

elaborated. In the author's opinion, current governmental policy falls far short of meeting the instrumental needs of ethnic minorities although expressive rights are largely protected. The *status quo* of Canada's three-class society is preserved by a multicultural policy which focuses on the private sphere.

The text has clear value as an aid to multicultural teaching. Supplements such as chapter film guides, ample notes, an appendix, references, index, and the inclusion of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights strengthen its educational value. The sections on dominant-aboriginal relations point to clear parallels with the U.S., broadening the book's utility. Similarly, the discrimination encountered by recent Asian immigrants to Canada is an issue in Europe and in the U.S. as well. In addition to these applied strengths, the primary value of the work may lie on an abstract level. The introduction of a number of classification schemes is a valuable aid to the analysis of these persistent and troublesome matters.

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**G.M.K. Kpedekpo. *Essentials of Demographic Analysis for Africa*. (Exeter, NH: Heinemann Educational Books, Inc., 1982) xii, 210 pp., \$45.00 cloth, \$24.00 paper.**

Based on lecture notes used by Kpedekpo at a number of African universities, this textbook for undergraduates provides an introduction to techniques of demographic analysis. Its twelve chapters are broad in coverage and address such topics as sources of population data; rates of fertility, mortality, and population growth; age and sex standardization; life table analysis; marriage and nuptiality; internal and international migration; methods for projecting population size and structure; stable and quasi-stable population theory; and methods for coping with deficient data. Numerous tables, charts, and worked examples help to illustrate demographic principles and techniques. An index is also included.

What makes *Essentials of Demographic Analysis for Africa* valuable is its uniquely African perspective. The more standard introductions to the field rely heavily on data from the Western industrial democracies and orient their readers to the specific concerns of low-growth societies. Demographic conditions in Africa are very different. The Population

Reference Bureau estimates an annual growth rate for the continent of 2.9 percent in 1984, which if it were to continue unchecked would result in a doubling of population size every twenty-four years. Although net immigration is relevant for some countries, these high growth rates have resulted primarily from an improvement in mortality — life expectancy at birth now averages about fifty years — in combination with high and in some cases rising levels of fertility. These are the conditions that inform Kpedekpo's description of demographic methods and their application. Needless to say, virtually all of the examples use data from African countries.

The demography of Africa is also distinctive for the kind of data problems that arise. Because of the poor quality of many census and vital registration systems, sample surveys have assumed a more prominent role as a data collection vehicle than elsewhere in the world. Given this state of affairs, the review of data sources in Chapter 1 could have discussed in greater detail surveys and their particular limitations. A strength of the book is its attentiveness to errors in the data, and the discussion of age data in Chapter 3 is especially good. The deficiencies characteristic of African data have motivated the development of an array of techniques to obtain reasonable estimates of fertility and mortality despite the presence of substantial error. Kpedekpo has particular expertise in this area, and his treatment of the practical issues involved in the application of stable population models (the latter half of Chapter 11) and indirect methods of estimating vital rates (Chapter 12) is excellent although demanding of the reader. These topics are rarely covered in introductory texts.

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