

ABSTRACTS

ANGLADE, G.: "Sur la pertinence de l'échelle de la régionalisation: le cas d'Haïti": This paper reassesses the concept of region using the Haitian case as a backdrop. The key word "region" may be relevant in terms of a past reality and, possibly, with regards to the future, but has little bearing on the present. The author questions those concepts which have contributed to a whole field of research based on a word whose conceptual and practical significance no longer refers to reality, at least in the Haitian case.

COFFEY, W. J. and L. A. LEWIS: "An Approach to Development Planning in the Haitian Context": Haiti, one of the world's poorest nations, has an economy largely based upon agriculture. Yet, due to steep terrain, unreliable rainfall, poor soils, and erosion, only a small proportion of its lands can adequately provide support to its large and densely distributed population. This paper outlines an approach to rural regional development planning based upon work carried out in the Cayes Plain Basin of the Southern Peninsula. Two more general topics are first considered: the dimensions of the development problem in Haiti; and some issues related to development planning in that country. The focus is methodological rather than descriptive, since we are concerned less with the specifics of the plan outlined than with the manner in which the problem is approached.

DUFOURNAUD, C. and R. WHITE: "Un modèle inter-régional des interactions entre l'urbanisation et l'environnement : le cas du Sénégal": This article describes a simulation model of demographic growth in Senegal over the next twenty years. One of the basic assumptions is that migrants move from regions with a Gross Regional Product (GRP) below the national average to those with a GRP above the national average. It appears that the pattern of public expenditures always favours the region of the capital, Dakar. To some extent this is deliberate, because expenditures reflect the population distribution; however, the emphasis is reinforced by the nature of the economic links between the regions.

McALLISTER, I.: "Post-War Approaches to Regional Development: Some Comparisons Between the Industrial West and the Third World Nations with Mixed Economies": Regional development approaches are compared between the industrial world (citing the EEC and North America) and a sample of Third World nations over the post-1945 era. Urban congestion, industrial blight and peripheral regions with low productivity and high unemployment levels have been a particular concern to the regional policy makers in the industrial countries. For the Third World, balanced regional development has tended to be viewed as a luxury, in the face of pressures for basic infrastructure, industrial plants for import substitution, and "conspicuously modern" capital cities. More recent years, with burgeoning populations and energy crisis, have seen greater focus on rural self-sufficiency to staunch urban drift, as well as efforts to surmount natural disasters of drought (in much of Africa) and floods (especially in Bangladesh). In both industrial and Third World countries, appropriate regional development balance appears to have been viewed more as a residual consideration than as a strategic imperative.

ROBERGE, R.: "National Urbanization Strategies and Urban Poverty in Brazil: An Analysis of Variations in the Urban Hierarchy": This paper examines the corporatist basis to the recent urban policy initiatives in Brazil. The impact of these policies on the pattern of urban investment is analyzed at the metropolitan, middle-sized city, and micro-region level of the Brazilian urban hierarchy. An evaluation, in the light of these analyses, is then made of the national urbanization strategies contained in the second and third National Development Plans.

TURCAN, P.: "Les acteurs du développement et les acteurs du blocage dans les régions rurales": This article summarizes the recent debate over "development from above" versus "development from below", and analyzes the relative roles of four categories of participants: the State, modern market agents, foreign donors, and the mass of the rural population. Using Haiti as an example, the discussion indicates the danger of "decline from above" and emphasizes the necessity of applying an alternative development model directed at satisfying the basic needs of the two-thirds of the population who live below the absolute poverty line. Suggesting a *deployed* approach centred in peasant-based organizations, this model offers a strategy very different from the polarized-development model. However, such a strategy is more apt to reduce the gaps between regions, to revive the structure of towns, and to distribute income more equally than is the "top down" approach. Whereas the traditional model tends to favour

the interests of existing holders of economic and political power, the alternative model - while requiring the support of a well-established state - by its very nature challenges the rights of existing power groups. Consequently, for this alternative strategy to succeed, foreign donors must expect to play an active role.