



The Old World and the New, 1492-1650.

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words, as Kingsley Davis pointed out in a vital article on 'Population policy: will current programs succeed?' (*Science*, 158, 1967), there is little chance that present methods will avert the holocaust. Anthropologists could contribute to the research needed to avert the impending tragedy; so far they have almost totally ignored demographic problems. It would be useful to be able to recommend them this book, for it deals with some of the political and social factors which influence population programmes, and there are, scattered through it, many useful pieces of information. But the book is marred by too many faults to be of any real use. It is badly planned, the only coherence being given by the author's flight from country to country. It is superficial; although it claims to be 'the history of a personal odyssey' it reads as a gossipy account of chats with 'top people'. There is little contact with the people who will use the condom or I.U.D. It is full of irrelevancies (Everest, we are told, is 'the highest mountain in the world'), name dropping, stale imagery, and (an occupational disease caught at the World Bank?) initials of organisations. The author admits that it will annoy anthropologists, sociologists and demographers, but it is too filled with figures to please the intelligent layman either. This is a tragedy, since his message is crucially important. As it is, it may be of value to those who wish to study the world of international conferences and intercontinental hotels within which U.N. officials move and their superficial camaraderie. The actual world of family planning, faction-filled and often tragico-comical, is completely glossed over. This is an over-long book, springing from real concern, but becoming complacent and boring in the writing. Some maps, diagrams and charts would have been welcome.

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chapters the intellectual and moral consequences of the discovery. This is especially fascinating for anthropologists since, as the author makes clear, the problems of Europeans who visited South America were exactly those of anthropologists today: 'how to convey this fact of difference, the uniqueness of America to those who had not seen it' (p. 21); the inability to perceive the alien society through the framework of accepted academic disciplines; the difficulty of retaining the vision when they returned to Europe. The total impact of the new continent on Europe was very slow, yet some brilliant works of what the author calls 'applied anthropology' were achieved. The *visitas* of royal officials and their reports, as well as monumental studies by Las Casas, de Acosta, and others should provide invaluable material for contemporary (Spanish-reading) anthropologists working on South America.

The third chapter outlines the economic effects of conquest, particularly of the bullion imports into Spain. The central thesis, that industrialisation in north-west Europe would have been impossible without the discovery is ably discussed. A final chapter summarises the political consequences, the influence on nationalism and the balance of power in Europe. There is a certain amount of repetition, since the original draft was written in lecture form, and naturally there is some disputable generalising. The influence of new crops (potato, tobacco), diseases (syphilis) and medicines (quinine) are not discussed. Yet the enthusiasm, clarity of style, wide reading, and sympathy towards an anthropological approach make this a most stimulating introduction to the subject, and to classes of material which could provide as rich rewards for the anthropologist as the silver mines of South America once provided for Europe.

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ELLIOTT, J. H. *The Old world and the New, 1492-1650*. x, 118 pp., front., bibliogr. Cambridge: Univ. Press, 1970. £1 15s. (cloth); 12s. (paper)

'So many goodly cities ransacked and razed; so many nations destroyed and made desolate; so infinite millions of harmeless people of all sexes, states and ages, massacred, ravaged, and put to the sword'. Thus Montaigne described the conquest of South America. Professor Elliott's problem in this book is to see what Europe learnt and gained from these horrors. His aim is 'to synthesize, in short compass, the present state of thought about the impact made by the discovery and settlement of America on Early Modern Europe' (p. 6), with special emphasis on Spain and South America. Relying mainly on literary evidence, he outlines in the first two

COHEN, JOHN. *Homo psychologicus*. 192 pp. London: Allen & Unwin, 1970. £2.50 (cloth); £1.40 (paper)

Although a collection of essays, this book does have a theme. Professor Cohen tries to show that neither psychology nor even 'science' has all the answers, as some like to believe. He does not try to provide answers, but indicates his own doubts about psychology. A scientist has to accept that human behaviour conforms to certain laws, yet a study of man must allow for his freedom. Cohen attacks reductionism in general and those who wish to reduce all human experience and behaviour to psychology in particular. His last chapter contains a critique of Lorenz, especially his work on aggression, and the way he uses ethological reductionism. Cohen throughout takes the part of man the poet against those who wish