aptation. Since so few scholars have paid close attention to this widespread and most significant transformation, Hitchcock's contribution is considerable. The paper by Morris in part 2 also deserves mention for his concise overview of some major theoretical issues pertaining to the study of band societies and because his is the only paper about hunter-gatherers in the Indian subcontinent.

Part 3, Contemporary Political Struggles, begins with a superb essay by Renato Rosaldo, intriguingly titled "Utter savages of scientific value." He analyzes reactions to the recent "discovery" of the Tasaday hunter-gatherers of Mindanao, which he sees as dramatizing the continuing weight of a colonial legacy—an ideological inheritance that accords greater value to such peoples merely as objects of "scientific" scrutiny than to their proven accomplishments as self-reliant foragers and their hidden skills as political actors. Rosaldo offers sobering examples from the early days of U.S. colonial administration of Philippine tribal peoples to highlight the uses and distortions of anthropological lore. He asserts, "Had Negritos not existed perhaps they would have been invented to define that marginal point [which is] beyond administration but perhaps invaluable for human knowledge" (p. 321). Rosaldo's paper effectively sets the scene for the remaining essays, since all in some way document the negativism with which nation-states have approached their hunter-gatherer minorities. Lee and Hurlich outline the tragic dimensions of the South African government's cynical exploitation of Bushmen in pursuit of its vital interests in Namibia. Those who have seen John Marshall's moving documentary "N!ai: the story of a !Kung woman" will be sadly reminded of it by this hard-hitting paper. Two excellent papers, by Asch on the Dene and by Feit on the James Bay Cree, draw on their authors' work among Canadian Indians to address the vitally important question—what forms of political response are possible, and usable, by band peoples living within powerful nation-states? Both authors show convincingly how local-level responses to outside pressures have been potent factors in determining the subsequent form that relations between minorities and national governments have taken. In these papers, too, thoughtful treatment is given to the role of anthropologists as agents in the struggles of the people with whom they work.

Recent economic and political developments among Australian Aborigines are the subject of the final three essays. Coombs, Dexter, and Hiatt describe the genesis and development of the outstation movement; Peterson summarizes the aftermath of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act of 1976 and the status of the land rights movement throughout the continent; and Vachon examines the rise of land rights among the Pitjantjara Aborigines. A paper by Hamilton earlier in the book provides a well-argued Marxian perspective on territorial organization on the eastern side of Australia's Western Desert and highlights the dominance of religious concerns in the structuring and operation of Aboriginal societies.

To conclude, this volume offers a solid and comprehensive summary of the state of the art in hunter-gatherer studies. My sole general criticism is that many authors seem not to have capitalized sufficiently on the insights gained from the Paris conference by incorporating more comparative material into their revised versions; some widely shared characteristics of fundamental importance remain unassailably part of our understanding of hunter-gatherer societies. More conferences about band societies are planned, and it is to be hoped that subsequent volumes are as successful as this one in achieving thematic coherence in the face of such geographical and topical variation. This book is no doubt already assured of a wide audience among anthropologists, but it warrants also the attention of other students of the human condition because, as the editors promise at the outset, it deals with a set of questions that are vital to our understanding of ourselves as human beings.

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Public Opinion

Political Attitudes in America. Formation and Change. PAUL R. ABRAMSON. Freeman, San Francisco, 1983. xxvi, 354 pp., illus. Paper, $14.95.

In *Political Attitudes in America*, Paul Abramson attempts to pull together various lines of research he has been working on for the past several years. In this book he focuses primarily upon three related classes of political attitudes: (i) party identification, which refers to individuals' long-term levels of support for either the Democratic or the Republican party; (ii) political efficacy, which refers both to perceptions of how responsive those in power generally are to public demands and to individuals' perceptions of how effective they themselves would be in eliciting a satisfactory response from government officials; and (iii) political trust, which refers to perceptions of how honest, thrifty, and public-spirited government officials are.

Abramson's investigation of these various sets of attitudes proceeds in a methodical fashion. In each instance he begins by examining the process of attitude *formation*, analyzing data from a vast number of childhood socialization studies (survey interviews with schoolchildren) or, whenever possible, data from the famous Jennings-Niemi surveys of a national sample of high school students and their parents conducted at the time of students' graduation (1965) and several years later (1973). His primary concern here is to determine the degree to which children acquire various political attitudes from their parents and to assess how strongly individuals hold such attitudes at the time of their entrance into the electorate. Abramson then turns to the examination of attitude *change* among adult voters over the course of their lifetimes. The major empirical questions he attempts to answer here are the standard fare of cohort analysis: Do people tend to retain political attitudes they acquired during the formative years of their life? (For example, is the generation that grew up during the '60's still cynical and distrustful of political authority?) Or do attitudes change noticeably and predictably as people grow older? (For example, do people become more intense, partisan supporters of a political party as they grow older?) Or is it the case that certain important political events (such as Vietnam, Watergate, or the Civil Rights movement) fundamentally alter the political attitudes of Americans both young and old? As before, Abramson brings to bear on these questions a vast quantity of data from literally dozens of public opinion studies.

This book, like most of Abramson's previous work, exhibits a commendable sensitivity to a number of empirical issues. First of all, Abramson is continually concerned about the net, aggregate effects of changing patterns of political attitudes; he pays special attention to the dynamics of generational replacement, for example, the dying out of old, relatively Republican voters in the '30's and '40's and the entrance of young, relatively Democratic voters into the electorate. Second and most important, he is always careful to report the results of separate analyses (wherever this is possible) for

blacks and for whites. Although this may seem like an obvious and commonsensical thing to do, it is something that analysts of public opinion and voting data all too often forget about.

