Locational Approaches To Power And Conflict

Kevin R. Cox David R Reynolds Stein Rokkan

Rather, locational conflict is symbolic conflict over the social distribution of power to assign meaning and uses to space (Mitchell 1992). Locational conflict symbolizes contention over whose values have standing within the political process and whose values, therefore, become expressed in the landscape. In the 1960s a new theoretical and scientific approach to the spatial geometry of location, known as central place theory, served as a catalyst for more rigorous thinking about "place" (see Location Theory). This approach considered towns and villages in terms of measurable properties and relative locations, and thus implicitly adopted an Aristotelian perspective that emptied places of content.