Among the contributions: Eric Shragge and Michael Toye open the volume with an introduction into the meaning of CED, and its history in the development of new responses designed to address the needs of individuals displaced by new economic trends; John Loxley and Laura Lamb tie CED back to the challenges that have emerged in the study of economics, arguing that this has opened a variety of options that have yet to be proven; Jean-Marc Fontan, Pierre Hamel, Richard Morin, and Shragge look at the experience in Montreal with the establishment of Les Corporations de Développement Économique Communautaire (CDÉCS), initiatives which, over time, have become an effective way to allow local citizens to utilize government resources; Jill Handley and Luba Serge make an effective case for the use of CED in building affordable and accessible housing in Canada, drawing attention to its uncertain future; David Welch's concluding article takes a look at the impact of new thinking about the role of CED and its consequences for political and citizen input for the French-speaking peoples of Eastern Ontario, illustrating that the public sector has always been supported as a means of overcoming the problems of employment based on the values of private sector ownership.

One of the issues with the volume is its implicit concern with how the criteria of values are to be reconciled in an age when present thinking has moved away from political intervention. Does economic activity exist to make a profit or do other concerns become paramount, particularly when giving the individual the means to be employed? This divide is something that gets some hearing, but is rarely considered front and centre. In other words, do the social needs of the person co-exist with the demands of business, be it a large corporation or a small business? For any individual, is there more of a concern with obtaining monetary gain? Work has always been measured as a means of survival, but in the final analysis, maintaining a job is dependent on some reward or incentive for the employer, a central principle that guides our approach to creating the wealth that will allow personal survival.

This thinking has been behind public policy and its attempted implementation since the Second World War. Welch's discussion regarding the French-speaking population in Eastern Ontario makes this case when he argues that there is a balance that can be influenced by our prevailing creed of less government at the expense of other concerns which remain secondary to personal welfare. This is certainly not to say that governments have been any more effective in developing measures to build and maintain employment for those disadvantaged by the needs of the current marketplace. In fact, the values of public and private are becoming increasingly tied together: both are dominated by organizations making decisions made at some central level, given a corporate headquarters or a politician's office.

The link between the organization and the individual is a critical element that could have been better discussed and expanded throughout this volume, but must be considered as the critical tie that binds us together because the terms such as 'profitability' and 'efficiency' are ones that can be perceived differently, depending on the needs and goals of those who have a stake in whatever economic enterprise arises. Moreover, this understanding has often failed to take into account that organizations, because of their own existence, will approach problems in the same way, regardless if the intent is to make a profit or to create jobs in areas which are simply unattractive for private enterprise. Whether the source of the decision is a public official or corporate boss, the organizations they lead or are involved with will follow the same norms and values which often work against as opposed to the best interests of the person acting as just one worker. More discussion on this theme could have helped to strengthen the book, promoting a more detailed debate on CED as a future tool of personal economic survival. Nevertheless, the volume must be given high marks for keeping score on the whole concept of CED, one which will continue to play a crucial role for all of us in a time of continuing economic and technological change.

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Transparency: The Key to Better Governance?, CHRISTOPHER HOOD and DAVID HEALD (Eds), Oxford University Press, Oxford (2006). xiii + 231 pp. (hbk). £30.00. ISBN 0 19 726383 6.

'Transparency' is a term that implies openness, disclosure, communication, clarity, and accountability. In governance, transparency can be viewed as a doctrine to hold public officials accountable for their actions. Discussions, financial statements, budgets, laws, and decisions in government, politics, and businesses can be reviewed by the press and public. Transparency assists the public in understanding governmental processes and is the basis of accountability for government officials and a way to assist the citizens in checking for corruption. It also boosts public confidence by incorporating them into the decision-making process. But is full disclosure a good idea? Concerns with transparency in governance exist in the areas of public needs and rights, public order, and national security. Military information is confidential and transparency in this instance might lead to a decrease in national security. On the other hand, a lack of transparency might be viewed as keeping secrets from the public.

