

Settlement Ecology: The Social and Spatial Organization of Kofyar Agriculture. Glenn Davis Stone. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1996. 256 pp.

J. TERRENCE McCABE
University of Colorado at Boulder

The key question addressed in this well-written and thoughtful book is: How are agrarian settlement patterns governed? This question arose out of many years of research among the Kofyar of Nigeria and also drew upon the early work of Robert Netting, with whom Stone worked as a graduate student. Netting's influence is evident throughout this book. Stone tries to understand and explain settlement behavior based on his observations rather than to selectively use ethnographic data to support a particular theory or approach. In addition to being a human ecologist, Stone is also an archaeologist. He is interested in understanding the relationship of social, historical, ecological, and economic factors that resulted in the type of settlement pattern that emerged as the Kofyar migrated out of their highland homesteads to the low-lying plains.

The ethnographic material used in his analysis consists of over 20 years' worth of data collected between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s. During this time many Kofyar cultivators migrated with their families from the intensively cultivated Jos Plateau down to the sparsely occupied Namu Plains. The original pioneering settlement attracted more migrants and, as population density increased and soils became depleted, the settlement pattern changed. Some farms were abandoned while others were more intensively cultivated. Trying to understand reasons for these changes is the goal of the book.

Following the introduction, Stone devotes the next two chapters to a discussion of the theoretical issues relevant to agrarian settlement. Chapter 2 reviews the literature on land use and residence patterns (such as catchment analysis, central place theory, fissioning, and spacing), while chapter 3 focuses on intensification theory.

In chapters 4 through 8, Stone describes the process of settlement and the changes in the settlement pattern over time. Included here are descriptions of the Kofyar homeland and the physical and cultural aspects of the frontier. In chapter 5, Stone also examines the factors contributing to the Kofyar migration out of the highlands. An examination of the settlement pattern of the original pioneering families is presented in chapter 6. Here he not only discusses the physical landscape, the system of cultivation, and labor, but also the social organization of the pioneering Kofyar, within which all decisions relating to settlement are situated. Chapters 7 and 8 describe the changes that

occurred as more and more migrants moved into the area. During this time aggregated settlements fissioned and a dispersed settlement pattern emerged.

Chapters 9, 10, and 11 consist primarily of data analysis. Here the interplay of movement (chapter 9) with ethnicity (chapter 10) and the physical landscape (chapter 11) is examined. The case study is summarized and conclusions drawn in chapter 12.

Stone has made an important contribution to the literature by linking intensification theory with settlement theory. By incorporating temporal variability in settlement patterns in the analysis he is also able to point out some of the weaknesses of Boserup's work on agricultural intensification. Another major conclusion is that there are no sets of "rules" that could predict the type of settlement pattern that emerges when an agricultural group migrates from one place to another. Rather, a group will have a set of "priorities" that favor one locational solution to a particular problem over another, and these priorities change over time. Finally, Stone emphasizes that settlement patterns are strongly influenced by social organization and that theoretical approaches that are based exclusively on "optimizing" access to natural resources or economic considerations do not capture the complexity of the decision-making process that results in the settlement pattern one observes on the ground. This is exemplified in his closing section, in which he compares Tiv migration and settlement with that of the Kofyar.

The arguments in the book are thoughtfully constructed and supported by an abundance of ethnographic data. This book will be of interest to ecologically oriented anthropologists, archaeologists, and geographers. It should be especially useful to archaeologists who are interested in understanding how the physical structures of human settlements came to be the way they are and to all scholars interested in agricultural intensification. ■

Interpreting Southwestern Diversity: Underlying Principles and Overarching Patterns. Paul R. Fish and J. Jefferson Reid, eds. Anthropological Research Papers, 48. Tucson: Arizona State University Press, 1996. 320 pp.

LINDA S. CORDELL
University of Colorado at Boulder

The 29 chapters in this volume, organized in four parts, are drawn from two different symposia: the Third Southwest Symposium, arranged by the editors and held in Tucson in 1992, and a session organized by Thomas R. Rocek and given at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in 1993 in St. Louis. Not all the papers presented at either