

mended to students of European political systems for its simplicity and clarity of presentation. The *Spatial Theory of Voting* is oriented toward researchers and students interested in predictive models. Taken together, both texts are only peripheral to the subject matter that now constitutes the heart of electoral geography.

*Reflections on Population*, Rafael M. Salas, London: Pergamon, 1984.

*Reviewed by: Jon Anson*

In 1974, the Bucharest Conference agreed on a World Population Plan of Action, which called for the channelling of international aid to help national governments control their population processes, reduce mortality, make fertility control a viable, personal option, and create balanced spatial population distributions. The United National Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) was set up to direct this aid, and its executive director has written this book to set forth the issues that faced demographers and population planners who attended the 1984 International Conference on Population in Mexico City.

First and foremost, this book assesses the achievements in international population planning since 1974, and addresses what is yet to be achieved. Its major chapters discuss fertility, mortality, population distribution and its growth and structure, conditions under which population programmes can succeed, and prospects for the year 2000. The book also includes the author's State of World Population addresses for 1980-84, and presents extracts from his many statements on population matters.

The book, then, is a veritable gold mine of information on population facts and figures, the rate of world population growth, location and extent of fertility turn-about, high-mortality locations (i.e., life expectancy of less than fifty years), and problems of the world's burgeoning primate cities. It also provides a very succinct summary of the consensus of informed professional opinion on the reasons for and ways of combating world population problems. The excerpts from the author's statements comprise half of each chapter and the thirty-page appendix make this a veritable "Little White Book" on population planning.

As can be expected, the book sets out to be strictly neutral on all controversial issues. Salas succeeds in discussing the major problems of world

population without saying anything that might be considered offensive while at the same time does not become banal. The book, then, offers an excellent distillation of the consensus of world opinion on the problems of population planning; from it, we can learn, as from few other sources, the following information: First, that it is not population size or growth that is the problem, but that the mismatch between population and resources creates difficulties. Second, the matching of population to resources can be optimized once the processes involved are understood.

By this method, the World Population Plan of Action can even reconcile Malthus and Marx, for on one hand the individual is given the right to choose and the means for making choices, while on the other hand, sovereign governments create the conditions for choices to be made. In the final analysis, rational individual choices are added together to make the rational choice of the society as a whole.

It is this concept of rational individual choices under government-created conditions that sums up the consensus the author sets forth in this book. Its consistent focus is on the following rights and privileges of individuals: the right to a long and healthy life, the right to have children (curing infertility) as well as the right not to have them (contraception), and the right to freely move and settle, although governments also have the right, of course, to control passage across their borders, as long as this is done in an egalitarian fashion. These individual choices are made within the constraints and possibilities defined by socioeconomic conditions that are created, in turn, by governments who use resources to guide choices to ensure the most health, wealth, and happiness for the greatest number. Salas reports that most of the world's governments are fully aware of these responsibilities, although they do not always have the necessary financial and professional resources to effect the goals; it is these resources which are channeled from richer to poorer countries through UNFPA.

This focus on the individual—whether by person or government—is a clear ideological hallmark of the modern world, no less than the demographic transformations that the author discusses. As a mode of explanation, however, the concept of the individual does not as fully reflect reality than do past ideologies that focus on collectivity. Salas views population as a social problem, but not as a social process: although the individuals on which he focuses live under various social, physical, and economic conditions, he does not place them within the nexus of the social relations of production and reproduction that give meaning to these conditions. Similarly, while the governments discussed are of countries with varied levels of development, none are considered underdeveloped. Yet the transfer of international aid is an important part of the nexus of relationships between the collectivities called independent countries, and indeed, the process of

aid may even help perpetuate the dependency and underdevelopment it attempts to alleviate. Put another way, population and resources are not two separate parts of the equation, but both are produced and reproduced by the same process under the same set of conditions. In focusing on population as a problem to match with resources, Salas implies that the process of resource production and distribution is not problematic; this is not accurate.

The point is that the author does not successfully reconcile Malthus and Marx, nor can he do so. For Malthus, relations between the individual and his or her environment are governed by an eternal, universal law; for Marx, in contrast, it is precisely such relations of interdependence, both between individuals and between countries, that define the meaning of demographic behaviour and its outcomes in demographic processes. Salas does a fine job of summing up these processes and pinpointing developing trends. The rational theory that will enable the successful engineering of population processes eludes him, however, because such a theory does not and cannot exist alone. Population processes are a part of overall social processes. To understand such processes, it is necessary to look behind the veil of the free individual and the sovereign state to the nexus of social relationships that unite them.

*Jaffa—A City in Evolution, 1799-1917.* Ruth Kark, Jerusalem: Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi Publications, 1984.

*Reviewed by: Shmuel Avitsur*

Since Shmuel Toklovski's 1924 book *The History of Jaffa*, no other book has been solely dedicated to the history of Jaffa and the factors leading to its development. Toklovski's book, primarily a collection of sources on Jaffa from the previous two millennia, presented the views of an agronomist with an amateur's interest in the topic. Because the author was neither an historian or a geographer, his approach was not that sanctioned by modern scholarship.

Dr. Ruth Kark's book has finally filled the gap that existed in chronicling Jaffa's history. Although this study is restricted to the last century of Turkish rule over the city (i.e., from Napoleon's 1799 invasion until the British conquest of 1917), the book actually covers a longer period; its introduction