

face, more in common with the current and near-future global system? Working, for example, from the Napoleonic Wars and the Congress of Vienna up to the present (as in the reviewer's Correlates of War project), though it may not eliminate the problem of comparability, certainly reduces it dramatically.

Another consideration, when we examine a study that purports to make a policy-relevant contribution, is how solid a base for prediction it provides. While I disagree with the proposition that accurate prediction is the ultimate test of a body of knowledge (we often achieve prediction much more easily than explanation) any policy usefulness will rest on such predictive power. The payoff is the extent to which the results permit us to make contingent predictions of the sort that say, "If government X takes this decision S and acts on it, government Y will respond with action R (or R' or R'')." While these predictions are inherently probabilistic ones, they may nevertheless be of two basic types. The less desirable, but more easily achieved, is essentially simple projection; if certain outcomes are highly correlated with certain stimuli over time and over cases, one assumes that that relationship will—with the observed probability—continue into the future.

This is certainly a more reliable type of prediction than is normally used in the foreign ministries of the world, but it is nevertheless far from satisfactory. Because it is basically mechanistic and atheoretical, mere projection remains insensitive to the extent to which relationships between and among variables in social systems can (and often do) change from epoch to epoch and decade to decade. To put it another way, correlational knowledge is a more solid basis for prediction than selective recall and political folklore, but explanatory knowledge is more solid still. On the basis of an explanatory model, we not only can say that when S, then R, but also can say that if certain background conditions (such as the international system's bipolarity index) change, then the S-R relationship can be expected to change in a specified direction. Thus, social scientists must keep explanatory knowledge as their ultimate objective, for reasons of applicability as well as for purely scientific reasons. The study at hand, as already intimated, makes virtually no effort in that direction. Rather, it is limited to the acquisition of a historical base from which projections into the future can be made with a modicum of confidence.

J. DAVID SINGER

Department of Political Science,  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

## Books Received

**Aboriginal Tribes of Australia.** Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits, and Proper Names. Norman B. Tindale with an appendix by Rhys Jones. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1975. xii, 404 pp. + plates + loose maps. \$50.

**Advances in Electronics and Electron Physics.** Vol. 37. L. Marton and Claire Marton, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1975. xii, 346 pp., illus. \$34.

**Beyond Sexual Freedom.** Charles W. Socarides. Quadrangle (New York Times), New York, 1975. x, 182 pp. \$7.95.

**Biological Anthropology.** Readings from *Scientific American*. Solomon H. Katz, Ed. Freeman, San Francisco, 1975. viii, 494 pp., illus. Cloth, \$14.95; paper, \$6.95.

**Biology.** Helena Curtis. Worth Publishers, New York, ed. 2, 1975. xxvi, 1066 pp., illus. \$14.95. Study guide, Vivian Manns Null. x, 312 pp., illus. Paper, \$4.25.

**BMDP: Biomedical Computer Programs.** W. J. Dixon, Ed. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1975. xii, 792 pp. Paper, \$10.

**Children and Dying.** An Exploration and Selective Bibliographies. Sarah Sheets Cook with additional essays by 12 others. Roberta Halporn, Ed. Health Sciences Publishing Corp., New York, ed. 2, 1974. vi, 106 pp. Paper, \$4.95.

**Computer Solutions of Ordinary Differential Equations.** The Initial Value Problem. L. F. Shampine and M. K. Gordon. Freeman, San Francisco, 1975. xii, 318 pp., illus. \$13.95.

**Creativity in Organic Synthesis.** Vol. 1. Jasjit S. Bindra and Ranjna Bindra. Academic Press, New York, 1975. xiv, 322 pp., illus. \$11.50.

**Dictionary of Nutrition.** Richard Ashley and Heidi Duggal. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1975. xxxiv, 236 pp. \$8.95.

**EMG Primer.** A Guide to Practical Electromyography and Electroneurography. F. Láhoda, A. Ross, and W. Issel. Translated from the German edition (Frankfurt, 1973). J. Payan, Transl. Ed. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1974. x, 62 pp., illus. Paper, \$11.50.

**National Politics and International Technology.** Nuclear Reactor Development in Western Europe. Henry R. Nau. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1974. xvi, 288 pp. \$12.50.

**The Nature of Physics.** Peter J. Brancazio. Macmillan, New York, 1975. xvi, 768 pp., illus. \$14.95.

**Numerical Solutions of Boundary Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations.** Papers from a symposium, Baltimore, June 1974. A. K. Aziz, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1975. x, 370 pp., illus. \$18.50.

