3. Human Geography, 1963

OOI JIN-BEE

Notes on Research, etc.

A Centre for Southeast Asian Studies has been established at the University of Singapore. It is composed of those members of the departments of Economics, Geography, History, Law, Political Science and Social Studies who are actively doing research in the Malaysian and other regions of Southeast Asia.

The Joint Committee on Contemporary China of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies sponsored a Planning Conference on the Geography of China. It was organized by the Association of American Geographers' Committee on Chinese Geographic Literature and held at the University of Chicago, on 11–14 July 1963.

A recent article (The development of geography in the People's Republic of China, Geography, April 1963: 139–54) by Professor Stanislaw Leszczycki, Head of the Geographical Institute of the University of Warsaw and Director of the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences, traces the growth of geography in China and the problems currently engaging the attention of Chinese geographers. The Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences in Peking is the main centre of geographic research. Nearly all the provinces of China have geography research centres which are fairly well equipped. These centres and the most important geographical publications in China are listed in appendices to the article.

A survey by the map curator of the American Geographical Society of the regional atlases of the world (Eva L. Yonge, Regional atlases, a summary survey, Geographical Review, July 1962: 407–32) reveals that, apart from the Soviet Union, the atlas coverage of the Far Eastern countries on the whole lags far behind the Western world. There are two good economic atlases of the Soviet Union, a regional reference atlas, an excellent atlas of agriculture, as well as four Soviet atlases of more restricted scope. Coverage for India and Taiwan is good; for Indonesia, Pakistan, Ceylon, Korea and the Philippines fair; and for the other countries of the Far East poor. No atlases are listed for China or Japan.

Among the more important research projects now being undertaken by geographers working on the Far East are: Urbanization and the Western impact in East Asia during the 17th to 19th centuries, by Rhoads Murphey; The changing industrial geography of Mainland China, by Chang Kuei-sheng; An atlas of contemporary China, by the University of Washington; The urban geography of Nagoya, Japan, by John D. Eyre; The geography of cities in India, by H. F. Hirt; and National resources and Industrial development in India, by C. H. MacFadden.

NEW FAR EASTERN PERIODICALS IN GEOGRAPHY

The first number of the *Deccan Geographer*, a semi-annual publication of the Hyderabad Geography Association, appeared in July 1962. Most of the articles will be on India, with emphasis on the northeast. The Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking, is publishing a bi-monthly geography serial entitled *Dili (Geography)*. It is in Chinese; the first number appeared in 1961. The East Pakistan Geographical Society has started a monograph series. The first monograph is entitled *Land-use in Rampal Union: A Horticultural Area*.

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