

detecting an overarching narrative weaving together all the argumentative threads that run through the substantive chapters. Some theoretical avenues are opened but not actively pursued, such as the intriguing hypothesis that the governance of religion has provided incentives for people to understand themselves as religious beings and may have marginalized the religiously indifferent in the politics of freedom of religion, equality, and non-discrimination. Overall, however, the book offers many penetrating comments on the intertwining of nationalism, secularism, and the contestation of religious diversity, based on a detailed, Foucault-inspired exploration of the governmentality of religious subjectivities. The case studies are vividly described in a sharp, energetic style that dispenses with most academic jargon, and the sociological references purposefully dispersed throughout the discussion are a stimulating invitation to explore the arguments in greater depth. Tracing some of the most meaningful developments in the recent history of Quebec and Catalonia while simultaneously speaking to broader international trends, the volume will be of great interest to students of religion, migration, nationalism, and intercultural relations.

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson / John Brewer / Neil Fromer / Frank Trentmann (eds.): *Scarcity in the Modern World: History, Politics, Society and Sustainability, 1800–2075*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020 (2019), 312 pp.

Reviewed by
Corinna R. Unger, Florence

This volume aims to show “how scarcity has evolved in history” (p. 1). The editors argue that “[r]esources are limited and never enough to fulfill all needs and wants” (p. 1). Against this background, they want to investigate how individuals and societies have dealt with such limitations in the past and how they are dealing with them at a time that is characterized by discussions about the nexus between resource use and climate change. The time period covered ranges from the late seventeenth century to the early twenty-first century, with the majority of the chapters focusing on the twentieth century and on the present. The subtitle’s promise that the volume leads up to the year 2075 seems a bit overambitious, given that this year relates to a forecast on the global consumption of fossil fuels, renewable energy, and water use. While the future might be somewhat out of reach, the strength of the volume is in bringing together contemporary and historical perspectives, conceptual considerations and case studies, and a variety of regions and actors. Furthermore, the contributors represent a large number of disci-

plines and approaches, which allows readers to gain an idea of the wealth of research that can be associated with and inspired by the notion of scarcity.

The volume consists of four sections: "Making Scarcity"; "The Power of Projection"; "Coping, Managing, Innovating at Different Scales"; and "Dynamics of Distribution". The section titles are not entirely self-explanatory, and the organizing principle remains a bit vague. Yet the content of the different sections is highly instructive. The first section provides insight into the constructed character of the notion of scarcity from economic, anthropological, political ecological, and innovation research perspectives. Together, the chapters in this section allow readers to understand the relational nature of the concept of scarcity, its manifold cultural and political connotations, and the duality of it being a socially constructed and a material category.

This duality comes out clearly in the second section, which features three chapters that are concerned with approaches to and plans for dealing with scarcity. From the role of growth for the concept Anthropocene and from estimates of future coal and hydrocarbon production to a discussion of Malthusian logics in contemporary debates about climate change, the contributions highlight the ways in which concerns about scarce natural resources inform visions of the future and, consequently, arguments in favour of political, economic, and social steps to be taken in that direction. This implies demarcation, competition, and conflicts, thus linking resource scarcity to power. The power dimension is most explicitly addressed by the editors in their introduction, where they de-

fine "social power as the effective control of bottlenecks" (p. 3). This is a particular definition not everyone will agree with, yet it is helpful in thinking about scarcity as a social constellation that can play out in open-ended ways.

The third section brings together four chapters that, through case studies, analyse specific approaches to dealing with situations of scarcity. They include US efforts to mobilize economic resources in the context of the Second World War; the effects of the American Civil War on the British textile industry, which was cut off from American cotton imports; the ways in which food scarcity figured in Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward, namely as an accepted inequality that was politically and ideologically legitimized; and individual household behaviour in the UK in response to the 2006 drought and the water rationing that was put in place. These chapters are empirically rich and informative, and they show how productive it can be to use the analytical lens of scarcity, which lends itself to comparison and contrast across spatial, cultural, and temporary divides.

The fourth section is conceptually close to the previous one in that it focuses on distribution dynamics related to situations of scarcity. Two chapters feature colonial and post-colonial contexts: first, the different approaches to electricity generation that were developed and applied in India before and after independence and thus with different political and economic interests as the determining factors; and, second, the city of Lagos as a colonial capital in which ideas of racial difference were reflected in unequal access to land, living space, drinking water, and other resources. A third

chapter compares the ways in which energy shortages were dealt with and experienced by inhabitants of East Germany and Japan in the post-war decades, as well as how the respective governments tried to walk a line between accommodation and control. The final chapter is dedicated to the famine in Sahel in 2012 and to the question of how market forces had an effect on dissolving the crisis. To do so, the chapter studies price adjustment and market integration mechanisms in Burkina Faso and Mali, arriving at the conclusion that markets have the potential to address food scarcity but need to be sufficiently robust to do so, which, in turn, leads to the need to strengthen markets.

As this brief account suggests, the volume offers an excellent overview of approaches to studying scarcity and of ways of using the concept of scarcity to study resource dynamics, social relations, and economic developments. While predominantly based on the English-language literature, it will certainly be of interest to a large audience internationally. Furthermore, the volume encourages scholars to consider what their own experiences with and understandings of scarcity are and how they can help us to make better sense of the discussions about the looming climate crisis by turning to empirical research.

Grzegorz Gorzelak (ed.): Social and Economic Development in Central and Eastern Europe: Stability and Change after 1990, London/New York: Routledge, 2020, 372 pp.

Reviewed by
Uwe Müller, Leipzig

The book under review has several strengths. First, the book provides a combination of two thematic foci. It takes stock of the transformation process to democracy and a market economy in the Central and Eastern European states since 1990, and it combines the lessons learned with an analysis of the contemporary development problems in the region. Second, the volume discusses both the historical transformation processes and the more recent developments in the region almost in their entirety and from the perspective of different disciplines. Third, and finally, the vast majority of the authors succeed in balancing the presentation of empirical data and their own interpretations and in formulating the results of their analyses clearly and in a manner that is easy to understand.

These strengths are certainly also a merit of the editor. Grzegorz Gorzelak is a Polish economist who has been working for several years on “regional and local economics, regional development strategies, cohesion policy, [and] evaluation of EU programs”. Consequently, issues of regional development receive a lot of attention in the book.