



Family Policy: A Study of the Economic Costs of Rearing Children and Their Social and Political Consequences.

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isation. Pre-industrial Japan shared the following features with pre-industrial England; high geographical mobility, impartible inheritance, small residential units, bilateral kinship terminology, very slowly growing population, contraception (probably), a moderately late age at marriage for males and females. It seems likely that these were interconnected variables and may help to explain the location and timing of industrialisation. Several contributors allude to this problem, but are unable to pursue it far because of the data used.

This is an extremely expensive book. By cutting out many of the more detailed tables and diagrams (e.g. pp. 224 sqq., 443–71), and merely summarising them, at least a third could have been taken off the price. The detailed figures will only be of interest to specialists and should have appeared as periodical articles. The expense is especially unfortunate since this *is* an important and stimulating volume. It is an enormous storehouse of data and helps to open up many important areas where social anthropologists could make an invaluable contribution.

ALAN MACFARLANE

WYNN, MARGARET. *Family policy: a study of the economic costs of rearing children and their social and political consequences*. 384 pp., tables, bibliogr. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972. 65p

The general message of this book is that instead of the almost inevitable poverty with which they are rewarded, parents who have more than one or two children should be subsidised by the rest of society. Margaret Wynn, the mother of four, rightly points out that usually 'the standard of living of a family falls as each new baby is added' (p. 47), and that the assessments of the cost of children upon which social security payments are made are very inaccurate. This leads to considerable 'under-investment in children, with all its very long-term social consequences' (p. 113). A specially added epilogue to this edition argues, somewhat unconvincingly, that such subsidising does not clash with birth control campaigns. Of what value to anthropologists is this book?

No anthropological work is cited; the argument rests on a limited range of Western studies. This is understandable since there are still very few analyses of the cost of child-rearing and of family budgeting by anthropologists. The growing interest in this branch of economic anthropology should benefit from this book since Margaret Wynn has assembled a very useful survey of studies of domestic expenditure in Europe and north America. Much of this is well presented in visual form, and there is a good bibliography.

Anyone who is interested, for example, in the way family budgets fluctuate over the life-cycle, the problems of constructing 'consumption units', or of measuring 'poverty', will find this book most helpful.

ALAN MACFARLANE

ETHNIES: Anglo-French Conference on Race Relations in France and Great Britain . . . Vol. 1. 209 pp., tables. Paris, The Hague: Mouton, 1972. F 28

The appearance of a journal such as *Ethnies* reminds us of the usefulness of comparative and historical perspectives in race relation studies. This first issue concentrates on reporting a conference held in September, 1968—the slowness of publication is unwittingly reinforced by Deakin when referring to studies of the survey of Race Relations conducted over five years ago, and not yet published. The conference (at Sussex University) was jointly organised by the Centre for Multi-Racial Studies and the Institute for Inter-Ethnic Study and Research at Nice—the latter organisation hopes to publish *Ethnies* annually.

Volume 1 contains seventeen articles, divided about equally between representatives from the thirty or so English and French conference participants—half the pieces are printed fully in French with short translations in summary form. The 1972 edition would seem to be an exclusively French production.

The English contributions are familiar stuff—e.g. Little and Deakin looking backwards into the mists of the 1950's and early 1960's, Bagley and Hashmi on stress, and Rex theorising about conflict in the urban context. A sense of *déjà vu* is not helped by liberal doses of conference *politesse*, e.g. 'Perhaps I could summarise for our English/French friends', or 'As Professor X has put it so well . . .'—all of which could have been edited out during the four-year interval.

Some of the French articles parallel their English work, e.g. psychological aspects of colour (Raveau and Morin) and a review of the organisation of inter-ethnic study (Bes-saignet). More interesting are the unfulfilled possibilities of two articles on gypsies—the distribution of questionnaires via police-stations seems to be a somewhat counter-productive method! Work on Senegalese and Haitians seems familiar enough, even in the apparent minimal employment of participatory techniques. Perhaps the most useful article is that by Bastide. Here the pivotal significance of inter-ethnic research, using inter-disciplinary terms, is underlined—a point also developed by Jullien and Rocheteau in their concern to clarify concepts such as ethnicity.