

## BOOK REVIEW

Petersen, William, *Population* (2nd ed.), The Macmillian Company, Canada, LTD., Toronto, Ontario, 1969.

Many of our critical problems (eg. urban blight, crime, starvation, etc.) are directly related to exponentially increasing world population. Given this context, it is important for behavioral scientists to have some knowledge of phenomena related to population growth.

Written for an undergraduate sociology course, Professor Petersen's book provides an excellent overview of demography. Petersen has organized his book into two sections. The first deals with "formal demography" which is the "gathering, collating, statistical analysis, and technical presentation of population data. . ." (p. 3) Of particular interest in this section is Petersen's discussion of erroneous inferences that may be made by neglecting the many variables which affect population statistics.

In the second section, Petersen covers "population analysis" which is the "systematic study of population trends and phenomena in relation to their setting." (p. 3) This part of the book attempts to show the impact of psychosocial, economic factors of population growth. The second edition includes more information on the major "non-Western" countries.

This book is well written and comprehensive. Especially helpful for the busy scholar is the well written summaries at the end of each chapter. Equally attractive is a short section which suggests the best sources of information on the specific topics covered in each chapter.

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