

The volume makes an in-depth approach to the concept of landscape, also providing a synthesis of landscape evolution in the Oltenia Plain, a region extending in the south-west of Romania. The study expounds on the 20-th century dynamics of this Plain when its landscape experienced dramatic changes. The highlight falls on the post - 1989 situation after the old political regime had been ousted from power. Government and socio-economic policies would seriously modify the distribution of the region's population and economy, this contributing to making the local landscape even more vulnerable. The key factor that enhanced the Oltenia Plain's landscape vulnerability and fragility has been excessive anthropication alongside the geoclimatic trend to aridisation and the higher incidence of episodes of climatic instability.

Climate aspects are extensively dealt with in this work, because they were deeply involved in landscape regression over the past two decades; aridisation trends are tackled both by classical and modern methods.

Besides landscape typology and spatial structure, aspects of fragmentation grade, dynamics, temporal organization and functionality are discussed in term of human development.

Using several landscape type identification criteria put forward by various geographical schools, a number of 12 Oltenia Plain landscape types are depicted. Another aspect that captured the author's attention was landscape vulnerability to erosion, flooding, salting and drought. The findings have revealed a mosaic of spatial units prove to similar such risks which local communities are expected to solve by adjusting development programmes to the new situation.

The last chapter overviews spatial management programmes in close connection with regional development ones, especially since the surveyed region is one of the poorest in Romania that has been benefited, and still wall by financial and technical assistance from the central authorities and the international bodies.

