

THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES¹

HAVING gained top recognition in several fields such as internal migration, economic areas, and metropolitan areas, Bogue refuses to be stereotyped as a specialist and has now written a large and comprehensive volume, *THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES*.

According to the author "this book has two major objectives: (1) to describe and interpret the population changes in the 1950 to 1960 decade, insofar as it is possible to do so in advance of the 1960 Census, and (2) to summarize the available population knowledge about recent changes and historical trends in each of the leading fields of population analysis." (pp. iii-iv) The author has accomplished these purposes well by a thorough analysis of not only regular census data but also of post-censal inquiries, surveys, and of recent secondary sources.

The book is divided into three unnamed parts. Part I consists of five chapters on growth and distribution of the population, by urban-rural residence, metropolitan and non-metropolitan residence, and states, regions, geographic divisions, and economic areas.

Part II consists of chapters 6-20 and is devoted to (a) composition of the population by age, sex, nativity and color, marital status, household and family status, school enrollment, labor force, occupation, industry, and income, and (b) the components of population change: mortality, fertility, international migration, and internal migration. The chapter on fertility is an excellent one, contributed by Wilson A. Grabill of the Bureau of the Census.

Part III contains chapters 21-26 and is devoted to miscellaneous subjects: population in institutions, illness, religious affiliation (essentially a type of composition), housing, Alaska and Hawaii, and future population of the United States.

The author apparently tried to reach two types of audience. Bowing to the laymen, he states "This book is a product of the belief that a considerable number of people need and want, within the covers of a single book, a comprehensive statement

¹ Bogue, Donald J.: *THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES*, Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, 1959, 873 pp., \$17.50.

of population events, together with an explanation of how and why they are taking place. Although such a book should not be oversimplified by the omission of fundamental information, it should spare the interested but statistically untrained reader elaborate explanations of many technical details that have little effect on his understanding of the results." (p. iii) Turning attention next to the textbook market, he explains that the materials were "organized according to the outline followed by the writer teaching a course, with this same title, at the University of Chicago." (p. iv)

In keeping with the author's bid to the laymen, the book has range and breadth rather than depth. The reviewer found two rather unfortunate typographical or editorial errors. A table on page 788 puts the 1950 world population at 1,497 millions instead of 2,497 millions. A table on page 790 has the term "millions" rather than the correct term "thousands" at the top of the relevant columns. However, in this reviewer's opinion the book is a valuable one. In fact, he ventures the prediction that the author's overtures to the classroom and his professional peers will be more successful than his wooing of the general reader.

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