

tually succeed. Thus, he fails to examine the forces that will be acting on the opponent and leading him to move, or not to move, in the direction we wish. The adversary will undoubtedly have political commitments he must meet, allies he must support, or allies whose support he must continue to receive. While Schelling points out that one of the more significant features of modern warfare is the passionate involvement of millions of people in its outcome, he does not consider what effect this will have on the possibility of successfully carrying out coercive warfare. Can the masses be as easily coerced as governments, or can the spirit of patriotism be used instead to resist even extreme coercion? Furthermore, can even governments, with their complex lines of internal responsibility, party pressures, and individual ambitions, be successfully coerced before the level of warfare grows altogether beyond rational limits?

The major failing of this book, though, is its lack of human understanding. (It has been suggested by other commentators that this failing can also be seen in the present foreign policy of the United States, which strongly resembles the policies described by Schelling.) People seldom "give up" once their pride and honor have become involved. Schelling notes that the United States, when itself placed under a compellent threat in the 1958 Quemoy crisis, simply dug in its heels and intensified its determination to resist. Might not our opponents react in the same way? He notes that "skill is required to devise a compellent action that does not have this self-defeating quality," thereby assuming, without proof, that there is a solution to this incomparably difficult psychological problem. Recent history does not offer great hope that nations committed to ideals and goals in which they believe will easily concede defeat, or that the United States is especially adept at understanding the internal psychology of its Communist opponents.

This book presupposes that the position of the United States in influencing world affairs is based upon its military strength. It is concerned with maximizing the effectiveness of that strength, but does not consider other aspects or values in the U.S. political position. In fact, nowhere does it take account of what must be apparent to anyone who examines the world today, that the current use of coercive warfare by the United States has profoundly affected

the attitudes of peoples and governments towards the United States, as well as the spirit of the American people, in ways which many Americans must find deeply disturbing. The use by Schelling of examples of coercive warfare drawn from the campaigns of Julius Caesar, Genghis Khan, and Adolf Hitler does not make one look hopefully toward the future world role of the United States if it indeed chooses to pursue the policies outlined in this book.

Is this the best this country can do with the marvels that modern technology and American ingenuity have made available? Are there not other courses which the United States could pursue that would take advantage of the common desires of the peoples of all countries for peace and economic betterment and would lead toward a more peaceful future than now seems in sight? Schelling, and other associates of the military establishment, have taken the easy way out by simply generalizing from the conflicts of the past. Who is working along new lines, recognizing the revolutionary implications of modern weaponry but also keeping in mind the ideals for which this country has always stood? And who in a position of national power is listening?

Biochemical Symposium

In view of the abundance, diversity, and biological specialization of insects, it is somewhat surprising that so few biochemists have studied them. In **Aspects of Insect Biochemistry** (Biochemical Society Symposium, London, April 1965. T. W. Goodwin, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1965. 119 pp., \$6), several examples of correlation between biological and biochemical specialization are brought into focus by the seven contributors. J. E. Treherne presents evidence that insects and some related arthropods transport water against osmotic gradients by mechanisms independent of the movement of other substances, while transport of monovalent cations across cell membranes occurs by at least two different mechanisms. A very nice correlation between locust development and electron microscopy and biochemistry of the muscle is presented by Th. Bucher. F. P. W. Winteringham briefly reviews the highlights of insect metabolism, with special reference to insecticides and the differences be-

tween insects and higher organisms. The intermediary metabolism of insect fat body, an organ somewhat analogous in function to mammalian liver, is well summarized by B. A. Kilby. Aromatic compounds have particularly important functions in insects, and their metabolism is critically appraised by P. C. Brunet in by far the longest contribution (28 pages) to the symposium. By contrast, V. B. Wigglesworth's paper on insect hormones is merely a three-page summary, but includes the most recent references. The complete text has been published recently elsewhere. X-ray crystallography, in the hands of an expert, can contribute greatly to an understanding of insect skeletal structures; K. M. Rudall discusses his own unique contributions to this area in a thoughtful and provocative review.

This little book is singularly free of typographical errors and is produced to high standards. The symposium itself reflects both the strength and weakness inherent in contemporary insect biochemistry. Significant progress has been made when competent investigators have appreciated the special virtues of insect material. Since such scientists are few in number, it is perhaps inevitable that much of the present subject matter has already been reviewed relatively recently, and by the very same authors contributing to the present symposium. But in addition to the convenience of having scattered data encompassed in one volume, this book should serve the important function of drawing the attention of a wider biochemical audience to recent advances and some outstanding problems in insect biochemistry.

L. LEVENBOOK

*Laboratory of Physical Biology,
National Institute of Arthritis and
Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda, Maryland*

Geography

J. R. V. Prescott's small volume, **The Geography of Frontiers and Boundaries** (Aldine, Chicago, 1965. 190 pp. Illus. \$5), is a useful review of the literature (mostly geographical and less than comprehensive, as the author admits) pertaining to frontiers and boundaries. The first chapter, which serves also as an introduction, affords some clarification of terminology and summarizes the concepts of ten writers whose studies have spanned the period 1895 to 1957.