



REVIEW: A. MĘŻYK, ST. ZAMKOWSKA – PROBLEMY TRANSPORTOWE MIAST: STAN I KIERUNKI ROZWIĄZAŃ (ENG. PROBLEMS OF URBAN TRANSPORT: THE STATE AND WAYS OF SOLUTIONS), PWN, WARSAW, 2019; 254 PP.

Recenzja: A. Mężyk, St. Zamkowska – Problemy transportowe miast: stan i kierunki rozwiązań, PWN, Warszawa, 2019; 254 s.

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An interesting handbook by transport researchers from Radom university A. Mężyk and St. Zamkowska was published in early 2019. The book entitled *Problemy transportowe miast: stan i kierunki rozwiązań* [Problems of urban transport: the state and ways of solutions] is primarily addressed to students of technical and economic colleges related to transport. Regarding the lack of new similar studies in the field of transport geography, it can be inspiring and interesting also for scholars of this subdiscipline – both junior researchers and those seeking new ideas for their work.

The book consists of an introduction and five substantive chapters. They comprise knowledge on multidirectional actions to solve problems of urban transport by developing a range of various collective and individual transport services as well as increasing their quality, availability and safety.

The authors entitled Chapter One: “Mobilność a popyt na usługi przewozowe w miastach” [“Mobility and demand for urban transport services”]. Readers will find here many definitions of mobility understood as one of the basic human needs. It is difficult not to agree with the researchers that the policy of sustainable development is becoming an increasingly important challenge. They also review issues related to one of the most important problems today, namely ensuring mobility as a tool to combat social exclusion. The authors also emphasise a very important question of the spatial and temporal mismatch between carriers’ offer and employees’ needs, and they promote flexible transport solutions. Great importance is also placed on the issue of flawed cooperation between various types and levels of authority, as well as between departments responsible

for various activities, such as transport, employment, education, public assistance, etc. The authors also devoted a lot of space in this chapter to sustainable development. They also emphasise that it is one of the forms of combating social exclusion, and that it gives priority to public transport. Undoubtedly, one of the more interesting fragments of the reviewed study is a comprehensive review of the European Union guidelines and policies related to the development of sustainable urban transport. The chapter finishes with a discussion on recommendations arising from the Polish transport policy in this respect.

The second chapter of the book, "Rozwój miast jako wyzwanie dla organizacji transportu" ["Urban development as a challenge for transport organising"] is a comprehensive introduction to urban issues. Modern trends in the development of urban areas, based on statistical data are presented here. This approach is particularly valuable because it gives the reader who is not specialized in urban issues a broader context of research. A lot of space is also devoted to *urban sprawl* and the consequences of this process for the organization of public transport and its supply. It also addresses the issue of public transport users in cities and a significant dependence of public transport demand, on the one hand, on secondary school pupils and, on the other hand, on the necessity to address the needs of a constantly growing number of elderly people. Much attention is also paid to a detailed discussion of various public and private means of transport in urban areas, as well as the negative effects of the excessive development of individual motorization.

The authors have titled the next, third chapter "Jakość usług transportu zbiorowego" ["The quality of public transport services"]. The presented subject matter may not be particularly interesting for geographers, but it can definitely broaden the horizons of representatives of our subdiscipline in explaining the observed processes. The authors emphasise that the public transport offer should be competitive to individual transport. It is very good that the reviewed handbook also deals with the subject of the specificity of transport services for seniors and the need to adapt them to their needs and perception. Much space is devoted to the issue of proper passenger information, also the one based on geography-related GIS, ITS and GPS systems. In addition, this chapter deals with issues related to safety as an element of public transport quality or research into its quality, as well as the need for its full integration.

Chapter Four, "Obsługa dostaw ładunków w miastach" ["Cargo delivery services in cities"] is a very

necessary and useful study. The authors take up the problems practically almost abandoned by the geographers. And yet at the time of publication of already classic *Geografia transportu* [*Geography of transport*] by Z. Taylor and M. Potrykowski, it was one of the hottest research topics in our subdiscipline. Therefore, it is worth to devote more space to the content of this chapter. Undoubtedly, its strength is to raise the subject of factors affecting an increase in cargo flows in cities. Relatively new phenomena arising, among others, from the rapid development of all forms of e-commerce and the ensuing increase in demand for deliveries in urban areas may be an interesting subject of research for geographers. A separate section was also dedicated to groups of users and their expectations of the delivery system. Attention is also paid to the negative impact of freight transport inside cities, as well as to the conflictogenic nature of chaos and lack of coordination. The chapter presents recommendable examples of innovative solutions, among others, from the Netherlands, Bordeaux and London. Subsections regarding the sharing of road infrastructure and the use of rail transport (including trams) for intra-city freight transport are interesting and possibly also inspiring for Polish transport geographers. Some examples, such as the transport of waste by rail from the city of Kawasaki, should encourage feasibility studies and such projects also in Poland.

The book ends with the fifth chapter entitled "Wybrane instrumenty polityki transportowej" ["Selected instruments of transport policy"]. The subject of city space management is raised here, in particular elements enhancing transport. Particular emphasis is placed on solutions limiting the number of private cars in city centres and replacing them with public transport. This group of mechanisms also includes fees designed to discourage users from entering certain areas of the city by car. Specific examples of flexible transport solutions in cities such as *carpooling*, *car sharing* or tele-buses or group taxis are also interesting. Great emphasis is also placed here on the promotion of electromobility.

To sum up, despite the non-geographical nature of the reviewed textbook, it is also worth recommending to representatives of our subdiscipline, especially those who are just making their first steps in it. Transport geographers will certainly find in it many valuable ideas and some information that can inspire their own enquiries and complement their already acquired knowledge, as well as facilitate explanation.