

## Preface

Ten years ago we edited a volume titled *Regional Development and Planning* (MIT Press, 1964), which met a most gratifying reception and, after several printings, is still widely used. It served, we believe, to introduce to many the contours of a new field of intellectual inquiry and of policy analysis and action. Since then, regional development planning has become a visible part of the intellectual landscape and a prominent part of national policy in many countries. The resulting profusion of scholarly interest, together with the growing body of policy experience, has deepened, spread, and, in some cases, transformed our understanding of the processes underlying regional change and our perception of the purposes of regional policy. Hence we have decided to offer a new collection of readings.

We have retained only a few readings from the earlier volume, and these primarily for reasons of historical interest. Students new to the study of regional planning should know the intellectual foundations of the field, and the chapters in question have entered the rank of "classics." Among the new readings, three were prepared especially for this volume, including one which gives an overview of the literature published in the last ten years. The remaining essays were chosen because they illustrate in ways we think particularly effective the richness and diversity of the themes with which regional planners have been concerned.

Despite the size of this volume, we have been forced, by reasons of space, to omit many excellent contributions, often most reluctantly. Time and again, even in the final stages of preparation of this collection, we have come across materials we wished we could include. The field is brimming with an effervescence of fresh ideas, new findings, and attractive expressions of insights. We apologize to readers and authors for such omissions. Perhaps some years from now, when more synthetic work summarizes and ties together common strands, some future collection of readings may be able better to epitomize this broad field. The prospect of a unified magisterial treatment in a single volume by a single author still seems as remote to us as it did ten years ago.

J.F.

W.A.

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