

Dr. Nakamura seems completely right when he points out that the official statistics of the Meiji era were based on underestimated returns, a means by which farmers tried to lighten the burden of the land tax. Further, the growth rate of agricultural production, that is, 1.0 per cent, a value which has been worked out on the basis of his correction in this respect, does not seem so bad. The figure not only corresponds to the number of those occupied in agriculture (the Hemmi estimate),<sup>7</sup> but also tallies with the long-range growth rate of the gross value-added of agriculture since 1910, according to the estimate of the present writer.<sup>8</sup> However, as has been pointed out above, if we consider collectively the efforts of agricultural production under the landlord system in the Meiji era and the change in the pattern of food consumption during this period, we feel we may be justified in putting the growth rate at a level somewhat higher than that under the Nakamura estimate insofar as the Meiji era is concerned. However, unless some new sources of information are discovered, it would be impossible to demonstrate this.

(Yasuhiko Yuize)

*Asian Population Problems: With a Discussion of Population and Immigration in Australia* edited by S. Chandrasekhar, London, George Allen and Unwin, 1967, 311 pp.

It has only been since World War II that population problems have begun to attract the world's serious attention. The changes in population trends which have been taking place throughout the Asian countries since World War II, are recognized as signifying a population explosion derived from a dramatic decline in mortality and a continuing high rate of fertility. Asian countries, with the exception of Japan, are now experiencing a greater than 2 per cent annual population increase. In these countries, therefore economic development plans have encountered difficulty in achieving their anticipated goals due to the unexpected population increase. Thus, population increase now forms one of the major factors preventing economic development in these countries, where a huge amount of demographic investment is required merely for the maintenance of the present standard of living.

In this sense, there is clear awareness at the administrative level of the necessity to check population increase or to control high fertility. Population policy to cope with this problem is devised and carried out by the government of each country. However, it cannot necessarily be said that the population policy in any particular country has worked effectively and attained successful results. The reason for this is that, as has been clearly pointed out in the book under review, because fertility is complex and conditioned by various socio-economic factors, realization of fertility control is particularly difficult. Therefore, the great significance of a study of Asian population problems lies first, in the collection and analysis of accurate data concerning demographic phenomena, and second, in the elucidation of the mutual relationship between fertility and socio-economic factors on the basis of the results of this research.

This book gives us a bird's-eye view of population trends and problems in Asia

<sup>7</sup> Hemmi, K. "Nōgyō jinkō no koteisei" [Permanency of the Farming Population], in *Nihon no keizai to nōgyō* [Japan's Economy and Agriculture], eds. S. Tōbata and K. Ohkawa (Tokyo: Iwanami shoten, 1956).

<sup>8</sup> Yuize, Y. "Nōgyō ni okeru seisanshizai no chōkisuikei" [Long-range Estimate of Productive Materials in Agriculture], *Nōgyō sōgō kenkyū*, Vol. 21, No. 3.

seen from the view point outlined above. Seven countries are treated: Communist China, India, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Taiwan and Australia, all of them has particular importance for examining Asian population problems since not only are they all countries having vast populations but also they pose different types of problem which reflect their differing social and economic background.

Dr. Chandrasekhar has depicted in Chapter 1 the characteristics of the population of Asia, which occupied about two-thirds of the world population, though he relies on early 1960's data. He sees the most fundamental demographic aspect as being "high but declining death rate" and "high and stationary birth rate." But, in reality, it is widely accepted that Japan, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea have already moved out of the category evoked by such phrases. There is no doubt that, in this context, when Dr. Chandrasekhar stated that "the greatest single obstacle to rapid economic betterment is runaway population growth" (p. 31), he was thinking of three negative influential factors on population increase in terms of economic development, which were pointed out in a United Nations' report; that is, (1) increase in population pressure on land, (2) shortages in capital, and (3) the heavy burden of dependent children on the working population.

