

thors review the work or problems of individual departments and several others some of the social and economic aspects of government science; John C. Honey points to shortcomings of the present government system and concludes that major improvements will require a greater sense of national purpose and a strengthening of the leadership role of the President.

Research and development support now accounts for a tenth of the national budget. The nation's economic and military welfare are widely recognized to be dependent on a growing base of science and technology. The administrative machinery with which the federal government carries out its scientific and technical responsibilities must therefore be of serious concern to government officials, natural and social scientists, and, indeed, to any serious student of government or science administration. For these groups, *Perspectives on Government and Science* is recommended.

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**Sons of the Shaking Earth.** Eric R. Wolf. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1959. xii + 303 pp. Illus. \$5.

This excellent synthesis of Middle American geography, archeology, colonial history, and modern ethnology provides a broad view and valuable background information for students of Latin American affairs, ancient and modern. Chapters 1 and 2 present the geographical and biological diversity of Mexico and Guatemala. Wolf places much emphasis (some readers may consider it unduly heavy) on the role of evolution and environmental determinism in the development of physical types among the American Indians after they arrived in the New World. "Mutation, drift, and genetic recombination, the forces of natural selection were continuously operative." Wolf restates the hypothesis that cold may modify human stature by stimulating the adrenal glands, while altitude, because of decreased oxygen intake, may favor massive chests and lungs. Chapter 3 stresses the value of linguistic studies in reconstructing ancient history and "the direction of the flow of culture" in Middle America.

Chapters 4 to 7 summarize the arch-

eology of this area: the early hunter-gatherer stages; the incipient, then fully developed horticultural stage; the theocratic period when "egalitarian life of the simple farming community yields to increased complexity"; the years between A.D. 750 and 900, which "shook the old world order to its foundations"; and the final epoch, when the Mexican Aztecs brought militarism to its culmination.

The Spanish conquest (chapter 8) came when "the time was ripe for a redress in the balance of power in Middle America." Two Spanish trends—one toward warfare, one toward industry and trade by a town-based *bourgeoisie*—were colliding in the Old World when this new American frontier suddenly favored the otherwise doomed warrior-adventurers and, thus, ultimately led to Spain's downfall. Chapter 9 on the colonial period, points out that "the goal of the Indian noble was to consume wealth commensurate with his social position. The Spanish colonist, however . . . wanted to convert wealth and labor to salable goods." Wolf here describes Spanish enterprises—mining, agriculture, stock-raising, and manufacturing. Chapter 10 tells how the 17th-century depression ended Utopian dreaming and "Middle America again retreated into its countryside." Chapter 11 on modern ethnology states: "To fulfil the goals of his revolution, the mestizo had to go beyond land reform and beyond Indianism to an active transformation of society. . . ." The economic instruments of this transformation were industrialization and mechanized agriculture; the ideological instrument was nationalism.

On the whole, this valuable analytical synthesis is well written; in spite of the compression of its enormous scope into 300 pages, the reader does not feel that he is being hastened through a cafeteria line on a busy day. There is, however, a curiously abrupt alternation of highly poetic and eloquent phrasing on the one hand and purely factual, straight-forward reporting on the other. The language sometimes seems a little pretentious, like political oratory, in contexts that scarcely warrant this style. But the book is accurate and thoughtful, a welcome and much needed addition to the growing number of general studies interesting to student and layman alike.

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**Economics and the Policy Maker.**

Brookings lectures, 1958–1959. Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1959. xiii + 209 pp. \$2.95.

The Brookings Institution is to be commended for the several series of lectures it has held since 1954. Designed for audiences of professional specialists and public officials, the lectures contribute to the wider understanding of the uses of social sciences in raising the level of decision making. The present volume discusses the role of economics in some areas of national policy.

The goal of maintaining growth and stability in the American economy has become obsessive. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that four of the eight lectures are variations on this theme. Gerhard Colm discusses the tasks of federal stabilization policies, with emphasis on the adjustments of taxes and expenditures. Robert V. Roosa presents a brief for achieving stability through controls over the banking system—a policy that today is more often treated as a rival than as a complement to fiscal controls. Neil H. Jacoby gives a comprehensive survey of the adjustments in national economic policies that would stop creeping inflation. The late Sumner H. Slichter, motivated by the desire to examine the contribution of labor union activities to inflation, scrutinizes the union.

The other lectures are on the applications of economic analysis in business planning (Sidney S. Alexander), on taxation (Louis Shere), on the mixture of economics and law in the enforcement of the antitrust laws (Mark S. Massel), and on problems of the underdeveloped countries (Everett E. Hagen). Hagen seeks to allay currently popular fears concerning the overpopulation of the earth.

The book should appeal to all serious students of public affairs, even though, in some places, the level of discourse is suited only to professional economists.

Like other experts, economists wish that politicians and administrators would pay more attention to accepted economic knowledge in the design and execution of economic policies. But to the age-old problem of the interaction of the roles of philosopher and ruler, the present volume makes no real contribution, despite its many penetrating observations. One of these is Gerhard Colm's distinction between economics