

stage. The most accessible sites, such as the buccal cavity and skin, had a greater percentage of early diagnoses than did such relatively inaccessible sites as the digestive and respiratory systems. However, the record for cancers of the accessible organs was far from satisfactory. Although the breast is considered an accessible site, in both Birmingham and Dallas only one-half of all newly diagnosed cases of this site were discovered in a localized state. In the other eight cities, the per cent of cases discovered while localized was even lower.

The variation in survival rates by stage of diagnosis is striking. In all of the ten cities those cancer cases which were diagnosed while the disease was localized had a better chance for longer survival than those discovered subsequent to regional or remote metastasis. This strongly suggests that improved diagnostic procedures which would make possible the discovery of more cases at an early stage of development, could result in a considerable saving in lives.

The lowest survival rates are found among patients with leukemia and cancers of the respiratory system (especially lung and bronchus), and digestive system. Best chances for survival were found among persons with cancer of the skin, breast and buccal cavity. It is apparent that both early diagnosis and survival are dependent upon the accessibility of the site of the malignancy.

The authors, by conducting careful investigations of cancer in representative groups of the population, have contributed much valuable data to cancer research and have provided the field of public health with more comprehensive cancer morbidity data than has been possible in the past.

KATHERINE SIMON



ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY¹

THIS book is "a thorough revision" of the author's **THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF PRIMITIVE PEOPLES** which first appeared in 1940. The change made in the title represents a re-

¹ Herskovits, Melville J.: **ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY**, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1952, 547, ix, xxiii pp., text edition, \$5.75, trade edition, \$7.50.

orientation in the author's point of view. The term "primitive" is rejected as a description of the societies studied, since it is both tendentious and devoid of precise meaning; it has been replaced in effect by a collection of descriptive terms such as nonliterate, non-industrial, and non-pecuniary. Of greater significance is the enrichment of the content of the new edition out of the post-1940 increment in the stock of information relating to the economic activities of non-industrial peoples. This increment is reflected in enlargements of the treatment of such subjects as labor, work-patterns, reward-systems, and consumption patterns.

The book is divided into six parts. The Introduction is devoted to consideration of the role of "rational behavior" in pre-machine societies and of the contribution that anthropology can make to the study of economic life. The section on Production deals with methods of getting a living, modes of work, specialization, and systems of pay and reward. Part III treats of gifts, ceremonial exchange, trade and barter, business enterprise, credit, capital formation, money and wealth, and consumption patterns. The section on Property deals with ownership, land tenure among various peoples, and the role of tangible and intangible goods. Part V, concerned with the use of "The Economic Surplus," treats of population growth, the cost of government, the service of the supernatural, the display of wealth, and the role of leisure. The last part is made up of certain of the author's conclusions. Professor Frank H. Knight's interesting review of the first edition, together with Professor Herskovits's reply, makes up an appendix. A number of tables and charts add appreciably to the usefulness of the book as do several maps of tribal and place names, a 15-page bibliography, and a reasonably good index. The book is nicely written and the format is pleasing.

This work "is an introduction to comparative economics, in the broadest sense of the term." It is intended primarily to provide information concerning the economic life of non-literate peoples and facilitate the economic analysis of this information. In consequence, the author encounters a problem (associated with the comparative method) which he has resolved perhaps as effectively as one can. If an author is dealing with

but one culture, its depth, the nature and degree of its integration, its potential sources of instability, etc., can be disclosed to the reader. If, on the contrary, an author (in the manner of Frazier or Sumner) lists seemingly relevant examples from many societies in conjunction with his discussion of particular topics, he is unable to supply adequate depth, etc. What amounts to a middle course is pursued by Professor Herskovits: he provides several or more examples but he attempts to avoid abstracting them too much from their cultural contexts.

In his concluding chapter the author, after having endeavored to specify carefully the degree of applicability of "economic determinism" and "historical materialism", points to the very limited usefulness of such concepts as "individualism" and "collectivism" for the study of non-industrial societies. Few relationships fall into these polar categories. Even so, there remains a related question to which greater attention might have been given: As a society evolves out of the pre-industrial stage into the industrial stage, does not the "economy" become more autonomous and more characterized by stability-preserving mechanisms? Professor Herskovits emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between technology and economic activity—a distinction frequently ignored until recently—and of making use of quantitative data. He calls attention to the uselessness of the concept of economic stages and to the importance of economist-anthropologist cooperation in the study of non-industrial societies.

The author does not treat in detail of the effects of the impact of contact with modern economies. He does, however, suggest that such impact produces an interplay between the cultures involved rather than a decidedly unilateral effect. And he aims to provide "a realization of the background against which" Euroamerican technology and industrialization "must be projected, if a workable adjustment is to be achieved." Indirectly also he brings home to the reader "a sense of the variation that marks the manner in which all men achieve those aims" which are sought through the "application of scarce means to given ends,"—a variation that is characteristic also of more industrialized societies.

Of great interest always to the economist and the demog-

rapher is the use to which a people puts that surplus of goods which it produces beyond its minimum requirements for life. For this surplus can be both a stimulator of the growth of output per inhabitant and a facilitator of other agencies such as technological improvements which may make for growth of output. As population and other data indicate, the capacity of non-industrial peoples to produce such a surplus varies greatly as does the surplus brought into being (for reasons that remain "obscure"). The surplus is utilized largely to support "social leisure," which means, since this surplus is quite unevenly divided, a leisure class considered superior by the underlying population. This class commands the surplus partly in virtue of its providing "government" and serving the "supernatural." The surplus is devoted largely to what Vablen called conspicuous consumption, a form of consumption that adds to the prestige of the leisure class. A problem confronting those who wish to convert a non-industrial into a modernized society is that of diverting the capacity to produce a surplus to the formation of income-producing wealth.

The resolution of this problem is not gone into by the author, nor is the resolution of many analogous problems suggested by discussion found elsewhere in the study under review. This omission, of course, is intentional. Nonetheless, in view of the great importance presently attached to the modernization of non-industrial societies, it would be worth while making the findings of this book bear more directly, in so far as this is possible, upon the selection of the approaches best suited to the modernization of these societies. J. J. SPENGLER



POPULATION CHANGES IN EUROPE: 1939-1947¹

FROM the point of view of demographic trends, few periods in Europe's history can have been as eventful, or confused, as the years from the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 through the initial period of readjustment following V-E Day. The continuing decline of civilian death rates and the unusual, still not

¹ Frumkin, Gregory: *POPULATION CHANGES IN EUROPE SINCE 1939*, with a preface by J. B. Condliffe. Augustus M. Kelley, New York, 1951. 191 pp. \$3.75.