

Liviu CHELCEA, *Bucureștiul postindustrial. Memorie, dezindustrializare și regenerare urbană*, Polirom, Iași, 2008, 456 p. with DVD.

The work is an outcome of an urban sociology project that the author led in 2006–2007. Field data, archival sources, older maps and photos give the empirical base of the analysis. Thus, the 5 chapters of the volumes are full of documents and records.

In the first two chapters, along 100 pages, the author deals with the issue of industrial and post-industrial cities, with their birth and development as the industrial economy boomed at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. The decline of the industry in the 1960s and 1970s has led to a change in the functions of the urban space. The dwellings moved in nuclei around the cities, the services, the tertiary level of economy, occupied the city's centre, while the industry concentrated outside the urban area. New industries, called 'creative', gained an increasing importance. Their production, market, and consumption have requested a renewal of the urban landscape. The buildings in the older industrial areas were either demolished or converted into dwellings, offices, museums. A case study, Pittsburgh in United States, is here presented.

With 150 pages the third chapter is the largest in the volume. Together with Chelcea, Gabriel Simion, a member of the research team, brings his contribution. This chapter investigates the development of the industrial areas in Bucharest starting with the 1870s. At the very beginning, the factories were built up in two areas: Filaret – Timpuri Noi – Șerban Vodă and Șoseaua Ștefan cel Mare – Colentina. Until 1990, when the deindustrialization of the city has begun, other seven zones developed. It is interesting to note that only four of them have appeared under the Communist regime. For that period have granted five pages only – too small a length. Since the beginning, the industrial space in Bucharest extended from the centre to the belt roads surrounded the city. In the 1870s, in order to protect the city in case of war, the municipality, with the help of a Belgian general, has built around it 18 forts. The avenues that led from centre to these forts were the axes on which the industrial areas have developed.

The industry in Bucharest did not grow as a consequence of ecological advantages, like the existence of natural resources. Its economical leading place is due to the fact of being the administrative and military centre of the country. The army endowment for instance was at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the main impulse to develop industry in Bucharest. In the communist period, when the planning of country economy was made in Bucharest, more industries were welcomed to the capital.

The last two chapters focus on the fate of factories and industrial areas after 1990. Most of them were privatized, therefore their profiles differ. In regard to the 208 factories the author included in the research, 60 % are still in function and preserve their former activities. An important percent of them, 13.9%, were demolished or abandoned in order to be demolished (p.256). In this sense, Bucharest follows the post industrial change of the Western cities. The industry and larger economic activities are relocated outside the Bucharest, mainly in the area of its belt road. Meanwhile, the boom of the estates development leads to the appearance of new housing quarters, in the city or in the outskirts, as well as to the growing of the zones with services activity (offices, banks, IT firms).

In the last chapter, the author presents some attempts to develop projects of 'creative' industry, by recovering the former industrial buildings. In an interview, we are given the example of a mill placed far away from Bucharest anyway, in Sighișoara – Odorhei region, which was reshaped as a tourist board and lounge. In another interview, we notice the proposal of three architects to preserve several buildings of the bread factory Plevna in Bucharest. Although the factory is going to be demolished for building up a residential area, there are some buildings historically and culturally meaningful that should be kept.

Liviu Chelcea's book is an excellent approach of urban sociology and cultural history as well. His contribution takes place in the following of several works about the old Bucharest that quite a few younger historians wrote after 1990. One might argue that the book is too close to the model of the

North American cities. As these were born as the result of a rapid economic development, they differ from the cities with a rich historical and cultural heritage, like most of the West European capitals are. However, Bucharest, at least as it looks in present, after the radical is to a great extent the result of the economic modernization. Therefore, the model Chelcea has chosen may be adopted.

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BILJANA SIKIMIĆ, TIJANA AŠIĆ (eds), *The Romance Balkans*, Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade, 2008, 386 p.

The content of the volume is given by the papers of 29 researchers, linguists and ethnologists, delivered at a conference held in November 2006. The meeting was organized by the Commission of Balkan Linguistics of International Committee of Slavists, in Belgrade.

In the first part of the volume the topics of Latin etymology is briefly discussed (80 pages). The contribution of Latin to the *Balkansprachbund* (Klaus Steinke) receives the needed attention. Likewise, we are shown various Latin *survivals* in the Balkan languages (Helmuth Schaller, Alexander Falileyev, Anna Kretschemer, Maslina Ljubičić, Maja Kalezić, Ljiljana Dimitrova-Todorova, Todor At. Todorov).

The second part of the volume analyses at-length (on almost 300 pages) the Romance influence on the Slavic languages in the Balkans. This is investigated mainly through the agency of few Latin languages and dialects which co-existed with Slavic languages along the centuries. These are the Daco-Romanian spoken outside Romania and Moldova as well as the Aroumanian and Megleno-Romanian (Christian Voss, Xhelal Ylli, Andrej N. Sobolev, Thede Kahl, Kleanti Anovska, Anna A. Plotnikova, Petya Assenova with Vassilka Aleksova, Annemarie Sorescu-Marincović, Biljana Sikimić, Corina Leschber, Mariana Petrović Rignault, Ingmar Söhrman). A couple of articles graps the ways of assimilating the modern Latin languages outside Balkans, as Italian, Spanish, and French, through mass-media (*telenovelas*), work migration and public policies (Anna Jovanović with Marija Matić, Tjiana Ašić with Veran Stanojević, Julijana Vučo). In a few papers the authors are concerned with the marginal influences like the Judeo-Spanish presence in the territories of the former Yugoslavia and the French wide spreading among the Serbian elite during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Jelena Filipović with Ivana Vučina Simović, Tatjana Šotra).

The papers were published with minimal editing interventions. Though, one can notice a common theoretical perspective. The synchronic and diachronic approaches are combined in the paradigm of linguistic structuralism, being aware anyway that the history of Romance evolution in the Balkans needs the contribution of ethnology as well. Topics like identity, acculturation and boundary are therefore central in the volume.

The volume is a considerable contribution to South East European studies. It comes on the path that the book *Hidden minorities in the Balkans* (Belgrade, 2004) has opened a few years ago. That work was followed by *Refugee Kosovo*, Kragujevac, 2004, *Bayash in the Balkans*, Belgrade, 2005, *Life in the enclave*, Kragujevac, 2005, *Torac, metodologia cercetării de teren* (Torac. The fieldwork methodology), Novi Sad, 2006, *Kurban in the Balkans*, Belgrade, 2007. All these volumes are a part of the project 'Ethnic and social stratification of the Balkans', that is developing in the frame of the Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade.

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