

*Rural Geography*, Michael Pacione, London: Harper and Row, 1984.

*Reviewed by: Yoram Bar-Gal*

In his book *Rural Geography*, Michael Pacione has covered a large number of subjects related to the village. A lack of good texts in the area of rural geography has been apparent over the last thirteen years; this book could well serve as a text for an introductory course in this area. In order to glean the rich fields of village-related topics, however, the reader must figure out just what Pacione means by the concept "village." This problem of definition is evident from the book's introduction: Is the village "a location having none of the characteristics of a city"? Is the village to be defined by its inhabitants' "levels of income," "lack of opportunity," "educational level," "occupations," or all of these? It seems the author hasn't made up his mind.

The twenty chapters of this book may be grouped into several categories. Part I (chapters 2-4) is a classical, morphological analysis of the village as a "form of settlement." Pacione discusses Christaller's theory of central locations from the view of rural settlement organization. Chapters 5-7 deal with agriculture, the economic form of the village. Here, Pacione discusses farm types in developing countries, the urbanization of arable land, political and social involvement within agrarian populations, and agrarian reforms as expressions of social change in rural agriculture.

Chapters 8-12 deal with the dynamics of rural populations—aging, village abandonment, and the influx of an urban population. Here, the author's emphasis is placed on urbanization and the formation of metropolitan villages, processes accelerated by a desire to escape the modern city in search of a better life.

Chapters 14-16 present four aspects of change in the village: housing, agricultural and non-agricultural activities, health and education services, and transportation. These types of change are decisive factors in promoting the attractiveness of the village, in developing transport links between rural areas and towns, and in alleviating the sense of alienation and isolation felt by rural inhabitants. Chapters 17-19 center on the problems of administering and preserving the natural resources of rural areas—their water, forests, and scenery. Emphasis is placed on the type of administration that preserves and promotes recreation and entertainment facilities.

The final chapter of *Rural Geography* is an analysis of the polar issues of rural politics: the power struggles between, on the one hand, the private

property owner and the pressure groups striving to control the rural areas and resources, and, on the other hand, the government.

The trouble with *Rural Geography* lies in the very multiplicity of its subjects; the author has over-zealously included *ninety* subtitles with about four pages per subtitle. Such a comprehensive approach inevitably leads to a lack of depth. Further, the book centers mainly on the developed Western world. One would naturally expect a book on rural geography to deal with *any* geographical area in which a rural population predominates, including developing countries, Third World countries, and Communist countries. An analysis of the village and the problems of rural geography in these areas is regrettably lacking.

The above weaknesses notwithstanding, this book is a welcome contribution to the bookshelf of those in the field of rural geography.

*Fluvial Hydrology*. S.L. Dingman, N.Y.: W.H. Freeman & Co., 1984.

*Reviewed by: Jonathan B. Laronne*

Dingman's *Fluvial Hydrology* deals with the physics of flow in open channels and includes a chapter on flow in porous media. This book is intended for geomorphologists who have acquired university-level physics and calculus skills and is intended to take the place of several engineering textbooks; it is well-written and includes a basic reference list. Topics covered include a rather lengthy introduction dealing with dimensions, units, and significant figures; fundamentals of physical equations; and the structure and properties of water. These topics help the student understand the main subject matter of this volume: forces and classifications for open channel flows, uniform flow, the energy equation, resistance and sediment transport, gradually and rapidly varied flow, gradually varied unsteady flow, and flow in porous media.

Dingman's contention that his book will provide all necessary information on this topic is justified for most geomorphologists. All the major relevant aspects of fluid mechanics are covered in sufficient detail, and principles as well as equations are explained at an advanced, non-engineering level. The book is well-illustrated, with the high-quality line drawings with which geomorphologists are familiar through Freeman's publication