

Sorin PAVEL, 2011
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The paper by Dr. Sorin Pavel – Lecturer in the Department of Geography, West University of Timișoara adds a valuable contribution to the series of geographical analysis, dedicated urban spaces of prime importance in Romania. The author chose to illustrate its powers space science laboratory, one of the Romanian cities with a historic multicultural and geographic personality well illustrated. Arad city is outlined in the collective mind especially economic, relational and civilization. One of the key cities in preparation for the Great Union, and city cars, the turning, light rail and road node as a gateway to the West and supported by lower Mures, Arad is undissociated in the Romanian collective mind by Ioan Slavici world, which the author actually suggesting several quotes, inspired choice. Coordinating a relatively coherent and unipolar local area, but marked identity status transition zone between the world of Banat, the Crisana and of Transylvania, Arad is seen also in relation to its neighbor and rival, Timisoara, at only 55 km to the south. These two tend to form a couple. Timisoara retain and develop its status as the main regional development pole in the west, consolidated since the mid-century, concentrating economic activity, cultural, scientific and political-administrative variety, while Arad counteracts the pragmatic side of the local polarization contemporary economic dynamics (transport hub, industrial and commercial center, university center recently but dynamic and so on). From this perspective, and the need to know in detail the local urban changes driven by another phase transition in the evolution of the Romanian urban, approach of Arad city in a sentence of urban geography is fully justified. Thesis comes after the major milestones quantitative accumulation urban (1950-1990) and phase marks the city is affected by specific developments liberal restructuring after 1990. Prevalent are now settling processes, the functional relocation and reassignment of space uses. Mutations in quality (although not all positive) are evident today and they configure other types of relationships with space. When administered centrally planned growth until 1989, is interesting to watch as "doing" every city in the current competitive context, as the city mobilizes its resources position, internal skills, lobbying skills, and what results to be obtained, locally, but also compared against direct and indirect competitors. The work of Sorin Pavel is richly illustrated with graphics and mapping the 165 figures (maps, cartodiagram, graphs, diagrams, conceptual diagrams, photos), well documented statistically (includes 39 tables) and is supported by a bibliography totaling 185 titles included in the final list. Wealth of ideas, which transpires from different pages open a series of gates analysis by understanding complex phenomena that marked the Romanian city. Radiographs made end up in the privacy of processes that animates the brownian dynamics of human behavior in the town of Arad, or in connection with this, facilitate understanding the present by accumulating time spent knowledge and facilitate spatial knowledge by multiscale approach. As is appreciated foreword by reputed professor Dr. Alexandru Ungureanu, a member of the Romanian Academy, "the main positive feature of the work is surprise, often with a clear tendency to significant detail, the main geographical features of Arad and features to the city ensures proper place in the network of cities of Romania [...]. Overall, Mr. Sorin Pavel meets such work, both in terms of its scientific merits and of the methodology used, all conditions to be considered a leading example of the geography of the future and a milestone that will be to take into account the human and geographical research in the west of Romania".

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