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A Source Book For Economic Geography: World Economic Development

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that they are still doing the modern thing in guarding their chastity. Whoever puts these two works within the reach of today's youngsters will be doing them an incalculable service of true love.

G. W. HEALY, S.J.

A SOURCE BOOK FOR ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. D. W. Fryer. New York, N. Y.: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1965. xi, 627 pp.

This is a well organized and prodigiously informative book whose subject matter is the distribution of economic activities throughout the world. You learn from it that 95 percent of the world's people live on 40 percent of the world's surface. The rest is too wet or too dry or too cold. (Incidentally, 40 percent of the land area of the Philippines is arable, not merely habitable.) 90 percent of mankind live at elevations below 1200 feet. There are now more than one hundred cities with populations of one million or more. The poorest of the continents is Africa. Swine and fowl, unlike other farm animals, are found everywhere. During the past half-century the substitution of farm machinery for horses has released an area of cropland in the United States equivalent to the entire expanse of Philippine terrain. Well bred hens now lay an average of 200 eggs a year.

The book contains up-to-date information on almost every economic activity which results in the production of a raw, intermediate or finished good. This is its preoccupation, though there are three compressed chapters on the service industries. It is a handy source of data for the student of economic geography.

Professor Fryer writes in his preface that he "feels strongly that it is not enough merely to learn the facts concerning the distribution of various types of economic activities or even to appreciate the basic causation of such patterns." Yet, believe me: he has stuck to the facts. Though he claims to have penetrated more deeply than is customary "into the marginal territory between economics and geography," this volume does not substantiate the claim. Economic geography, in the hands of such a one as Ellsworth Huntington, has been far more than descriptive. It has asked why and has essayed an answer. Why, for instance, do six percent of the world's people produce forty percent of the world's output? Why is Africa the poorest of the continents? Professor Fryer sets down the fact and leaves it at that.

MICHAEL MCPHELIN