

ANNOTATIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK, 1949-1950¹

TWO issues of the DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK have been published and the third is in preparation. The second issue, DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK, 1949-50, was released in 1951. The volume is a joint product of the Population Division and the Statistical Office of the United Nations. These offices are the servicing agencies of the Population Commission and the Statistical Commission, which in turn are technical commissions within the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The League of Nations published a STATISTICAL YEARBOOK during the years 1927-1944. Although this contained only a section devoted to demographic statistics, it quickly became the outstanding source for population and vital statistics for various countries of the world.

That we now have a DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK in addition to a STATISTICAL YEARBOOK² is indicative of (a) the increasing volume of economic and social statistics available in an increasing number of countries; (b) the recognition of the value of good statistics for determination of policy; and (c) the recognition of the importance of population problems.

DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK, 1949-50, containing 558 pages altogether, includes an introductory chapter describing the sources and limitations of the data presented, a second chapter on world population trends during 1920-1949, and a third chapter giving a more specific description of the various types of demographic data presented in the volume considered.

¹ United Nations, Population Division and Statistical Office: DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK, 1949-50. New York, 1950, 558 pages, \$6.00.

² The Statistical Office, Department of Economic Affairs, is responsible for the preparation of STATISTICAL YEARBOOK and the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, both of which contain some demographic data.

These chapters and all of the titles, headings, and stubs of the ensuing tables are presented in both English and French.

Although there was an approximate two-year interval between the publication of the first and second volumes, the two offices responsible for the publication are struggling to fulfill their aim of having the volume issued annually. The plan is to repeat a series of basic tables each year and, in addition, to follow a five-year rotating scheme in which data on other selected topics will be featured. The tables thus far regarded as basic and repeated in the second volume are those on total population, age and sex, economic characteristics, numbers of deaths and crude death rates, age-specific death rates, infant mortality, and international migration.

In the second issue, the special subject emphasized is that of marriage and fertility and tables are included on women by number of children ever born, women by number of children living, ratios of children under 5 to women 15-49 years of age, births by age of father (numbers and rates), births by age of mother and birth order, and marriages by previous marital status. It is planned to emphasize data on mortality in the next issue of the YEARBOOK.

Most of the persons reading this review will not need to be told of the enormous difficulties encountered in compiling a wide scope of statistical data of any kind for the various countries of the world. The United States and Canada, Northern and Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand have a fairly long tradition of good statistics, but in the remaining countries the range tends to be from fair to poor with respect to both quantity and quality of the statistics collected.

The United Nations compilation is made from questionnaires submitted to the various governments, supplemented where feasible from national official publications. It is therefore understandable that although the DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK is designed to afford population and vital statistics on a world basis, complete coverage of all data for all countries is by no means attained and this statistical ideal probably will not be accomplished for many years.

The users of the data must keep in mind that the YEARBOOK is a compilation of *official* figures and that the official statistics

in many countries are of poor quality. Probably no one is more aware of this than the editors of the YEARBOOK themselves. Within the limits of their time and prerogatives the editors are apparently doing their utmost to evaluate the quality of the data published and, by use of footnotes and symbols, to warn the user when certain published figures are questionable. Their work of this type will not only be of immense help to the users of the data but should also tend to encourage various national governments to improve their statistics. Students of population and many other social scientists have welcomed the inauguration of DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK and they have a strong vested interest in its continuation and constant improvement.

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INDUSTRIALIZATION AND LABOR¹

SINCE the end of World War II there has been an increasing realization of the necessity for raising the levels of living of the disadvantaged peoples of the world if peace is to be insured. Attention has been focused upon the so-called underdeveloped areas of the world and the need for helping such areas with their economic and social problems.

Wilbert E. Moore's book describing the social aspects of economic development is the outcome of a project on "Attitudes of Native Labor Toward Industrial Work" initiated in 1946 by the Institute of World Affairs and carried to completion with the cooperation of the Viking Fund and also of the Office of Population Research of Princeton University, with which Dr. Moore is affiliated.

It is commendable that this type of study was undertaken. Too often, industrial development has been studied solely from the economic needs of a country. The total impact of industrialization upon the society of a country and its meaning in terms of revolutionary change in the life of the people is many times overlooked. Further, it must be recognized that certain social

¹ Moore, Wilbert E.: *INDUSTRIALIZATION AND LABOR*, Social Aspects of Economic Development, Published for The Institute of World Affairs, New School For Social Research, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and New York, 1951, 410 pp., \$5.00.