

what this book is primarily about. Its more narrow concern is with 'monetary statecraft', looking at how government can make strategic changes in national monetary arrangements and exchange-rate policies in order to influence their power relations with other nation states.

As Jonathan Kirschner notes, it is almost axiomatic that 'as long as there are states and money, states will attempt to manipulate monetary relations to advance their political objectives' (p 139). His chapter gives some examples, as does a useful chapter by Louis Pauly that concludes the book with empirical evidence about how monetary arrangements influence power relationships between the most powerful states (like the USA) and 'follower states' (like Canada). Most of the book, however, seems more concerned with theoretical arguments about the nature of power (structural power, process power), pathways for the exercise of power (micro-level, macro-level) and so forth. For this reason it is unlikely to have much appeal beyond academics interested in the field of international political economy from a political science perspective.

H. Leitner, J. Peck and E. S. Sheppard (Eds)

***Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers***

Guilford Press, New York, 2007, 340 pp, \$53.95

This edited collection of fifteen articles explores how neoliberalism has affected people in cities during the last couple of decades. The editors are geography professors at different US universities, but the contributors come from various other countries around the globe – South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, UK, Norway and Germany. The central theme is that 'cities are at the forefront of neoliberalism ... hollowing out the nation-state and, making cities increasingly responsible for international competitiveness' (p2). Many of the chapters show how this 'neoliberal urbanism' has driven change. What economic geographers Peck and Tickell previously called 'roll-back neoliberalisation' (undermining and discrediting Keynesian-welfarist and social-collectivist institutions) and 'roll-out neoliberalisation' (imposing a combination of market-oriented policies and state authoritarianism) are much in evidence. Therein lie a host of conflicts, contradictions and challenges.

The neoliberal initiatives have tended to increase economic inequalities and undermine universal access to public goods and services. This creates predictable anxieties and resistance. As urban sociologist Manuel Castells argued in his early writings, the functioning of the modern metropolis requires state provision of the items of 'collective consumption': public transport, public housing, public education, etc. To undermine that provision or to make access more dependent on people's ability to pay necessarily generates contradictions. It is the focus on the challenges arising from those contradictory processes that is the great strength of the book. The different chapters show how – in cities as diverse as Johannesburg, Chicago, Seattle, Cancun, Calgary and Berlin – there have been multiple and effective sites of class-based and popular resistance. The sub-headings in the editors' concluding chapter summarise this theme: 'neoliberalism: all over the place?'; 'spaces of contentious politics'; 'another city is possible'. Indeed.

*Book notes compiled by Frank Stilwell*