The City as Text: The Politics of Landscape Interpretation in the Kandyan Kingdom

James S. Duncan

The City as Text: The Politics of Landscape Interpretation in the Kandyan Kingdom is a book by James S. Duncan that explores the complex interactions between landscapes and politics in the Kandyan Kingdom of Sri Lanka. The book argues that landscapes are not only physical spaces but also sites of political power and cultural meaning. Duncan examines how landscapes were used to assert and maintain political authority, and how they were shaped by and in turn shaped political ideologies and practices. The book also discusses the ways in which landscapes were used to legitimate and contest political authority, and how they were appropriated by different political actors for their own purposes.

The book is divided into two main sections. The first section, "The City as Text," explores the use of landscape as a tool of political control and legitimation, with particular emphasis on the use of landscapes to assert and maintain political authority. The second section, "The Politics of Landscape Interpretation," examines the ways in which landscapes were reshaped and reinterpreted in response to changing political conditions.

Duncan's work has been influential in the field of cultural geography, and has contributed to our understanding of the ways in which landscapes are used to assert and contest political authority. It has been widely cited in subsequent research and has inspired further studies of the politics of landscape in other contexts.

The book is an important contribution to the field of cultural geography, and is essential reading for anyone interested in the politics of landscape or the history of Sri Lanka.