

## SUMMARY

This anthropological research, conducted for two years (2002-2003) in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) and Commune 1 and 2 of Bamako (Mali), analyzes the relationships and struggles between citizens, civil society, traditional local powers and public authorities for the social control of the urban space.

In fact, the urban space appeared to be the scene of a confrontation between two conceptions of the urban order of the town. The former, endorsed by the district authorities, tries to force upon the "order" of a town designed with clean spaces and specialized and clearly defined places; it confronts the latter, a "disorder" imposed on by the "anarchical" and messy occupation of streets and places mainly by the poor citizens but also by the client parcelling of new plots of land by the local patrons in power.

The analysis of the terms of this confrontation, which stages the civil inattentions and incivilities of the urban civil society, is intended on the one hand, to unveil the local problems met by the democratic process initiated by the decentralization of the state reform and on the other hand, to show the problematic advent of a citizenship trying to release from traditional kinship and patronage reliance.

The field research in political anthropology has focused on two main directions: the solidarity generated by the social link and the rivalry generated by the democratic and clientelist political access to the municipal positions of power.

The first direction of research was centred primarily on the description of the urban social link and solidarity

as they are realised through various modes of sociability (Bobo-Dioulasso and municipality 1 and 2 of Bamako) and secondarily, on the description of some uncivil practices in the domestic use of the public urban space for sanitation (Bobo-Dioulasso). By the way, this study gave some interesting insights of the main folksy conceptions of "residence", "property" and "public space" (Bobo-Dioulasso).

The second direction of research focused on the civic and civil relationships associating the citizen and his municipality. This relation was investigated by the way of three different approaches.

The first one analyzed the procedure by which client links were weaved with the citizens by the political parties candidates during the last municipal elections in Bobo-Dioulasso; or are intended to be weaved for the next municipal poll in municipality 1 and 2 of Bamako. This study confirmed what we already knew about the popular conception of "power".

The second one examined what was at stake behind the turmoil concerning generalized political speculation and bribery on the new urban plots of land (Bobo-Dioulasso et Commune 1 de Bamako).

The last approach describes the local development of the associative intermediation showing the very ambiguous role they play being at the same time part of the civil society and of the local municipality (Bobo-Dioulasso et Commune 2 de Bamako).

Finally, the conclusion tries to highlight the likely hindrances to, and the possible conditions of, rise of an effective urban citizenship.