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*Book review*

## **TRANSFORMATION OF PERI-URBAN AREA OF BELGRADE**

*Marija Drobnjaković\**<sup>1</sup>,

\* Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA, Belgrade, Serbia

Aleksandra Spalević

Transformation of peri-urban area of Belgrade

Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA, Special Edition 85, 2013.

The monograph “The Transformation of Peri-Urban Area of Belgrade” is original scientific work in which the author deals with the application and the testing of approach to current problem of urban-geographic research in the metropolitan zone of the City of Belgrade. The focus of the research presented in the monograph is regarding the definition and determination of peri-urban belt of Belgrade and perception of changes, economic, population, morphological and socio-cultural nature, settlements that belong to it.

Through a comprehensive overview of domestic and foreign scientific literature, the author has critically perceived the current study of peri-urban zones, analysed the process of formation and transformation of peri-urban area of Belgrade on 126 pages and in six chapters and illustrated the changes in the characteristics of settlements and land use on 16 maps. In the introductory part, the author deals with issues in the field of theoretical determination of peri-urban zones, the characteristics of settlements that belong to it and the changes characteristic of the proximity of large cities. In the second part, the author gives a review of the historical aspect of the emergence and spread of the settlement of Belgrade; processes that preceded and caused the emergence of peri-urban belt and identifies 19 settlements on the territory of four city municipalities (Voždovac, Zemun, Palilula and Čukarica) which are included in the peri-urban area of Belgrade. In the analytical part, the emphasis is placed on the main features of the settlements and the changes that have marked their evolution. The

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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence to: m.drobnjakovic@gi.sanu.ac.rs

author identifies three crucial periods for the formation and reshaping of peri-urban belt of Belgrade: the 1960s — when settlements were intensively developing on traffic routes diverging radially from the centre, based on the activation of industrial plants in them; the 1990s — a period which was marked mostly by morphological and social transformation of settlements in the peri-urban zone, fuelled by uncontrolled, rapid migration of population and unsupervised informal construction, conversion of agricultural land and the lack of infrastructure and adequate endowment. They had a direct impact on decreasing the quality of life of the population. Modern stage in the development of peri-urban area is characterized by continuous immigration and the functional transformation of the settlements. The degree of transformation of peri-urban area was evaluated in the fourth section, emphasising a mixed functional structure of the settlements, more or less dependent on the settlement of Belgrade, with which a significant daily circulation of the population has been realised.

In the monograph the author made the trip through the surrounding area of Belgrade, following the evolution of the settlements through different historical phases that have marked their development, transformation, but also morphological and substantial approaching to the settlement of Belgrade. Outstanding importance of the monograph is reflected in defining the peri-urban area and the position of the peri-urban settlements in the further development of the City, as well as pointing out more appropriate spatial organization of the system of peri-urban settlements, possible directions and patterns of their development and integration both with the rural environment and the settlement of Belgrade, in accordance with the experiences of large European cities.