'global citizen' (see T. D. Taylor).

Globalisation is approached in its complex nature and multiple dimensions in parts IV to VIII. **Part IV.** Economic dimensions of globalisation, pays special attention to both, the practices and networks of production, distribution and consumption of commodities and to the revision of central concepts in the economic usages of the term globalisation. Excerpts include among others, the work of M. Korzeniewick; W. Greider; David Dollar and Aart Kraay, Mary Robinson, Oxfam, D. Henderson and J. E. Stiglitz's provocative reûection on Globalism's Discontents.

The debate on the Political dimension of globalisation is divided in Parts V and VI. **Part V.** examines the demise of the nation-state with K. Ohmae's work and it offers an analysis of authority by S. Strange, of global organised crime, tensions and partisan politics by D. Rodrik and G. Garret among others and the role of state in the age of globalization (Kofi Annan).

Part VI. Reorganising the world studies the impact of international nongovernmental organisations (INGOs), global social movements and international conferences on world politics and global governance (p. 247). Selections in this part offer a stimulating general overview on the principles of action and relations among INGOs as well as some revealing ethnographic accounts (see N. Berkovitch).

Parts VII and VIII. Cultural dimensions of globalisation are centred upon the role of the media and the role of religion in shaping globalisation. In these parts notions of cultural diversity, cultural uniformity and cultural imperialism are brought to the fore in sophisticated analyses as those by J. Tomlinson, H. Tyrrell, S. MacBride & C. Roach, J. Sinclair, E. Jacka & S. Cunningham. The Islamic Revolution, Fundamentalism, Catholithism or Pentecostalism are studied in their

connections to global changes and emerging forces by authors as M. K. Pasha, B. Tibi, A. E. Mayer, F. J. Lechner, S. Haeri and S. Rushdie.

The two last parts of the volume, Part. IX Changing world society and Part. X Resisting Globalisation, approach the changing practices and imaginaries that contribute to think and act in the globe as if we were all dwelling in one world.

Part IX focuses on environmentalism as one of the best examples of how a global consciousness has been generated while **Part X** begins with a provocative paragraph of the editors stating that to some extent, globalisation now is what its critics make of it. Selections in these parts include UN international agendas and the writings of P. Wapner, M. E. Keck, K. Sikkink, A. Abrash, W. Sachs as well as writings that invariably invite us to construct a better world through what has been called 'other-globalisation' (see Subcomandante Marcos, G. Esteva, M S Prakash, J. Harding and V. Shiva).

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