

Books

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE
AND AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH
By Lance E. Davis and
Douglass C. North
Cambridge University Press . . . \$10.95

About four years ago, when two economists were talking shop, they realized they were using similar logical structures to analyze two apparently unrelated topics. Continued exploration of this strange overlap has resulted in this important book on economics. The two authors, both professors of economics, are Lance Davis of Caltech and Douglass North of the University of Washington.

The book, which is in three parts, is an attempt to formulate a unified theory of institutional change and to apply the patterns of such change to American economic development in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In Part I the authors develop their model of institutional change, arguing that if external factors make an increase in income possible but not attainable within the existing institutional structure, new organizations must be developed to achieve the potential in income. Their model is designed to explain the type and timing of these necessary changes.

In Part II the authors review the external causes of changes in American economic history over the past 175 years and apply their model to land policy and agriculture, financial markets, transportation, manufacture, service industries, and labor.

Part III presents the authors' conclusions about the changing public-private mix.

UNIONS, PARTIES, AND POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT
A Study of Mineworkers in Zambia
By Robert H. Bates
Yale University Press . . . \$12.50

Like most new nations, Zambia aspires to rapid economic development. It also, like many new nations, has an economy based on production of a single major commodity—in Zambia's case, copper. The regulation and control of copper miners therefore represents a crucial political task for Zambia's ambitious elite. In this study, Robert Bates, assistant professor of political science, analyzes the attempt of the government to use the dominant political party and the Mineworkers' Union to enforce a relatively

stringent labor code. The leaders of the union and of the party are caught between the government's demands for moderation on behalf of the long-range public interest and their members' demands for continued militancy on behalf of their economic and racial interests. Bates finds that the government's policies largely fail and argues that the dilemma of the union and party is one of the basic reasons for the failure. Because governments throughout Africa attempt to use voluntary agencies for rapid development, these findings have implications reaching beyond Zambia, and they raise some fundamental issues in general development theory.

THE SEARCH FOR MEANING:
PHILOSOPHICAL VISTAS
By Alfred Stern
Memphis State University Press . . \$12.50

Reviewed by Charles E. Bures
Professor of philosophy

Professor Stern taught philosophy and languages at Caltech for twenty-one years (1947-1968). With emeritus status, he assumed a lifetime appointment as Professor of Philosophy at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez. A consummate linguist, Professor Stern speaks, writes, and thinks philosophically in several languages. He is now teaching philosophy in Spanish. The present volume is a collection of 25 essays, many new, the rest published in different journals over a 25-year period. The heart of Alfred Stern's philosophical career has been the search for understanding, meaning and value in human life. For this reason, he feels a rapport with the Viennese school of logotherapy (the will to meaning) of Viktor E. Frankl. The Kantian tradition has been Professor Stern's major frame of orientation, an outlook that has put him at odds with the positivists and, at least, the more extreme existentialists.

The volume contains three essays on science as one form of the search for meaning. Understanding nature gives it meaning. To Stern, science is a humanistic activity with unavoidable moral responsibility. He discusses the positivism of Bohr, Heisenberg, and Mach, and, in a brief but insightful conversation with Einstein, he shows his sympathy with Einstein's rejection of positivism and of the Copenhagen interpretation of quan-

tum mechanics. Stern finds Einstein's "exterior real world" more meaningful than reductive positivism.

To Stern, values and meanings interpenetrate so intimately that one could speak of value-meanings as central to the search for the meaning of life. Values spring from choices, decisions, justifications. Meanings flourish in definite, concrete contexts and always relate to purposes. Stern relates to voluntarism in the Kantian tradition when he says, "I shall concentrate on the *critical approach*, which is based on acts of human will." (p.6) His central principle is: "If, *logically*, every project presupposes an act of will, we may say that *psychologically* every act of will appears in the concrete form of a project." (p.7) Projects are "the main provider of meanings to man's life . . ." Every project points to the future. "The future is the main meaning-providing dimension." (p.14) Hence, our search for meaning is always directed toward the future. With this view, Professor Stern opposes both positivism and the here-and-now influence of Oriental philosophy.

So varied are Alfred Stern's talents that one can only catalog them. There are nine essays on salient persons: Nietzsche (two), Kant, Unamuno, Ortega y Gasset, Balzac, Mazzini, Camus, and Jean-Paul Sartre. Six essays concern literature, tragedy, and value; and six essays explore existentialism. "What is man?" introduces philosophical anthropology as a partly speculative search for man's essence. Perhaps central to this book is Stern's mature essay, "What are Spiritual Phenomena?" delivered as his presidential address to a division of the American Philosophical Association, in 1966. To Alfred Stern, spirituality is identical with meaning, and to be truly human one must start the search for meaning in life.

Professor Stern has a reverential, almost courtly, attitude toward the ideas that have been his life. He represents a European tradition of philosophy, which in the 19th and 20th centuries has been the single most influential world view in shaping both science and philosophy. When one considers that one of the main sources of positivism is Kant's formulation of the phenomenal world, then one senses the grand sweep of this influence. Alfred Stern is an excellent exemplar of this movement. Even if this tradition is transformed in the next generation, as it may be, it is a great human achievement, a matrix for the next *Weltanschauung*.