

World Population and Development: Challenges and Prospects. Edited by Philip M. Hauser. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1979. Pp. xxii + 683. \$18.00 (cloth); \$9.95 (paper).

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All in all, the contents of this volume constitute an inventory, and to some extent an appraisal, of the problems with respect to population and development in the context of a world comprising "have" and "have-not" nations engaged in intense efforts to resolve pressing immediate problems while remaining aware of the even more severe long-run outlook. [P. xxi]

This sentence from Philip Hauser's preface to *World Population and Development* summarizes what is in this book—it is comprehensive—and exemplifies the book's style—it is ponderous. Rafael M. Salas, executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, New York, commissioned this book to mark the tenth year of UNFPA operation in 1979. He asked the editor and the authors of the 17 chapters "to review the status of the population and development problems with which the Fund is concerned" in order "to obtain a firm foundation of fact and judgment which can serve, on the one hand, as a measure against which to judge the impact of the Fund's activities, and, on the other hand, as a springboard for directing the agency's future policies and programs" (p. v).

Few scholars could resist the chance to address directly the management of one of the world's three biggest sources of money for population-related activities (in addition to UNFPA, the others are the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development). Consequently, there are outstanding scholars among the authors, and the overall level of scholarship in the book is very high.

I find the book especially attractive because it does not ignore the enormous diversity of the problems relating to population and does not conceal our ignorance concerning most of those problems. There is no population problem, singular. There are many population problems, of protean local diversity. These problems cross national boundaries and academic boundaries with equal ease. As an introduction to these problems, this book would make an excellent text for senior undergraduate or first-year graduate students with prior background in biology, demography, and economics as well as for scholars seeking an overview of the field.

The book opens with Hauser's comprehensive 62-page review of the demographic state of the world. This alone is worth the price of the book:

From 1960 to 1973 the proportion of the world GNP generated in the LDCs declined from 19 percent to 17 percent; the proportion of world export earnings in the LDCs diminished from 21 percent to 18 percent; the proportion of world public education expenditures in the LDCs declined from 15

percent to 11 percent; and the proportion of world public health expenditures in the LDCs plummeted from 11 percent to 6 percent. Over the same period, the proportion of total world population in the LDCs increased from 71 percent to 74 percent; and, ironically and alarmingly, the proportion of total world military expenditures by the LDCs rose, soaring from nine percent to 13 percent. [P. 27]

In this grim situation, does scholarship matter? Yes, says Hauser: "The LDCs are much more dependent on knowledge as a basis for policy and action through planning and its implementation than were the MDCs in their early stages of development. . . . Unfortunately, knowledge based on the experience of the MDCs may often be unsuited to the needs of the LDCs" (p. 52).

The chapters that follow survey theories of fertility decline, an evolutionary perspective on development, projections of future resource needs and availabilities, interactions among food, health, and population, reproductive biology and fertility regulation, the economics and demography of development, Japan's economic and demographic development since 1868, investment in population quality in LDCs, educated unemployment in LDCs, population redistribution, women in development, human rights in population programs, and theoretical and practical aspects of the organization and management of international population assistance and national population programs.

These chapters range in approach from the insightful crystal gazing, supported by no visible calculations, of John Calhoun and Dilip Ahuja (who predict that the world's population will decline steadily from nearly 9 billion in 2065 to less than 3 billion in 2300) to the number-bound econometric forecasts with 185 sectors of Ronald Ridker (with the conclusion that "the binding constraint on economic and social development in the next several decades is not the availability of material and environmental resources per se, but the capacity to utilize these resources in productive ways" [p. 122]). They range in substance from the molecular and cellular specifics of Sheldon Segal, Kwaku Adadevoh, and Zhy-yi Chang to the grand sociological generalities of Amitai Etzioni. They range in originality from the crisply imaginative proposals for research found throughout the chapter of Nancy Birdsall, John Fei, Simon Kuznets, Gustav Ranis, and T. Paul Schultz (of which I liked best the simple suggestion to break down demographic statistics by the major socioeconomic groups within a population [p. 279]) to the occasional platitudes that mar Gayl Ness's contribution, for example, "Whatever is needed to address population problems will require a great deal of human intelligence, discretion, and technical skill. These technological conditions imply that an effective organization in international population assistance will require considerable technical competence in its staff, and a capacity to integrate the distinct mix of specialized skills needed by any given problem" (pp. 644-45). Yawn.

Nevertheless, I found no chapter in the book that was not rich in new facts and new perspectives. It is heartening that a major agency like

American Journal of Sociology

UNFPA would seek to evaluate its past and plan its future on the basis of the best available knowledge, much of which appears in this book. Whatever use UNFPA may make of this book, the rest of us can benefit from having it.