

BOOK REVIEWS

**PAKISTAN
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

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Oxford University Press

A number of scholars have contributed to this survey of the Pakistan economy, showing Pakistan to have made remarkable economic progress despite problems of the kind that have defeated so many other third world countries.

At the time of partition, Pakistan had to create an entirely new governmental structure, based on the admittedly sound foundations of local and regional administration bequeathed by the British. Most of the trained administrators and clerks had been Hindus, and these left for India in large numbers. Attempts at democratic administration were highly unsuccessful, and during the period of elected government, not only were many industries nationalized, but corruption was rampant. Under Ayub Khan, there was a substantial recovery, followed by the loss of East Pakistan, after the Indian invasion. While some progress had been made in the industrialization of West Pakistan, the old British-established industries of jute and tea growing were the two main export earners for Pakistan, and both of these were located in the lost territories of East Pakistan.

In the event, however, the loss of East Pakistan was not fatal, since East Pakistan — the original East Bengal of British Empire days — was already suffering from a population explosion which has since continued unabated, and makes Bangladesh one of the poorest nations of the world. It could be argued that Pakistan benefited from the loss of East Pakistan — a territory which was geographically and racially very distinct. Indeed, the standing joke was that East and West Pakistan, separated by nearly one thousand miles of Indian territory, had only three links in common: the Moslem religion, the English language, and Pakistan International Airlines, with the emphasis upon the word “international” because flights from East to West Pakistan encompassed a thousand miles and involved transiting over India.

Yet today, under strong centralized government and a relatively free enterprise system (not, perhaps, untainted by inter-

locking family ties between military leaders, bureaucrats and major industrialists) Pakistan, as one author expresses it, "has progressed socially and economically to the extent that with careful policy making and administration, Pakistan has the potential to cross the boundary separating low-income countries from middle-income countries.

Only the population problem poses a threat which might well destroy Pakistan's hopes, both economically, and in the process, even politically. The government is well aware that further economic progress (and freedom from the ecological disasters of a kind that now threaten the very balance of life in Bangla Desh) is dependent upon some form of population control. It is true that continuing rapid population growth is unavoidable into the foreseeable future. Twenty five years from now projection indicates a population of some 160,000,000, or double that of 1980. Large numbers of Pakistanis are taking advantage of the lax immigration controls in Western countries, notably of the USA, Canada and Britain, to migrate overseas. This is helping Pakistan at the expense of countries such as Britain, which are already overcrowded, and face a catastrophic decline in the standard of living as their rural areas continue to disappear, replaced by expanding urban areas.

New family planning initiatives have been established, but while it would seem as though the middle classed are more or less ready to take advantage of these, the vast majority of the rural and poorer townspeople are not being reached adequately by these measures. The outlook for restraining the pressure of population on the Pakistan economy remains dismal.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Anthony Payne

Johns Hopkins University Presses

One sometimes wonders about the wisdom of providing government financial support for educational institutions which support university presses engaging in openly politically motivated and slanted publication.

This book deals with a vitally important area that is of especial importance to the destiny of North America, and through North America, of the entire world. Until the Monroe