

ies of national character as their contribution to the war effort. Their reports dealt mainly with the United States, Japan, and Russia, but some of the lesser nations were included as well. Drawing on a tradition of culture and personality studies done in primitive societies, they sparked a massive upsurge of interest in the study of national differences stated in psychological terms.

In this first of a series of surveys of research in the social sciences to be conducted with UNESCO support, two Dutch social scientists, Duijker and Frijda, assess what has been and what needs to be done in the study of national character. They review the confusing array of currently used approaches and conclude that the most distinctive and sound attack requires that we treat national character literally as the pattern of personality characteristics present in a given population. Only thus can we avoid confusing it with the people's history, their politics, or their institutions. This, of course, requires the use of psychological "tests" or measures which are valid cross-culturally, and our guides to the literature make it clear that there are not many which can qualify. It will be no great surprise, therefore, that Duijker and Frijda report that social psychologists have not yet, for even one country let alone for any set of nations, systematically described the distribution of personality characteristics in the population and assessed wherein the pattern is common or distinctive. The methods for such study are now more or less in hand, however, and we are convinced that with fuller resources the important factual questions facing the field can be answered. We cannot be equally confident that we will explain what produces differences in the psychological composition of populations—assuming such differences exist—or what consequences they have in social action.

There is a valuable bibliography of almost 1000 items. The bibliography, and several chapters which focus rather intently on a detailed review of the literature, make this essentially a specialist's book. Nevertheless, the presentation is very well organized, and the style commendably simple and lucid. The book will be read with interest by anyone willing to open his mind to the prospect of a scientific study of national differences.

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Miscellaneous Publications

(Inquiries concerning these publications should be addressed, not to Science, but to the publisher or agency sponsoring the publication.)

Admission Requirements of American Medical Colleges, Including Canada, 1961-62. Compiled by Helen Hofer Gee and E. Shepley Nourse. Assoc. of American Medical Colleges, Chicago, Ill., 1961. 244 pp.

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Farm Policy for the Sixties. A statement by the NPA Agriculture Committee and a report by Lauren K. Soth. Natl. Planning Assoc., Washington, D.C., 1961. 25 pp. \$1.

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Glossary of Packaging Terms. Standard definitions of trade terms commonly used in packaging. Packaging Inst., New York, ed. 3, 1961. 176 pp. \$3.50.

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Perspectives on the Conant Report. Social Science Research Center of the Graduate School. Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1960. 107 pp.

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Respiratory Metabolism in Plants. Harry Beevers. Row, Peterson, Evanston, Ill., 1961. 243 pp. Illus.

Rocket and Missile Technology. Chemical Engineering Progress Symposium Series, No. 33, vol. 57, 1961. G. C. Szego, Ed. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, New York, 1961. 82 pp.

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