

taxonomic list of some of the factors that may have contributed to declines in fertility is based in part on European experience or hypotheses that have no clear relation to American experience, and whose relevancy, accuracy, or importance for the latter is moot. Thus, the famous Bradleigh-Bessant trial in England in 1877 is cited as evidence of a wide spread of knowledge of birth control methods after 1870. (American birth rates declined sharply and steadily at a much earlier time.) The writings of a German author in the 19th century are cited as evidence of "the declining influence of the Catholic Church." The Catholic Church is incorrectly stated to oppose birth control; it actually opposes only certain methods of control.

The book is a valuable reference source for those who wish a competent and scholarly analysis of ratios of young children to population and simple measures of the trend, by States, for the period from 1870 to 1950. In this reviewer's opinion, the most valuable contribution the book makes is the demonstration that the decline in fertility ratios among whites is probably in only a small part a result of urbanization of the population.

WILSON H. GRABILL

• • •

MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RHODE ISLAND¹

THIS monograph is the second of a series of reports on the population of Rhode Island. It was preceded by Mayer's "Economic Development and Population Growth in Rhode Island." It is concerned with the relationship between population fluctuations due to migratory currents and economic developments in Rhode Island.

The authors point out that in the past the subject of migration has received less attention than have fertility and mor-

¹ Mayer, Kurt B., and Goldstein, Sidney: *MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RHODE ISLAND*. Providence, Rhode Island, Brown University Press, 1958, 63 pp. (Paper) \$1.75.

tality. This is explained in part by the limited data available from previous censuses. "The earlier preoccupation of social scientists with fertility and mortality had rested on the tacit assumption that population growth is primarily determined by the long-term development of birth and death rates. The role of migrations had been minimized as a casual, almost extraneous factor . . . migration is a continuous process." (p. 5)

Maintaining that voluntary migration is a result of economic opportunity differentials between two geographic areas, creating push and pull effects, the report gives a brief description of the State's population size and manufacturing industries for the periods 1870-1910 and 1910-1955. The first period, one of rapid economic expansion, reflects the effects of the industrial revolution and the introduction of cotton manufacturing by Rhode Island in the 18th century. This period was marked by rapid population growth, much of which was from migrants.

The latter period discussed was one of decline in Rhode Island's earlier textile manufacturing leadership and of a contracting economy and slowing down of population growth. Due to a limited diversity of industry, the state was particularly vulnerable to southern competition in the cotton industry and competition from other productive areas located closer to their markets. There was some absorption of the labor force by other industries, but stagnation resulted and Rhode Island no longer held the industrial attraction it once did. The war temporarily stimulated industry, but had an adverse effect on population growth, by restricting immigration. During the period from 1910 to 1930, population growth due to migration decreased and finally became a negative factor. The problem of adapting the State's economic structure to the modern competitive situation still persists.

The second part of the report is concerned with characteristics of migrants, i.e. nativity, color, sex and age. There are historical series of data on volume of migration and net migration rates and origin and destination of native migrants.

The factors of sex and age selectivity in migration are indicated, with a fairly consistent trend of attraction for the 15-24 years age group and a negative net migration balance for some of the older age groups in recent years. This trend of domi-

nance of younger migrants in Rhode Island corresponds with the nationwide pattern.

Analysis of the interstate migrations of the natives indicates which States are most actively involved in population interchange with Rhode Island and the "connection between changes in the direction and flow of migration streams to and from Rhode Island and changes in economic opportunities in adjacent and nearby areas." (p. 41)

The major import of the monograph lies in its value as a demonstration of the interrelation of demographic and economic trends and their joint impact on the affairs of a state.

VIVIAN SMALL