Geografiska perspektiv på den moderna statens organisering

av

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Abstract


This thesis analyses the spatial organisation of the modern state. Processes and drivers in the changing geography of the Swedish state are identified. Three main themes are explored. The first is a quantitative analysis of the changing spatial redistribution of the employees of the state between 1980 and 2007. It reveals a concentration of state activities to expanding municipalities, also in relation to population change. The concentration was fast during 1990’s on both local and regional level but slowed down during the early 2000’s.

The second theme is focused on the rationale for changes in the spatial organization. Globalization, introduction of new technology and ideological factors are identified as important for the restructuring. The role of the state is analyzed, using a regulationist theoretical framework. It concludes that the state changes due to transformations in the mode of production and consumption. States are mediating between labour and capital to find new regularities in order to stabilize the system.

The third theme is a detailed study on the Swedish Public Employment Service. It investigates how this state authority became an important part on the Swedish labour market during the Fordistic era in Sweden and explores how the organisation was gradually transformed when the mode of production changed from the 1980’s and onward. A shift of power between labour and capital resulted in neo-liberal reforms in the economy and the state administration was influenced by New Public Management ideas in the 1980’s. A major spatial re-organization of the employment agency followed from the economic crisis. Thus, a changing mode of production, ideological changes and the advances in ICT made possible a fundamental geographical re-organization.

Keywords: State, spatial change, regulation theory, restructuring, Sweden, Swedish Public Employment Service

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