

Economic Development," finally returns to the issues of chapter 1 on "the" (Singer's caveat) relationship between growth and equality. He notes that definitions of equality and inequality present difficulties. Not surprisingly, he finds that the economic history of many countries shows rising inequalities as economic development becomes rapid—i.e., development requires income distribution in favor of the rising upper middle income class. But inequality, he points out, conflicts with values attaching to reduction of discrimination and increases in social mobility; thus, problems arise in deciding *schedules* for income inequality. He suggests that possibly Mexico has had too much inequality in income distribution, although he admits that "the precise nature of the limitation on growing inequality is arbitrary, and . . . involves value judgments;" still, "limits need to be placed upon the price paid by the low income groups for the advance of the entire economy."

Singer points to values in inflation in the Mexican experience, as well as in monopoly in helping to reduce risk and uncertainty. He asserts that reduction of inequities in income distribution can be furthered more by expansion of highly productive industries than through wage increases as such. Finally, he develops a series of mathematical formulae for the elucidation of his theses. The formulae try, among other things, to indicate relationships between economic tensions and possible political unrest. The author is too sophisticated to suppose that the suggested manipulation of available data soon will revolutionize governmental decision-making.

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Papers of the Conference on Research and Resources of Haiti. Edited by RICHARD P. SCHAEDEL. Austin, 1969. Institute of Latin American Studies for the Research Institute for the Study of Man. Notes. Pp. 624. Paper.

Schaedel's Introduction and the sixteen papers presented at a conference in New York City during November, 1967, constitute one of the more important analyses of Haiti's underdevelopment and proposals for amelioration. The publication's value will be increased by a reading, first, of papers by three Haitian panelists that have been placed at the end. The first stresses the reasons for Haiti's plight: the external forces—ostracism from the family of nations, threats of foreign intervention, and the limited achievements of the American intervention, 1915–1934—as well as such internal factors as the evils of the colonial legacy (especially the hostility between the small number of

mostly light-skinned elite and the “black” masses), the devastation resulting from more than twelve years of war for emancipation and independence, the large number of illiterates, and the concept of indispensable presidents. The second emphasizes the high (85%) percentage of illiterates, the population density of 350 inhabitants per square kilometer of cultivable land, the large number of untrained and undernourished workers further debilitated by endemic diseases, the lack of capital, a per capita income of less than \$100 a year, the exportation of agricultural products and the importation of manufactured articles, unemployment and underemployment. The third points up the scarcity of studies of the civil service and the need for assuring equitable recruitment, tenure, and promotion of civil servants.

Schaedel’s Introduction gives a valuable summary of most of the sixteen papers. One insists on the need to study the social and psychological origins of Haitians, particularly the functions of myth, *voudun*, and the transmission of oral traditions. The editor concludes from two other papers that a degree of consensus has been reached as to the value of the use of Creole as the language of instruction for teaching French. This reviewer is convinced that, regardless of the language of instruction, French must remain the language of international intercourse, as witnessed by the papers in French.

With respect to *voudun*, another panelist stresses the importance of understanding “possession states” or seizures, not only in coping with psychological problems but in proposing a more analytical approach to Haitian psychology. This view is supported by a paper which states that Haitian music shows *voudun* has positive psychological and sociological components. The paper on Haitian demography brings into sharp focus the indispensable need for resolving Haiti’s current impasse, the urban-rural imbalance. This imbalance, as another paper points out, is increased by the concentration of primary and secondary schools in cities and towns; the high rate of illiteracy, rooted in Haiti’s external and internal difficulties, and only slightly reduced by the American Occupation. Two papers lead to Schaedel’s conclusion that “however complex and potentially negative the structural variables that the Haitian polity and economy present, the human resource factor in Haiti, as underscored by the anthropological presentation, remains a positive element in any future socio-economic projections for its resiliency, adaptability and temperament.”

Three other papers show that the “general nutritional status of Haiti’s population was the worst in the Western Hemisphere”; that there were only about one physician for 20,000 inhabitants, a smaller number of pharmacists, and one nurse for 6,000 inhabitants, all largely

concentrated in cities and towns; that the existing facilities for treating psychiatric patients are extremely inadequate.

In February, 1968, the Center of Haitian Studies was officially constituted, with headquarters at the Research Institute for the Study of Man. But the value of this Center is unclear so long as the Duvalier dictatorship prevails.

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El petróleo y la problemática estructural venezolana. By FRANCISCO MIERES. Caracas, 1969. Universidad Central de Venezuela. Instituto de Investigaciones. Tables. Pp. 403. Paper.

“. . . The oil industry is fully representative of contemporary capitalism. As such it exhibits perfectly the fundamental characteristics of the system. . . .” This statement by Francisco Mieres is the key to his book. Almost half of the volume is devoted to a recapitulation of analyses of industrial-finance-monopoly capitalism by English language economists (Adolf Berle, Harvey O'Connor, Paul Baran, Louis Fischer, J. A. Hobson, John Strachey) already available (but not, alas, familiar) to students of economics and economic history in the United States. If Hobson was correct (and Lenin certainly thought he was), monopoly capitalism is imperialism, the latest (not the last!) phase of capitalism. Mieres recognizes that imperial capitalism is the enemy of underdeveloped nations like Venezuela. He is under no obligation to emphasize that imperial capitalism is also the enemy of nationalism in developed nations. It is clear that imperial capitalism is really international—a fascinating sort of private-power internationalism, antinational by its nature. Hence the contemporary situation in which nationalism is fought by great capitalist nations and is supported by great Marxist states—otherwise a very puzzling anomaly.

In the second half of his book Mieres examines the relationship between oil and Venezuela—how oil production, oil pricing, oil shipping, oil taxing, oil employment, and oil concessions relate to the whole economy of Venezuela, to the income of the government of Venezuela, to the nature of government in Venezuela, and to the international relations of Venezuela. As Mieres (a good Latin nationalist) says, “. . . the economists of the underdeveloped countries have a special responsibility to study the problems confronting them from the standpoint of their own interests.”

An abundance of statistical tables accompanies the treatment of these topics in the text of the book. Historical as well as statistical evidence indicates that small nations with rich resources are no match