

earth may also need to be considered. Just as the normal "curve" is a standard in conventional statistics, so too can "surfaces" be employed for areal distributions including both density and probability types. A discussion of the nature and significance of basic and derived quantities, degrees of freedom, and the level of abstraction seems necessary, including the statement of the roles of discrete and continuous variables with emphasis upon the distinction between *smooth* and *smoothed* distributions. One would like also a more adequate indication of some of the more important substantive results already achieved in statistical geography.

Despite the many reservations he has expressed, this reviewer finds this book extremely valuable and unhesitatingly suggests that, for the time being, it be made required reading not only for those whose professional pursuits are especially closely linked to areal distributions, but also for all social scientists.

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## NEGROES AND PUERTO RICANS IN THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN REGION

OSCAR Handlin's small book<sup>1</sup> is the third of a series of volumes from the New York Metropolitan Region Study. An historian, the author has provided a broad historical setting of successive immigrant stocks in New York City. A century ago the Irish were the newcomers. Later, the various nationality groups from Eastern and Southern Europe were the slum dwellers. After World War I the Negroes from the South began flocking to New York, and since World War II the Puerto Ricans have appeared in increasing numbers. The author indicates that each group in turn was viewed with alarm. Although this backdrop probably provides little comfort to the city fathers worried about problems of juvenile de-

<sup>1</sup> Handlin, O.: *THE NEWCOMERS: NEGROES AND PUERTO RICANS IN A CHANGING METROPOLIS*. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1959. 171 pp.

linquency and gang warfare among the nonwhites in New York City, it does put the problem in historical and sociological perspective.

Having spent a lot of time tramping around Harlem in 1928–1930 interviewing Negro migrants from a particular area of the South<sup>2</sup> the reviewer balked a little at Handlin's designation of the Negroes in the area as "newcomers". However, plenty of the Negroes there are "newcomers" and the term is certainly appropriate for the Puerto Ricans.<sup>3</sup>

In a chapter on patterns of adjustment the author points out that Negro and Puerto-Rican migrants to New York face problems similar to those encountered by the immigrants from Europe prior to the enactment of quota legislation. In those days the immigrants faced problems of poverty and economic hardships. The relatively small numbers of refugee immigrants during the thirties and forties tended to be professional people and people of high economic status in much larger proportions than did the earlier immigrants. The poorer people did not have the means to escape. The Negroes and the Puerto Ricans, our own nationals, tend to be of very low economic status. The Negroes do not have a language barrier but they do have the problem of color. Some of the Puerto Ricans have both handicaps. Color is an especially serious handicap to economic and social advancement despite the progress that has been made.

Some sectors of both the Negro and Puerto Rican population accept the situation and grow bitter or apathetic in consequence—with deleterious social effects. But a substantial and growing percentage, particularly in the second generation, are determined to find wider and better ways out. (p. 72)

The author cannot be accused of trying either to minimize or to exaggerate the social problems accompanying the migra-

<sup>2</sup> Kiser, C. V., *SEA ISLAND TO CITY: A STUDY OF ST.-HELENA ISLANDERS IN HARLEM AND OTHER URBAN CENTERS*. New York, Columbia University Press, 1932. 272 pp.

<sup>3</sup> It is also interesting to point out that in 1960 a book was published in England bearing the same title but relating to West Indians in London. See Glass, R.: *NEWCOMERS: THE WEST INDIANS IN LONDON*. London, Centre for Urban Studies and George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1960, 278 pp. For a United States edition, see Glass, R.: *LONDON'S NEWCOMERS: The West Indian Migrants*. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1961.

Glass's book was reviewed by Dr. James W. Mackintosh in the *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, January, 1961, 1: pp. 171–174.

tion of Negroes and Puerto Ricans to the New York metropolitan area. As a social scientist, he tries to report the facts and to interpret the relationships and trends that he observes. He accepts the evidence that Negroes and Puerto Ricans contribute disproportionately to juvenile delinquency in New York City. As for reasons, he states:

. . . whether the specific cause of breakdown be attributed to disrupted families, intergenerational conflict, personal anxieties and frustrations, or the influence of the peer group and the mass media, these explanations reveal the delinquent as an individual unsure of his own intentions and defiant of the authority that sustains values unacceptable or inadequate to his own life. (p. 100)

As for adult crime, "The rate of arrests of Puerto Ricans seems somewhat higher than that of other whites; and that of Negroes is higher still. But the difference is not excessive and is explicable in terms of factors analogous to those involved in juvenile delinquency." (p. 101) The author points out that:

. . . violations of the law are not regarded within the group with the moral disapprobation attached to them in the wider community. Neither the Negroes nor the Puerto Ricans see any ethical deficiencies in gambling; and they accept policy and its associated rackets as a matter of course. . . . But the long history of gambling in the city and its prevalence among other groups shows that what is different is the form and the open acceptance rather than the extent of participation. (pp. 101-102).

The author states that "only in the addiction to narcotics and in sexual disorders do these groups seem to supply an unusual number of offenders although here too that judgment must be qualified by the possibility that an acquiescent attitude that openly recognizes deviants may account for some part of the apparent excess." (p. 102)

On one matter the author is vulnerable to the charge of ambivalence. In one place he states that the

. . . common impression . . . that [Negroes and Puerto Ricans] form an undue percentage of the cases on the relief

rolls has given rise to the belief that these people readily become dependent, although careful studies have shown that the number who seek public assistance is not larger than might be expected in view of their economic and social status. (p. 101)

In another place, among the "concrete conclusions" listed as being sustained by available evidence there is the statement, "the Negroes and Puerto Ricans are likely to continue, as they have in the past, to depend more on governmental services for education and welfare than did earlier immigrants." (p. 119) However, there is no necessary contradiction here. The first statement contains the qualification regarding comparability of economic status. Also, the latter statement relates not to public relief but to general government services. In view of the increasing role of the government in education and welfare since the days of the early immigrants the author might have ended the latter statement with the phrase "and so will all other citizens."

The author ends his text with a statesmanlike appraisal:

Although the difficulties are genuine and grave, there is every reason to be optimistic about the future, if the society of which these people have become a part allows them to act freely and as equals within it. If New York continues to witness, in the next twenty-five years as it has in the past decade, an abatement of prejudice in accord with its tradition of diversity, the problems of occupational mobility, of education and of the competition for space will certainly be eased. Much depends on making this possibility a reality. The alternative in a democratic society is almost unthinkable. (p. 117)

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