**Onshore Planning for Offshore Oil.** Lessons from Scotland. Pamela L. Baldwin and Malcolm F. Baldwin. Conservation Foundation, Washington, D.C., 1975 (distributor, Universe Books, New York). 186 pp., illus. Cloth, \$10; paper, \$5.

**Personality Development and Deviation.** A Textbook for Social Work. George H. Wiedeman and Sumner Matison. International Universities Press, New York, 1975. xvi, 524 pp. \$20.

**Physics and Mathematics of the Nervous System.** Proceedings of a summer school, Trieste, Italy, Aug. 1973. M. Conrad, W. Güttinger, and M. Dal Cin, Eds. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1974. xiv, 584 pp., illus. Paper, \$18.50. Lecture Notes in Biomathematics, vol. 4.

**Potential Fuel Effectiveness in Industry.** Elias P. Gyftopoulos, Lazaros J. Lazaridis, and

Thomas F. Widmer. Ballinger (Lippincott), Cambridge, Mass., 1974. x, 92 pp., illus. Cloth, \$7; paper, \$2.50.

**Radiation Physics and Chemistry of Polymers.** F. A. Makhlis. Translated from the Russian edition (Moscow, 1972). Halsted (Wiley), New York, and Israel Program for Scientific Translations, Jerusalem, 1975. xii, 288 pp., illus. \$32.50.

**Reading and Understanding Applied Statistics.** A Self-Learning Approach. Sidney M. Stahl and James D. Hennes. Mosby, St. Louis, 1975. xviii, 318 pp., illus. Paper, \$5.95.

**Le Rêve-Eveillé Dirigé et l'Inconscient.** Jacques Launay, Jacques Levine, and Gilbert Maurey. Dessart et Mardaga, Bruxelles, Belgium, 1975. 456 pp. Paper, 470 BF. Psychologie et Sciences Humaines, No. 54.

**Reviews of Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology.** Vol. 71. R. H. Adrian and 13 others, Eds. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1974. iv, 166 pp., illus. \$40.20.

**Science since Babylon.** Derek de Solia Price. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., ed. 2, 1975. xvi, 216 pp. Cloth, \$15; paper, \$3.45.

**Season on the Plain.** Franklin Russell. Penguin, New York, 1975. viii, 314 pp. Paper, \$2.95. Reprint of the 1974 edition.

**Settlement of Structures.** Papers from a conference, Cambridge, England, Apr. 1974. Halsted (Wiley), New York, 1975. xii, 812 pp., illus. \$65.

**Sexual Issues in Marriage.** A Contemporary Perspective. Leonard Gross, Ed. Spectrum, New York, 1975 (distributor, Halsted [Wiley], New York). xviii, 290 pp. Cloth, \$13.95; paper, \$5.95. Reprinted from *Sexual Behavior*, 1971-1972.

**Small Fragment Set Manual.** Technique Recommended by the ASIF-Group. Urs Heim and Karl M. Pfeiffer in collaboration with H. Ch. Meuli. Translated from the German by R. Kirschbaum and R. L. Batten. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1974. xii, 302 pp., illus. \$54.20.

**Soviet Penetration of Latin America.** Leon Gouré and Morris Rothenberg. University of Miami Center for Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C., 1975. viii, 204 pp. Cloth, \$9.95; paper, \$6.95.

**Synthetic Peptides.** Vol. 3. George R. Pettit. Academic Press, New York, 1975. viii, 438 pp. \$39.50.

**Teaching-Learning Guide for Odum's Fundamentals of Ecology.** Roger L. Kroodsmas. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1975. viii, 168 pp. Paper, \$4.50.

**Theory of Lepton-Hadron Processes at High Energies.** Partons, Scale Invariance, and Light-Cone Physics. Prodir Roy. Clarendon (Oxford University Press), New York, 1975. xii, 172 pp., illus. \$19.25. Oxford Studies in Physics.

**Thermodynamics I.** An Introduction to Energy. John R. Dixon. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1975. xviii, 458 pp., illus. \$15.95. Prentice-Hall Series in Engineering of the Physical Sciences.

**Topics on Tropical Neurology.** R. W. Hornabrook, Ed. Davis, Philadelphia, 1975. xii, 304 pp., illus. \$35. Contemporary Neurology Series, 12.

**Tropical Ecological Systems.** Trends in Terrestrial and Aquatic Research. Papers from a meeting, Caracas, Venezuela, 1973. Frank B. Golley and Ernesto Medina, Eds. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1975. xvi, 398 pp., illus. \$24.80. Ecological Studies, vol. 11.

**Vicious Circles and Infinity.** A Panoply of Paradoxes. Patrick Hughes and George Brecht. Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1975. xiv, 106 pp. + plates. \$6.95.