

is a useful addition to the Indian literature on geography. The book is a major contribution and the editor is to be commended for her well-coordinated efforts. It has minor shortcomings such as the occasional printer's devil popping out of apparently innocuous lines, or the extremely limited discussion of social/cultural geography. However, the paper and other aspects of production are of a

high quality. The price too is not beyond the reach. It is unlikely, however, that this otherwise comprehensive volume will find much use as a text. The book will be helpful to a wide range of academicians and policy-makers concerned with solutions to pressing developmental problems related to space. But perhaps the greatest value of this book is that it raises many questions suitable for follow-up research.

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"Climatic Change in the historical and the instrumental periods"

Edited by RUDOLF BRAZDIL

Published by Masaryk University, Brno, Czechoslovakia, October 1990. Price of the copy

DM 60. pp. 362.

The book contains the proceedings of the international conference "Climatic change in the Historical and Instrumental periods" held in Brno during 12-16 June 1989. The papers that are published do not take cognizance of the sweeping changes that have taken place in Europe, subsequent to 1989, especially the unification of Germany. The official name of Czechoslovakia has been changed to Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR).

The volume contains Part I, II, III, IV, V and VI. Part I deals with Climatic change — Global view. Consisting of ten contributed papers. Part II consists of four papers on Impacts of Climatic Change. Part III is on Indirect and Historical Data sets with nine research papers. Eight papers are presented under part IV. Instrumental Data sets and Methods of Analysis. Part V is the most contributed section of the book; it re-

lates to Regional Climatic changes — Europe with 37 papers. The final Part VI Regional Climatic changes — Regions other than Europe with four papers.

According to the Editor the published contributions were not referred or corrected for their language. However, most of the participants are well known researchers and hence the contributions are of significant importance.

The papers are all contributed by the members of the Study Group on Recent Climatic Change of the International Geographical Union under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. Yoshino, University of Tsukuba, Japan. The members are drawn from all over the world. Thus the proceedings of the conference includes problems of climatic change in a broad perspective — from global problems to typical case studies with the time scale covering on the one hand instrumental

observations of the last 200-300 years, on the other hand the period of the last millennium (the historical period). Hence the papers are classified into various thematic groups in six parts.

The information presented is an update in the area and hence will be a valuable addition to every Library on Climatology.

A. R. Subramaniam

Transport Network in Rural Development

BY DR. K. N. SINGH

Institute for Rural Eco-development, Gorakhpur. 1990 Price Rs. 220/- Pages 171 + X,

Figures 22, Tables 22.

The book under review by Dr. K. N. Singh is one of the series edited by Prof. Jagdish Singh and published by the Institute for Rural Eco-development, Gorakhpur, with a foreward by Professor K. H. Hottes (Germany).

The book has been organised in nine chapters. After the initial discussion on conceptual background, research design, and characteristics of the study area, the author devotes chapters III and IV to the study of transport network and traffic-flows. Chapters V, VI, VII and VIII bring out the associations between transport network on the one hand and agricultural development, level of industrialization, basic facilities and urbanization on the other. In the last chapter the author has introduced a model for rural transportation network. This is followed by a select bibliography.

The main focus of the work is on the relationship between transport network (noted as independent variable) and different aspects of development (dependent variables) while identifying the vari-

able indicating agricultural development, the author has used agricultural productivity measured in terms of money value. But this alone does not represent the agricultural development and the use of composite index of agricultural development would have been more appropriate. Similarly, the industrial development is represented by percentage of house hold industrial employment. Here also the need to define a composite index of industrial development and then to correlate it with the transport network indices is felt. The model of rural transport network development by the author, with refinements, could be applied to other developing regions.

The study is a welcome addition to the scarce literature on studies in transport geography in India. The book is well produced, barring a few typographical mistakes which could have been easily avoided. The students, research scholars and teachers would certainly find this book very useful.

(V. S. DATY)