

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	The Debate Over Social Disparities and the Disparity Discourse . . .	7
2.1	Terminology and Meaning	7
2.2	The First Emergence and Development of Social Disparities	15
2.2.1	The Origin of Social Disparities	16
2.2.2	Intensifying Division of Labor and Its Implications on Social Disparities	19
2.2.3	Social Disparities and Power Asymmetries in Complex Societies	23
2.3	From Social Disparities to Their Analysis: The Tradition of Social Disparity Research	27
2.3.1	Conceptual Questions to an Analysis of the Debate Over Social Disparities	27
2.3.2	The Roots of Social Disparity Analysis in Ancient Greece	29
2.3.3	Additional Concepts to an Understanding of Social Disparities: Ancient Rome	33
2.3.4	Thinking About Social Disparities Under the Aegis of Christianity	35
2.3.5	Concepts About Social Disparities in the Age of Enlightenment: The Case of England	38
2.3.6	Enlightenment in France and the Issue of Social Disparities	40
2.3.7	Increasing Importance of Disparity Issues in Central and Eastern Europe	44
2.3.8	Social Disparities in the Light of (R)Evolutionary Ideas: Darwin and his Reception in the Marxist Approach	45
2.3.9	Social Disparities and “The Struggle for Existence”: Anti-Marxist Interpretations of Darwin	48

2.3.10	Concepts About Social Disparities After World War II: Revaluation of the Individual Perspective	51
2.3.11	Thinking About Social Disparities: Summary of an Historical Overview	53
2.4	Which Equality? On the Legitimacy of Two Approaches	53
2.5	Political Importance of the Debate Over Social Disparities	57
2.5.1	Problematization of Social Disparities for Political Identity-Making	57
2.5.2	Social Disparity Analysis as Political Discourse	61
2.6	Science as Means of Legitimization in the Disparity Discourse . . .	65
2.6.1	Case Study of a Politically Contested Project by Representatives of Sciences: “The Spirit Level” and Its Reception	65
2.6.2	Findings of the Case Study: On the Legitimate Authority of Sciences	76
2.7	Changing Context and Altering Position of Slogans in the Disparity Discourse	80
2.8	Social Disparities and the Disparity Discourse: Sub-Conclusion . . .	83
3	Social Disparities Meet Space and Concepts Surrounding It	87
4	A Contextual Analysis of the Emergence of Spatial Disparity Research	93
4.1	Spatial Disparities Without Spatial Disparity Research: The Pre-modern Age	93
4.2	A Late Beginning for Spatial Inequality Research After the Industrial Revolution	95
4.2.1	The Industrial Revolution and the Emergence of Social Physics	95
4.2.2	A New Fashion in the Anglophone World: Spatial Disparity Research From “Moral Statistics” to Charles Booth and to American Social Surveys	97
4.2.3	A Political Discourse in the Making: Problematization of Spatial Inequalities	99
5	Spatial Disparity Analysis and Anti-Capitalism: The “Classical” Marxist Tradition	103
5.1	Marx, Engels, and the Spatial Aspect of Disparities	103
5.2	Rosa Luxemburg and the Concept of “Uneven Spatial Development”	105
5.3	Lenin and the Problematization of “Uneven Spatial Development”	108
5.4	Stalin: The “Basic Economic Law of Socialism” and the Claimed Communist Solution to “Uneven Spatial Development”	110
5.5	The Marxist Approach to Spatial Disparities: Sub-Summary	113

5.6	Science as Means of Justification in the Marxist Interpretation of Spatial Disparities	114
5.7	Spatial Disparities and Marxism: A Brief Summary	121
6	Non-Marxist Reactions to the Marxist Problematicization of Spatial Unevenness	123
6.1	Antecedents in Practical Life	123
6.2	Spatial Disparities as the Focus of Scientific Interest: The Cold War Context	124
6.3	Geopolitical Struggle and the “Relevant” Forms of Disparity in Space	128
6.4	Spatial Disparity Research: Analytical and Propagandistic Objectives	131
6.5	The Need for Scientific Substantiation and the Rising Star of Spatial Economics	133
6.6	The Stable Equilibrium Model of the Neoclassic: Strengths and Weaknesses	135
6.7	The Criticism of Neoclassical Economics and the Concepts of Spatial Polarization	139
6.7.1	Gunnar Myrdal, the “Vicious Circle” of Polarization, and a Straight Geopolitical Path into the American Sphere of Influence for the “Underdeveloped” World	140
6.7.2	Hirschman’s Technocratic Polarization Model with Political Overtones	154
6.7.3	Williamson’s Inverted U Model: Empirical Background and Political Implications	162
6.7.4	Friedmann’s Concept About Spatial Disparities: A Technocratic Textbook Permeated by American Ideology	178
6.8	Neoclassical Reactions to Polarization Theory: Arguing Politically to Sell the Product	183
6.9	Spatial Disparity Research in Capitalist Countries During the Cold War: An Epistemological Conclusion	188
7	Spatial Disparity Research After the Initial Decades of Cold War: End of the “Golden Age”	191
7.1	Reasons for the Decline in the Spatial Disparity Discourse	191
7.1.1	Changing Circumstances in Global Geopolitics	191
7.1.2	Opening Up in Soviet Sciences: The End of Antagonistic Rivalry in the Scientific Cold War	193
7.1.3	Changing Economic and Social Attitudes: Devaluation of Spatial Equality as a Desirable Goal	198
7.1.4	Ambiguities Over the Validity of Scientific Concepts About Spatial Disparities	202
7.1.5	Reasons for the End of the Cold War “Golden Age” in Spatial Disparity Discourse: A Summary	209

7.2	The Spatial Disparity Discourse Re-Evaluated: Neoliberalism, β and σ Convergence, Endogenous Growth Theories, and Krugman's "New Economic Geography"	210
7.3	An Alternative Path in Europe: A Neoclassical Boom in Spatial Disparity Research to the Extent it is Needed by Policy-Making	224
8	And Yet Spatial Disparity Is a Problem of Capitalism: Leftist Approaches in a Post-Fordist World	231
8.1	Global Inequality as a Product of the World Order: The Way to Dependency Theories	232
8.1.1	A Lonely but Hard Marxist Opinion from the West: Paul Baran's View About Global Inequalities	232
8.1.2	Leftist Theories to Question the US Dominated World Order by Analyzing Global Disparities: The ECLA Structuralist Approach in Latin America	235
8.1.3	Analyzing Global Disparities to Predict or Urge for the End of Capitalism: Neo-Marxist Dependency Theories and the World-System Model of Immanuel Wallerstein	240
8.1.4	The Relation of Factual Knowledge to Orientation Knowledge in Leftist Dependency Theories	245
8.2	Another Approach to Blame Capitalism for Spatial Disparities: David Harvey, Neil Smith, and the Uneven Development Concept Rediscovered	257
8.2.1	The Marxist Interpretation of Uneven Development as "The Hallmark of the Geography of Capitalism"	257
8.2.2	Remarks Regarding Blaming Uneven Development on Capitalism: An Empirical Investigation of "Real Existing Socialist" Countries	270
8.2.3	Empirical and Theoretical Remarks on the Uneven Development Concept: A Summary	327
9	Political Functioning of the Spatial Disparity Discourse: A Summary	331
10	Conclusion	337
11	What to Do with the Discourse on Spatial Disparities? A Normative Outlook	341
	Summary	347
	Zusammenfassung	349
	References	351

The Political Discourse of Spatial Disparities
Geographical Inequalities Between Science and
Propaganda

Gyuris, F.

2014, XV, 381 p. 41 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-01507-1