

Editorial Review of Volume 16

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1974 has rewarded the continuous *CSSH* search for better long-range dynamic models very richly. Immanuel Wallerstein's lead article in the current issue (16:4) on the relations between political and economic power that have characterized the rise of modern capitalism as a system of world economy sets tensions all around the world in a new historical perspective. It is especially original and astute in its handling of the movement of states and areas in and out of semi-peripheral status in the past and on the political role of that status today. A sociologist who came to grappling with problems of domination through African studies, Wallerstein writes here with calm objectivity as though he were thinking out loud and with no waste words. He is expounding his views with full regard to historical sequences in four books, the first of which, on the agricultural roots of early modern capitalism, has already appeared (Academic Press).

Richard Morse in his classic essay on the structure and function of Latin American cities (in *CSSH* 4:4, 1962) was moving towards a theoretical model which now takes dynamic form (in 16:4) with still wider implications for comparative study, through a shift of focus to the development of urban systems. Morse gives due credit, and for Latin America new statistical backing, to the importance of economic forces and their interaction with demographic trends in producing different types of urban systems. But he knows too much to rest content with commercial determinism. An urban system is to him essentially 'a function of the allocation of socio-political and economic power'. Geographers have been tending to overlook this dimension of its performance in mobilizing the resources of a region for world or national markets, and it also partially escapes the micro-study of cities by specialists in urban history. U.S.A. historians might do well to ponder Morse's gently ironic suggestion that if their case studies had been clustered along the Charleston-Dallas axis instead of along northern to midwestern axes 'the hypotheses and methods on which they rest would be more gracefully transferable to the land masses (Latin America, Asia, Africa) where most of the world's people live'.

A. J. R. Russell-Wood (in 16:2) offers still another dynamic model, one

that dovetails well into Morse's as well as into Wallerstein's, relating to the elaboration of infrastructures of local government in colonial areas drawn into world markets. The case study by which he fleshes out the model, that of a Brazilian mining community, illustrates the problems that arose through the increased mobility of the population, the smuggling of arms to runaway slave bandits, and so on. Spodek's picture of the warring city-states of Saurashtra on the eve of their take-over by the British recalls John S. Galbraith's 'Turbulent Frontier' as a Factor in British Expansion (in 2:3, Jan. 1960). Spodek's bibliography points up the patient research that has gone on in areas that are still no-man's land for theorists. Kenneth Bock's essay on the manner in which Henry Maine felt his way towards generalization (in 16:2) reinforces, as the discussions of charisma and patronage (in 16:2 and 3) and of demographic factors (in 16:1) also do, the need for caution.

Cultural problems are even more recalcitrant than those of power conflicts. Yet the two papers in 16:4, Vittorio Lanternari's critical assessment of work on religious movements of a nativist character, and Margaret Sanford's idea that these arise *after* a subject group has inwardly accepted an inferior status, demonstrate genuine progress.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude for all the generous help that contributors and advisers have given to the shaping of *CSSH*. My share in the pleasure of guiding its historical side has passed now to Raymond Grew, whose imaginative vigor and Eric Wolf's have long been paramount in the enterprise.