

ANNOTATIONS

BARCLAY'S TWO REPORTS ON TAIWAN¹

THE book COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION IN TAIWAN is devoted to an analysis of demographic changes in Taiwan prior to World War II, with particular attention to the 1920-1930 decade. The major interest of this analysis is not so much in the growth and development of the population of Taiwan itself as in the fact that "Taiwan is the only place where it is possible to study the processes of change of a Chinese population over a substantial period of time on the basis of excellent data. Any information that can be gained about the growth characteristics of one of the world's largest ethnic groups is well worth obtaining. . . . Here is an opportunity to study the impact of an aggressive program of agricultural development on population growth. . . ." The materials are organized as follows: First, a chapter which summarizes population growth in Taiwan; second, three chapters concerning economic activities, including the number and characteristics of the economically active population; third, a chapter about migration and growth of cities; fourth, one chapter devoted to mortality, and three chapters relating to fertility and factors affecting it; and then a short summary chapter.

The sections on economic activity point out that the Taiwanese produced a surplus of agricultural products during the years of Japanese administration. This was accomplished without mechanization of farms, and without appreciably disturbing traditional modes of life in rural Taiwan. The other note-

¹ Barclay, George W.: COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION IN TAIWAN. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1954, xviii + 274 pp., \$5.00.

Barclay, George W.: A REPORT ON TAIWAN'S POPULATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION. Office of Population Research, Princeton University, 1954, xii + 120 pp., \$2.50.

worthy achievement of the Japanese was the reduction of mortality from a crude death rate of about 35 per thousand population shortly after the turn of the century to less than 20 in the early forties. "Since nothing occurred to diminish the strength of these familial institutions, there is no reason why fertility should have declined" (p. 258). Nor did it. Hence, natural increase is very high—and has been for several decades.

The major conclusion appears to be that there will be a large increase in the mortality rate, "unless drastic changes are made in the social environment of family life" (p. 260). But there is no evidence that drastic changes will be consciously attempted.

It is not clear whether or not the findings set forth in this book apply to the Chinese generally. The author does state that "Facts have been presented so as to illustrate the general problem: What are the consequences of introducing 'backward' peoples to certain advantages of modern technology without its counterparts in social organizations?" But I am not sure that the experience of Taiwan is likely to be repeated elsewhere. The description of how the Japanese administered the Island without disturbing traditional lines of authority at the village level suggests that this may have been a very unusual experience. Certainly, the introduction of modern technology among other groups is more likely to create disturbances in the social organization than to leave it virtually undisturbed.

The book is quite readable, and typographical errors are few indeed. I wish that some of the basic tables had been presented—if necessary, in lieu of some of the charts. In particular, tables are needed to supplement the discussion of movement among occupations (pp. 84–98). For example, I could not verify the statement that older men—40 to 54 in 1930—entering agriculture "reveal a degree of movement at least as great as that of the persons who abandoned farming at younger ages." Several other statements in this section were of interest, but the charts are not in sufficient detail for me to extract the same conclusions as did the author, who, of course, had access to the tables that are needed to verify the statements. Also,

the life tables present only values of l_x , but q_x values would be desirable.

One other minor criticism might be mentioned. The author has a good discussion of the economically active population, and points out the principal defects of the available data. He did not, however, always make clear the sense in which he was using terms such as "work," "economic activity," and "not real inactivity," particularly when discussing the role of women among the employed.

The chapters pertaining to mortality and fertility are very interesting, although I found the discussion of household size and structure (Chapter VII) too detailed. On the other hand, the chapter on "Patterns of Marriage and Divorce" was most rewarding.

Barclay's other book is A REPORT ON TAIWAN'S POPULATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION. It is understandable that there is a moderate amount of repetition in this report and in COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION IN TAIWAN. Presumably administrative considerations dictated the necessity for issuing two documents; otherwise the materials presented could easily have been combined into a single publication. The principal contribution of this report is the presentation of some postwar data on the population of Taiwan. These figures are incomplete in that large numbers of persons on Taiwan were not included in the household registration system. "The scope of Taiwan's household registration has been deliberately restricted so as to exclude people in certain categories. And the people who are left out comprise a large segment of the population" (p. 10). Military personnel, including their households, and the "Floating Population" (p. 16) are not included in these statistics. The author discusses the deficiencies of postwar population data in Taiwan and makes estimates of underregistration of deaths, particularly among infants. Also, projections of the population of working age to 1980 are included, although the mortality and fertility assumptions are not made explicit (survival rates of 1936 to 1940 are used to 1965). Some data on the occupational distribution of economically active males in 1940 are given for the first time in the English language in this report.

A moderately intensive study of fertility of rural women was made from a sample of registration records. The limitations of this study are pointed out both in the report and in the appendix following the report proper. Some of the possible biases inherent in the survey procedure are disturbing, but not enough detail regarding the survey is given to enable the reader to evaluate fully the study. In spite of this defect, the findings of the study are interesting. The author again concludes that the present rate of natural increase cannot long continue because resources are limited and opportunities for emigration are virtually nil. Thus, unless drastic action is taken by government officials to reduce the fertility rate—a step that is not likely to be taken soon—the mortality rate will, of necessity, rise appreciably in the not so distant future.

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COMMUNITY CONDITIONS AND PSYCHOSES OF THE ELDERLY¹

THIS report presented originally at the American Psychiatric Meeting in Los Angeles, California on May 5, 1953 shows the preliminary findings of the possible effects of social conditions upon persons with cerebral arteriosclerotic and senile psychoses. The investigation was conducted by a group in the research section of the New York State Mental Health Commission.

The group outlined several areas to be explored:

1. Do cerebral arteriosclerotic and senile psychoses hospital admission rates vary in different populations?
2. If so, what characteristics distinguish the populations with high rates from those with low rates?
3. Do such variations reflect disease incidence variations?
4. Are the characteristics of populations with high rates characteristic of patients, or only of their associates?
5. Do modifications in the related characteristics of high rate populations reduce the incidence of cases?
6. And/or of hospitalized cases?

Preliminary findings were obtained for the first two ques-

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¹ Gruenberg, Ernest M., M.D.: Community Conditions and Psychoses of the Elderly. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, June, 1954, 110, pp. 888-896.