In addition, the fact that Dr. Chandrasekhar clearly asserts that a "legacy of European Imperialism" is partially responsible for the emergence of Asia's population problems is of particular importance. According to his argument, the ground for decline in mortality was more or less prepared during the period of Western colonization, but neither changes within traditional society nor industrialization, both of which would bring a decline in birth rate, had taken place. Moreover, "the seeds of Asia's current population explosion were unwillingly sown more than a century ago by well-meaning British, Dutch and French administrators!" (p. 31)

In terms of population policy, Japan, India, Pakistan, Taiwan and Malaysia are treated as countries in one group. In these countries family planning program is enforced by the government, or the government is in favor of such program. Dr. Chandrasekhar pointed out that the aims of family planning programs are to raise the standard of living and to emancipate women socially and economically. In Chapter 3, while criticizing the view that a decline of fertility can only be attained when the standard of living rises, he insists that in Asian countries the rise of the living standard can hardly be expected unless fertility is not drastically reduced.

Recently, econometric studies of the relationship between economic development and population increase in a particular country are flourishing. The results of these studies offer a theoretical basis for population policy of a given country. However, in my view, the most urgent and basic question is how to fill the gap which may be observed in the discrepancy between recognition of the necessity for effective population policy and family planning programs as well as birth control, by the administrator who advocates its necessity from a national economic view point on the one hand, and on the other the people who are not conscious of the necessity for such action. Dr. Chandrasekhar's conclusion on the India's experience in family planning—that "India's family planning programme has so far been a failure." (Chapter 3, p. 95)—suggests the importance of this aspect of the population problem.

The diversity and complexity of Asian population problems become clear in the course of the discussions in each country. In Chapter 2, Dr. Chandrasekhar points out Communist China's high dependency burden and its potential for population increase. He expresses the importance of Chinese population trend in the future by saying that "China's population is Asia's problem." (p. 69) His descriptions of China's

population trend and policy are moderate in spite of the limitation of the official data. Modernization of the Japanese population structure was analyzed in Chapter 4 by Thomas O. Willkinson focussing on the aspect of urbanization which accompanied industrialization. He places stress on the role played by induced abortion in the lowering of fertility and on rapid economic development as its background. The point in which the reviewer is especially interested is whether or not the Japanese experience is suggestive to other Asian countries. A future task for students in this field will be comparative, in depth studies concerning this question.

Indonesian population problems (Chapter 5, by Everett D. Hawkins) are focused on the possibility of transmigration in order to cope with the excessive concentration of population on Java. Pakistani population problems (Chapter 6, by Anwar Iqbal Querishi) are treated in the context of food and family planning programs. A racial analysis of Malayan population problems is made in Chapter 7 by J. C. Caldwell. Taiwan's achievement in lowering fertility is favorably noted but doubts are entertained concerning the results of a public poll which was carried out employing a method which seemed appropriate to advanced countries (Chapter 8, by William Petersen). The last three chapters are devoted to an analysis of Australian population and a discussion of population problems, immigration policy in particular. Although the role of international migration in solving population problems has become relatively small as compared with the past, its importance cannot simply be ignored. Criticism of and proposals for the so-called White Australian Policy are persuasive.

As is clear from the above, the appearance and nature of the population problems of each Asian country differ as determined by their own social, economic and cultural environment. However, population increase as a result of an abrupt decline in mortality becomes a serious problem for every Asian country as has appeared in the process of development.

This book is a result of the International Seminar on Asian Population Problems, held in Melbourne in 1963, which was the first attempt to grasp Asia's population problems in their entirety. It will be especially valuable to publish a supplementary volume in which the Asian countries not involved here will be treated. With these two books it would become possible to conduct comparative studies between countries whose socio-economic conditions are comparatively alike and for research in the field to progress further.

(Haruo Sagaza)

*Seeds of Change: The Green Revolution and Development in the 1970's* by Lester R. Brown, New York, Praeger Publishers, 1970, xv+205 pp.

The author, well-known as a specialist on the world food problem, has expanded and supplemented into book form his article "The Agricultural Revolution in Asia," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1968, an article which attracted considerable public attention. The book is the first in which a single author has attempted an over-all study of the "Green Revolution," the latest agricultural topic in developing countries. (For the record, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee of Foreign Affairs, *Symposium on Science and Policy: The Green Revolution*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970.) So that the book may be easily understood by people concerned with aid programs in developing countries. It is written in plain language. Perhaps because of this, both analyses of some points at issue and the development of argumentation are not