

been changing consistent with the nature and scale of geographic studies over the centuries. With advances in science and revolutionary developments in technology during the 20th century, particularly since World War II, methods of geographic research have been changing accordingly. The methodology and mode of fieldwork have also been undergoing corresponding changes. It would have been in the fitness of things to provide a comprehensive chapter in this book on the progress in fieldwork methodology in geography in all its various aspects from early times to date.

The above observations notwithstanding, the book is a rich contribution of Professor

R.D.Dikshit to the history of geographic thought. He has tried to reach all relevant publications (in English) and bringing the discussion to the last word on the subject. In that sense, it is the first major contribution of an Indian author to the discipline. Post-graduate students as well as teachers of the course will surely find it a very valuable asset. Its modest price (Rs. 175/-) makes it easily affordable to most.

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Pune-Queen of the Deccan : (Jaymala Diddee and Samita Gupta; Published by Elephant Design Pvt. Ltd., 23 A, Pragati Complex, 17/1B, Kothrud, Pune -411029, 2000; pp.304, Preface, Acknowledgements, Introduction, Bibliography, Photocredits, Glossary, Index, Price Rs 1500/-US\$ 60/-)

The book according to authors is 'a simple biography of Pune' (p.11). Urban biography is an established form of study of individual urban places in a diachronic framework. Pune-Queen of the Deccan is a substantial departure from the established framework of urban biographies in that its concern is more with what happened in the city rather than in its history. The book is divided into six chapters. The sequence of chapters follows the broad historical alignments. The first two chapters deal with the development of the city from the earliest times to its emergence as the capital of the Maratha Empire, the third chapter deals with the events of the defeat of Marathas at the hands of the British at Kirkee and the beginning of the British rule. The next two chapters focus on the development of the Cantonment area and the emergence of Pune as a colonial city. The last chapter details the impact of

post-Independence developments in making Pune one of the Metropolitan cities of the country.

Thematically, each of the chapters describes the development of either a particular part of the city (Chapter 1: the Core; Chapter 4: the Cantonment) or the structure of the city during two significant periods of its history, namely the Peshwa (Chapter 2: The Peshwai City of Peths) and the British (Chapter 5: The Colonial City) or the effects and events of the two politico-spatial transitions (i) from the Maratha to the British (Chapter 3: The Battle for the City) and (ii) the post-Independence developments (Chapter 6: Towards a Metropolis).

Although the titles of chapters seem to adhere to the almost standard format of any book dealing with the growth of an individual city,

the details and the scope are much more comprehensive. In addition to the structures and forms that developed in different parts of the city, the changing social contours, economic as well as architectural changes, dynamics of regional equations, cultural role of the city, the juxtapositioning of the traditional and modern social, economic and institutional and structural elements are also described.

Chapter 1 titled The Core describes the locational and regional setting. The origins of the city, establishment of nucleus, its subsequent expansion and internal developments, the coming and settling of different caste groups, the social and religious institutions, and ends by broadly describing the changes taking place in the core. Similarly, Chapter 2 titled The Peshwai City of Peths, in addition to the identification and description of different peths that developed during this period explains the process and mechanism of establishment of peth as a revenue generating enterprise, how the establishment of peths effected the social composition of the city and the emergence of power groups (financial - governmental-personal network, p.68), the living style, civic provisions, community living, and the coming up of a British enclave. An appendix to this chapter describes the peths and their characteristics till about the middle of 19th century.

The third chapter, The Battle for the City, pertains to the events marking the transition from the Maratha to the British rule and the changes in the configuration of the city with the older city in the west, the Cantonment and the Civil Lines in the east and an intermediary zone between the two.

Chapter 4 focuses on the spatial segments that developed in Pune, as in every town of some significance, during the period of colonial

rule, i.e., the Cantonment and the Civil Lines. The chapter details the social life, architecture and administration of the military area, the bungalow and the bazaar sections of the cantonment and the civil area.

The developments that took place in the city from the 1850's till the Independence of the country in 1947 form the theme of Chapter 5 titled The Colonial City. It details some of the important developments (coming of the railways, acquisition of Municipal Administration, coming up of government buildings, educational, recreational, religious institutions, the settling of some important families from other towns, the general conditions prevailing in the old core of the city, the efforts at improving public health and sanitation and the surveys conducted for this purpose, improvements in city transport network, the emergence of Pune as a cultural and educational centre and its role in the struggle for independence of the country and the movements for social change and the acquisition of distinct identities -social or functional-by different parts of the city)

The last chapter 'Towards a Metropolis' reviews the factors and events, within and outside the city, that have recast and expanded many of the earlier social, economic and physical alignments of the city in the post-Independence period. The metamorphosis that the city has undergone and is still experiencing is effectively narrated, whether it relates to changes in the character of social spaces now conforming more to community, if not class, affiliations rather than to caste per se, or changes in traditional vocations, coming up of new residential areas and slums (40 per cent of Pune's population lives in slums) or the effect (or lack of it) of plan proposals, growth of Pune and its suburbs as the favoured location for industries and the associated

residential developments, the competition for land, the disparate architectural styles and land uses and the necessity of retaining the link between the traditional and the modern.

The book has made extensive use of published and unpublished material on different aspects of Pune specifically and broadly on general themes pertaining to cities. Notes at the end of each chapter provide additional comments and references to the sources used in the text. These would be of use to readers interested in knowing more about the city. In addition to this is a general bibliography at the end of the book. The glossary will be of help to those not familiar with the locally used terms. At the end of the book an index is provided for quickly accessing specific items. However, its scope is limited to personalities and more important recent institutional structures and could easily include many of the items related to the unique character of the city, e.g. the places/sites of tourist interest shown on the map at p.284.

The text is profusely illustrated with photographs (200 plus) of a high professional quality relating to different aspects and historical periods. The maps are aesthetically drawn and professionally reproduced. This is a book of high production values.

The book is the outcome of the efforts of two academicians, a geographer specializing in urban studies and, an historian specialising in architecture, art and urban history. The

objective being “to construct Pune’s urban personality as it evolved and changed through time and in space, and present it to a wider readership, beyond the narrow confines of academia” (p.7), and “to paint the picture with a broad sweep -----” to create an “overall impression.....(p.11). The book is written in an easy, at places almost conversational, language and maintains an almost flawless flow. In view of the targeted readership the authors have, almost meticulously, steered clear of conceptual and methodological imperatives/compulsions and terminology in the treatment of different aspect of the city. This may be somewhat disappointing to the more enlightened, professionally oriented readers. In its totality however, the book offers a better insight to the uninitiated, and leaves questions and themes that need more intensive treatment to those who wish to take these up and are trained to do so.

The list of those who supported writing of this book is impressive and reflects the enthusiasm for the effort. The book should be received with an even greater enthusiasm by the academics, professionals and all those interested in urban dynamics. The lack of initiative at passing on the benefits of academic scholarship to the general readership is often bemoaned. This book is a creditable effort in this direction.

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