Christopher Hood and David Heald put forth the question 'is transparency a way of achieving better governance?' The volume, *Transparency: The Key to Better Governance?* emerged from a one-day workshop in

January 2005 of the Proceedings of the British Academy 135, brought about to address the 'explosion of transparency'. A group of scholars from various disciplines contributed their expertise and knowledge on issues of transparency in government. The scholars hailed from a variety of disciplines such as law, informatics, financial management, economics, and politics. The aim of the volume is to examine the theory and practice of the doctrine of transparency.

This volume is divided into four sections. In the Introduction the editors note that:

> despite its widespread currency over the past twenty years, transparency is new neither as a term nor as a doctrine . . . if some transparency is good, more is not necessarily better . . . the road to transparency through freedom of information (FOI) law and similar 'openness' provisions can be a winding and rocky one because of the force of dynamic conservatism in institutions.
>
> (pp. x–xi)

Part 1, 'Transparency as a Term, Idea, and Movement', focuses on defining transparency and governance. One soon discovers there are numerous definitions of each, leading to confusion about what transparency is and is not. Different 'strains' of transparency are mapped out and how the theory has developed (p. 15). This section also covers the history of transparency, which has its origins well before the twentieth century. Regardless of the different interpretations of doctrine they all add up to a 'single "big idea", openness about rules and behavior' (p. 19). But the authors note that:

> to whom they apply – citizens, governments, organizations – are different and the underlying doctrines of governance that they reflect may be conflicting.
>
> (p. 19)

Part II examines oppositional views of transparency as a problem and as a solution. Patrick Birkinshaw starts with an explanation of freedom of information, which is access to local government information. Freedom of information has transparency as its guiding principle. As mentioned previously, there are numerous concerns regarding transparency in governance. Certain impediments also exist, such as a lack of timely information or resources to publish the information. In some cases, information may not be accessible to certain citizens, such as the less advantaged. This section also examines the issue of transparency as a human right. Other topics in this section concern the value of transparency and the ethics of communication.

Part III explores transparency and institutional behaviour. What are the difficulties of governmental adaptation to transparency rules and issues? How does the government circumvent those rules, giving people just enough but not everything? What are the political consequences? Heald, Onora O'Neil, and Andrea Prat help to clarify these issues. David Stasavage concludes this section by discussing if transparency makes a difference in governance through the example of the European Council of Ministers.

Transparency and information-age technology are the topics of the last section. This is becoming more of an issue at present and will become an even bigger issue in the future. The Internet and World Wide Web have made it possible for governing agencies to have information publicly accessed, but there are also barriers to it. Transparency in the information age will undoubtedly raise a new set of issues.

This volume contains an important collection of papers. It will serve as an overview of transparency in governance and will be an essential part of any university library. The authors raise numerous questions from how to define transparency to the role transparency will play in the information technology era. Numerous examples are cited throughout the volume, including examples of transparency in the USA.

The volume is compiled in a simplistic way flowing systematically from one topic to the next, making it very easy to read.

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Human Geography: People, Place and Culture, H. J. DE BLIJ, ALEXANDER B. MURPHY and ERIN FOUBERG, Wiley, Hoboken, NJ (2007). 528 pp. US$109.95 (hbk). ISBN 0 471 67951 8.

Human geography is the study of:

> how people make places, how people organize space and society, how people interact with each other in places and across space, and how people make sense of others and ourselves speaking along the lines of locality, region, and world.
>
> (p. 8)

Human Geography: People, Place and Culture treats the rich diversity of human geography, and at the same time encourages students to think critically and analyse geographical phenomena taking place from local to global scales. It is a sequel to seven previous editions of this popular text.

This book is arranged into 14 chapters, much fewer than the number of chapters in the seventh version (35 chapters). Chapter 4 (Local culture, popular culture, and cultural landscapes), Chapter 5 (Identity: race, ethnicity and gender) and Chapter 14 (Globalization and the geography of networks) are newly added sections that add more culture, identity and globalization flavours to this version. This textbook-style publication supports the efforts of the advancement placement (AP) course in human geography by introducing students to the systematic learning of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding of the environment and peoples' imprints on the Earth. There are two new