

ANNOTATIONS

CITIES AND SOCIETY¹

THIS revision clearly exhibits a conscientious effort on the part of Dr. Reiss to bring the first edition up to date while maintaining the spirit and standards of the original text co-edited with late Dr. Hatt. Changes are extensive, substitutions and additions numerically comprise slightly under half of the 62 papers presented in this second edition.

According to Dr. Reiss each new selection, as did each of the earlier inclusions, met one or more of the following four criteria: (1) "the excellence of the paper on its own merits"; (2) the selection must "clearly refer to urban phenomena"; (3) all other things being equal, the least accessible paper is preferred; and (4) where gaps existed in the literature but were covered by unpublished research, scholars were asked to make contributions. No sociologist can seriously question the desirability of such standards. After all, what purpose would be served in publishing a collection of trivial, irrelevant, well known and redundant series of essays? However, sociologists are likely to differ in their judgments of what constitutes excellence or what type of excellence is appropriate for inclusion in an urban sociology reader.

The editors catered to the prejudices of no particular category of potential readers. Selections cover a wide range of subject matter relevant to urban sociology, an intriguing array of methodological techniques, and a variety of theoretical orientations. Descriptive studies are interspersed with more analytical efforts. Each section is introduced with a short statement providing general principles which give some organizational unity

¹ CITIES AND SOCIETY: Revised Reader in Urban Sociology. Edited by Paul K. Hatt and Albert J. Reiss, Jr. Illinois, The Free Press, 1957, 852 pp., \$7.50.

to subsequent papers. Lengthy bibliographies supplement each section and are presented, by topics, in the last 25 pages of the reader. If the bibliographies are not exhaustive they are comprehensive. If there exist better ways of selecting, organizing, and introducing the material, the editors were at least relatively successful. Criticisms of particular papers may be made but such criticisms apply to the articles in question and reflect on the status of theory and research in the field of urban sociology. The editors merely chose from the best they could locate.

Without reservations, *CITIES AND SOCIETY* is a worthwhile acquisition for a sociologist's reference shelf. It is equally recommended as a source of supplementary readings for upper level college students, though a few of the articles may be too abstract and methodologically sophisticated for the average undergraduate.

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POPULATION AND WORLD POLITICS¹

POPULATION AND WORLD POLITICS is a selection of eleven papers presented at an institute of the Norman Wait Harris Memorial Foundation in Chicago in November of 1954. The collection was edited by Philip Hauser, who has also written a preface and an introduction. Otis Dudley Duncan substituted for Mr. Hauser in the editorial work while the latter was in the Far East.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I, "World Population and Resources," comprises three articles. The first, by John D. Durand, summarizes data on world population growth. The second, by Frank W. Notestein, makes new regional projections of population growth and discusses some projections made by the same author a decade before. The last article, by W. S. Woytinsky, discusses the interaction between technology, population, and resources.

Part II, "Population, Levels of Living, and Economic Devel-

¹ Hauser, Philip M. (Editor): *POPULATION AND WORLD POLITICS*. Glencoe, Illinois, The Free Press, 1958, 297 pp. \$6.00.