The State and the City

SOCIOLOGY, POLITICS AND CITIES

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The State and the City

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	vii
<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>General Editor's Preface</i>	ix
<i>Introduction</i>	1
1 A Theory of State–City Relations in Western Societies	7
The potentially autonomous state	10
The national state's primary and expedient interests in cities	28
2 The Autonomy of the Local State in a Period of Fiscal Crisis	43
The local state in advanced industrial societies	45
The local state: epistemological status and definition	49
Dimensions of the local state's autonomy	55
Economic transformation and the local state in advanced industrial societies	65
3 The Political Salience of Urban Decline: Why and How the State Responds to Urban Change	74
The extent and nature of urban decline	75
The political salience of urban decline	80
Dimensions of the state's material presence in cities	94
Growth of the public sector in declining American cities	102
Conclusions	111

4 The Political Salience of Urban Crisis in the United States: The Federal Response	112
The evolution of state interests in municipalities in the United States: federalist ideology versus national state interests	112
The realisation of national state interests in municipalities: an empirical analysis of the determinants of federal aid to cities, 1960–80	130
The distribution of central state aid to cities	137
Conclusion	148
5 Urban Decline and the Politicisation of Central–Local Relations in Great Britain	150
Introduction	150
Local state autonomy Type I: urban decline and the policy responses of the central state	152
Local state autonomy Type II: the centralisation of local government	170
Conclusion: centralisation and local autonomy	180
6 Conclusion: Futures for Post-Industrial Cities	185
Processes of urban change	185
Alternative futures for Western cities	191
State power, state interests and urban decline	202
<i>Appendix to Chapter 4</i>	209
<i>Notes and References</i>	214
<i>Bibliography</i>	219
<i>Index</i>	234

List of Figures

1.1	General interests of state officials and their means	19
1.2	Interests of the national and local states in cities	41
2.1	Implications of growing fiscal dependence on the autonomy of the local state	69
3.1	Dimensions of cities' political salience for the contemporary state	83
6.1	Patterns of state and market activity in four types of city	193

List of Tables

1.1	The growth of the state: central state expenditure as a percentage of national product, 1850–1982	26
2.1	Local government expenditures, grants and deficits, 1972–82	68
3.1	Growth and decline in thirteen core metropolitan counties, 1970–80	103
3.2	Government finance in growing and declining American cities, 1983	106
3.3	People with public-sector income in growing and declining American cities, 1980	108
3.4	Public-sector sources of personal income in growing and declining American cities, 1979	110
4.1	Aggregate federal aid to cities 200 000+ in millions of constant (1967 = 1.156 and current dollars	122
4.2	Bivariate correlates of per capita federal aid to large cities in 1970 (excluding Washington DC)	138
4.3	Bivariate correlates of per capita federal aid to large cities in 1980 (excluding Washington DC)	140
4.4	Composite models of the determinants of federal aid to large cities in 1970 and 1980	146
5.1	Employment decline in the inner cities by sector (1951 = 100)	156
5.2	Central state urban policy initiatives in Britain	159
5.3	Urban Programme 1974–85: Department of the Environment and other programmes (£ million)	160
5.4	Rioting in British cities, 1980–85	163

General Editor's Preface

Sociology, Politics and Cities

Many modern Western cities are in the throes of the most significant economic, political and social changes since their respective national industrial revolutions back in the nineteenth century. Most of the older conurbations which developed in that era are now subject to relatively severe selective population and employment losses. New, sometimes smaller cities are gaining less and different kinds of households and jobs. Many of the old, routine manual jobs have either finished completely or have been exported to cities of the third world. Such changes have reached crisis proportions in cities such as Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle, Baltimore, Philadelphia and St Louis.

Two major types of organisation have had significant roles in influencing these changes in different cities. The first is private business: this has been transformed in the past few decades from a situation where many businesses were owned and operated on a regional scale to one where most industrial sectors are dominated by a few multinational and multilocal giant oligopolies.

The second influential group are state agencies: mainly national and local government. The former is often the major source of funds for declining cities while the latter has become a major local employer.

The series *Sociology, Politics and Cities* provides a vehicle for the exploration of the relationships between the various types of organisation, the effects their decisions have on cities and the problems and possibilities confronting local households. Such relationships are complex and do not sit neatly within the confines of traditional academic disciplinary boundaries.

The series is, therefore, transdisciplinary and includes work which combines such traditional subject areas as sociology, economics, politics and history in so far as they contribute to the understanding of cities.

The series is also concerned with international comparisons of the characteristics and problems of contemporary cities. It is clear that although Britain was the first country to experience a revolution in manufacturing industries, and the consequent industrial urbanisation, it has now reached a stage of deindustrialisation combined with deurbanisation which is also the case in many other Western nations.

Urban change of such magnitude means that governments and local populations are confronted by serious and intractable policy issues. *Sociology, Politics and Cities* is, therefore, also concerned with recommended private and public action and how it can be implemented in cities, and in public and private policies with respect to cities and their regions.

The general aim of the series is to encourage and stimulate a continuing analysis of cities in capitalist, socialist and underdeveloped economies. It is concerned to assist in the development of theoretical understanding of these phenomena based upon empirical analyses and on the basis of such understanding is also concerned with the formulation, evaluation and implementation of relevant urban policies.

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JAMES SIMMIE