

One-industry towns represent a distinct component of the Romanian urban system. Special literature studies in this country have been dealing with individual situations, or with territorial groupings. As a distinctive functional entity, this category of towns has not benefited by a geographical work in any comprehensive approach. And that is precisely what this book - *One-industry towns in Romania. Between forcible industrialisation and economic decline* - intends to do, namely to provide a synthetic picture of their evolution in the 20th and 21st centuries. The topics discussed herein focus on the factors involved in the emergence, dynamics and type of towns specialised in a certain industrial branch, their workforce and economic basis. At the same time, the author tries to envisage solutions for revitalising the one-industry urban ecosystems destructured by the hardships of transition from a centralised economy to the market system.

The volume has a broad interdisciplinary profile, its elaboration relying on the study, analysis and synthesis of a large body of information found in works written by specialists in Geography, History, Economy, Statistics, Territorial Planning and Sociology. In addition, plenty of statistical data, gathered from reliable sources, are also used (the population and housing fund censuses from 1930, 1956, 1966, 1977, 1992 and 2002, statistical yearbooks and settlement records from the 1990-2003 period).

Comparisons between one-industry towns found in this volume offer reliable information to the government, companies, authorities and the inhabitants themselves concerning the problems facing this category of towns, possibly leading to policy changes. The information refers to aspects of economic planning in the 20th-century, and the beginning of the 3rd millennium, infrastructure, short-and-medium-term management options, achievements, and decline in the transition period. The strategies dealing with industrial decline and restructuring ought to be integrated into the communities' own plans.

