

1. There is a need for an organisation of Political Geographers to think and do exclusively for the subject, for which the first prerequisite is to prepare an inventory of political geographers in India, listing their particular field of interest and publications.
2. The Political Geographers should meet once a year with well-prepared research papers which may be published after proper vetting. (Dr. C. P. Singh undertook to explore the possibility of arranging the meet in 1992).
3. Possibilities may be explored to bring out four issues in a year of a publication the format of which may be similar to that of 'FOCUS' (Washington).
4. Political Geographers in India should develop a distinctive Indian approach to the relation between geography and politics mediated by ethics and morality, which the Director of the Seminar liked to be called as 'Geosheelitics' (in Hindi, Bhoosheeli).
5. The departments of geography through out India may be requested not to exclude political geography as a part of general syllabus of Human Geography.

R. N. P. Sinha
Seminar Director

BOOK - REVIEWS

A Text Book of Geomorphology

by P. DAYAL

Shukla Book Depot, Patna, 1990, Price Rs. 125 pp. 820

This is by far the most comprehensive text book on Geomorphology authored by an Indian scholar. The book is a thoroughly revised and enlarged edition of an earlier book entitled "Bhu Akruiti Vijayn" written in Hindi by the same author, but different in content and organization and more comprehensive in scope.

The book is designed for the graduate courses in Indian universities and has a blend of traditional themes like origin of the Earth and the recent developments like plate tectonics and sea-floor spreading. Divided in 31 chapters and followed by references and a useful index, the book is well illustrated and supple-

mented with questions at the end of each chapter.

The first two hundred and fifty pages of the book discuss the theories of the earth ranging from the history of the earth, the Earth's interior and the isostatic equilibrium to sea-floor spreading, plate tectonics and the Mountain building. In this, Prof. Dayal has not been selective and still juxtaposes the plate tectonics with Kober's typical orogen and the thermal contraction of Jeffreys. One may question the relevance of including all the theoretical constructs that have preceded the plate movements. This load of theories may prove too cumbersome to the students and would certainly not be

conducive to the clarity of understanding. Ideas based on global evidences could have been given precedence over what has been discarded.

The sections devoted to weathering, erosion and river valley development are outdated and inadequate. The author has not thought it worthwhile to think of channel properties and their hydrological implications. The discharge characteristics and flood regimes of rivers have been completely ignored. Yet the Davisian model of cycle of erosion with comments on its validity has found a place in the book reminding one of what wooldrige wrote half a century ago.

The landforms in different milieus or owing to a variety of processes have been discussed in detail, may these be karst region, aeolian landform or the areas of glacial landforms. A novelty in the book is the addition of the chapter on periglacial landforms. Coastal landforms and geomorphology of ocean floors have received special attention. The book closes with two chapters — one on basic

concepts (a la Thornbury) and the other on Applied geomorphology. Why the basic concepts at the end of this book? Does the author think that the students can understand the basic concepts only after reading through the book. Applied geomorphology is what one has to emphasize to project the importance of the discipline.

For a volume of this size, the quality of paper and the printing could have been chosen more carefully. Was it too much to have a quality production of the book? May be, the author and the publisher, both had in their mind the intended readership, keeping the price quite low within the purchasing capacity of University students.

The reviewer finds the book painstakingly written and the treatment very, comprehensive. Both the students and the teachers will find it easy to read and understand. If the book picks up, and one hopes, it does, the second edition could be brought out as a library edition.

K. R. Dikshit

'Environmental Geography'

Prayag Pustak Bhavan, Allahabad, 1991, pp. 517, price Rs. 120/-

by SAVINDRA SINGH

This is a book that contains themes a geographer usually includes in environment, and gives a very comprehensive account of environment from a geographical perspective. The book combines the approach of a physical geographer with those of a bio-geographer and ecologist. The merit of the book is that even a student without a background of any one of the above disciplines can read it profitably, since all unfamiliar themes are

discussed in the text and the jorgan simplified. The book is written in the nature of a text book of themes, whether they relate to sedimentation and erosion, trophic levels, nutrient cycles or even the basic concept in ecology. All find a place in the volume.

As the author states in preface, the first five chapters deal with concepts like environment, ecology, eco-system, and