On the other hand, there is room for improvement in a number of respects. As is the case with virtually all public opinion studies, there is a tendency here to reify questionnaire responses and to pay insufficient attention to behavioral consequences (if indeed they exist). To be sure, Abramson does better than most, in that he does investigate the possible effects of attitudinal changes on turnout in national elections. But I must say that at the end of the book I still wondered whether it really mattered very much that Americans continue to express a fair amount of intolerance for deviant groups, or an increasing degree of cynicism about "people in government," or a growing sense that the government is not very responsive to public demands.

A related problem, for me anyway, is the fact that the political attitudes Abramson analyzes are "deep background" sorts of issues; he does not investigate public attitudes toward major social and economic problems, such as unemployment or crime in the streets, or attitudes about major public policy choices, such as abortion or defense spending. Abramson also gives short shrift to studies that lie outside the conventional, social psychological approach of mainstream political science. In particular, he fails to discuss the theories and analyses of researchers whose orientation is that of economics rather than psychology or sociology. It would be unfair, however, to be overly critical of Abramson on these grounds; all authors must draw the line somewhere between what lies within the scope of their studies and what does not. These shortcomings, then, are primarily sins of omission rather than of commission, and are largely inevitable.

Political Attitudes in America is reasonably well organized and well written. It is probably the case that Abramson fails to make the topics he covers any more exciting than they inherently are, but such a statement can be made about virtually all scholarly writing. I would recommend this book to anyone with a healthy interest in public opinion or voting behavior studies; I suspect, though, that it will remain of interest primarily to academic political scientists.

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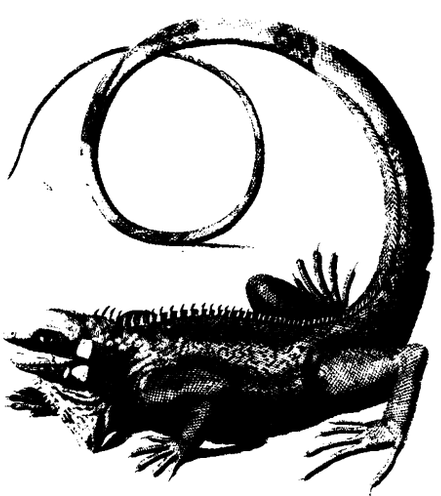
Reptilian Herbivores

Iguanas of the World. Their Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation. GORDON M. BURGHARDT and A. STANLEY RAND, Eds. Noyes, Park Ridge, N.J., 1982. xx, 474 pp., illus. $55. Noyes Series in Animal Behavior, Ecology, Conservation and Management.

Iguanines are notable lizards because of their herbivorous habits, large body sizes, and relatively phlegmatic behavior. However, while information on smaller, more active insectivorous members of the iguanid family has been steadily accumulating in the literature, little information and almost no field data have been available for the iguanines. The present volume is an attempt to remedy this situation and is designed, according to the editors, to be a comprehensive "state of the art" book on iguanas. As such, it includes chapters by almost everyone currently working on these lizards, ranging from discussions of the energetic and physiological bases of herbivory to a catalogue of the mating systems of iguana species.

The chief virtue of the book is that it does contain most of the information available on a unique taxon of lizards. By flipping through the chapters, the reader can identify the important themes of iguanine research. For example, many of the contributors discuss the question why herbivorous lizards should be larger than insectivorous species. Ten years ago, Pough suggested that large size was necessary for efficient digestion of plant material, but evidence from this volume refutes this hypothesis. The juveniles of several iguanine species are shown to be exclusively and efficiently herbivorous despite their relatively small size, and young *Iguana iguana* actually grow at higher absolute rates than do young *Basiliscus basiliscus*, insectivorous iguanids living in the same habitat (Van Devender, chapter 10). Alternative reasons for large herbivore size are suggested by other authors, but data that test these hypotheses are lacking.



Iguana as depicted in Albert Seba's *Locupletissimi Rerum Naturalium Thesauri*, vol. I (Amsterdam, 1734).

In other animal groups, body size is often related to a suite of life history traits: Larger members of a taxon often have higher adult survivorship, deferred age of maturity, and lower annual reproductive output than do smaller species in the same taxon. The contributions in the present volume confirm this relationship for iguanas. Interestingly, reduced reproductive rates in iguanines are not due to decreased clutch weight relative to body weight. Instead, iguanines reproduce less often than do many tropical insectivorous iguanids, usually producing only one clutch a year, during a very restricted breeding season. Moreover, females often do not reproduce every year; reproduction may not occur in years of poor rainfall or food, and females of some species may only reproduce one year in four (Case, chapter 11).

For those interested in possible relationships between foraging style, demographics, and behavior, this volume offers a variety of pertinent information. In comparison to insectivorous species of iguanids, iguanines are extremely variable with respect to spacing patterns, mating systems, contexts for aggression, and the ontogeny of social behavior. As discussed by Dugan and Wiewandt (chapter 17) and Ryan (chapter 21), iguana social systems include dispersed home ranges or territories, tyrant-subordinate or hierarchial breeding systems, leks, and, in some species, no evident aggressive behavior at all. Descriptive studies (Dugan, chapter 18; Werner, chapter 19) indicate a sophistication in male mating strategies comparable to that found in higher vertebrates but as yet unreported for other lizards, and the juveniles of several iguanine species exhibit mutual attraction and group cohesion of a degree unknown for other lizards, regardless of age or sex.

It should be apparent that the iguanas have a scientific interest out of proportion to the number of species (about 30, worldwide) or their distribution (mostly islands in the subtropics and tropics). They offer a unique opportunity to study the ecological relationships between food type and morphology, life history traits, and behavior. On an evolutionary time scale, they may be useful as a model for now extinct herbivorous reptiles (such as dinosaurs) or for a comparison