

SOCIOLOGY

50 Million People Move

Economic, social and political forces have exerted great pressures upon various peoples on earth, especially in the past decade. One result has been mass shifts in population.

➤ A TOTAL of 50,000,000 people changed their homes in the decade following World War II. This was an unprecedented movement of people—much more than a fourth of the present population of the United States.

An analysis of where these people came from and where they went, and what were the prods, economic or political, that urged them on, is reported in *Population Bulletin* (Aug.).

Nearly 20,000,000 people in eastern and central Europe fled their homelands or were expelled, transferred or exchanged. This is almost the equivalent of half the population of France. Never has anything comparable happened in European history.

Of these, 12,500,000 were Germans who moved from the European countries that came under Communist domination. They came from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, from Rumania and Yugoslavia. Now the satellite countries have almost entirely eliminated their principal ethnic minorities.

West Germany had to absorb the great majority of these people. More than 8,000,000 went there. In addition, 2,500,000 poured into West Germany from East Germany. Only about 500,000 moved in the opposite direction from West to East Germany.

The net migration from East to West Germany was thus 2,000,000 people, more than 10% of the total population of East Germany.

Altogether, during 1946-55 West Germany has absorbed nearly 11,000,000 migrants, more than a fifth of its present population.

But Europe had no monopoly on politically forced migrations. By far the largest population exchange between two countries occurred in Asia.

When India was partitioned in 1947, as many as 17,000,000 Moslems, Hindus and Sikhs moved between India and Pakistan. This exchange was not planned and was not even anticipated by the new governments. It was precipitated by the bitter riots caused by friction between Hindus and Sikhs on one side and the Moslems on the other.

Israel was the scene of another mass migration. Between May 15, 1948, when the state of Israel was established, and Dec. 31, 1955, a total of 772,000 people were received there. In that time 52,000 left the country so that the net immigration was 720,000, or about 40% of the total population at the end of 1955.

These political movements of peoples tend to overshadow the migrations motivated by population pressure. Yet these are important, too.

Notable is the movement of people from

tiny Puerto Rico into the United States, chiefly New York City.

More than one fourth as many Puerto Ricans now live in New York City as in Puerto Rico.

While Puerto Ricans are flocking to the United States, other West Indians are going to Great Britain. Algerian Moslems are going to France. And, like the Puerto Ricans, these people have gone to industrial cities.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Track Men Should Abandon Old Idea

➤ RUNNERS in track events can get a quicker start if coaches will abandon an old theory about getting off the starting blocks.

This is reported by Dr. Franklin Henry, professor of physical education and medical physics researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Henry has completed experiments that disprove the psychological theory many track coaches have used in an attempt to get the quickest start.

This old theory holds that the runner should concentrate on the movements his body will have to make in starting to run. The psychologists call this "motor set." The idea is that the runner will automatically fly into action when the gun goes off and that the most critical factor is making the right body movements.

Dr. Henry says this theory originated in some experiments performed around 1890. The results are statistically unreliable for a number of reasons, but somehow the theory found its way into psychology texts and coaching manuals. Today the "motor set" theory is almost universally accepted as producing the fastest reaction time.

But Dr. Henry's experiments show that the fastest reaction can be achieved by concentrating on the starting gun, or "stimulus set," rather than the body movements, or "motor set."

In his experiments he used 40 men and 40 women students. He had them release their grip on a plastic strip and strike a tennis ball in response to the flashing of a light. Instruments recorded the time lapse between the light flash and grip release.

Disguising the experiment's purpose, Dr. Henry first determined which students had a natural tendency to think of the light stimulus or the action to be performed. This showed who had a stimulus set and who had a motor set.

The results showed that subjects who concentrated on the stimulus light reacted

faster than those who thought about the body movements. Moreover, "training" the "motor set" people to concentrate on the stimulus led to faster reactions on their part. "Training" the stimulus set people to think of body movements caused a slower reaction time.

Conclusion: track coaches should tell their runners to concentrate on the starter's gun instead of their body movements.

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AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Endangered By Tourists' Purchases

➤ VACATIONING Americans should resist the temptation to "bring 'em back alive" when it comes to foreign plants and foods, warns the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Insects and diseases that are harmful to agriculture in this country can lurk in the most innocent-looking purchase made abroad.

A passenger arriving in New York by plane from South America brought a half-pound of fresh coffee berries to show his family. Five berries contained living larvae of the Mediterranean fruit fly. Last year the fruit fly was found in Florida in an area straddling the International Airport at Miami. An intensive Federal-state eradication program lasting more than a year has been necessary to control the infestation.

Travelers who plan to bring back seeds, plant cuttings or certain meats are advised to check with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Washington, and request a special permit. Before leaving the country, the USDA suggests, all travelers would do well to familiarize themselves with the rules restricting or prohibiting food or plant importations.

Plant quarantine inspectors are bracing themselves for a record influx of returning travelers and foreign visitors this summer. They'll be checking everything—from airplanes that may have hitchhiking insects aboard to Hawaiian leis.

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ZOOLOGY

30th Anniversary Party For Oldest Gorilla

➤ BAMBOO, the oldest gorilla in captivity, has celebrated his thirtieth anniversary at the Philadelphia Zoo. Still hale and hearty, he promises to be around for some years to come.

Now weighing more than 400 pounds and standing six feet tall, Bamboo bears little resemblance to the year-old, 12-pound hand-ful that arrived in Philadelphia 30 years ago. The Zoo's success in raising him has encouraged other zoos which have since acquired gorillas. Gorillas had been considered difficult if not impossible animals to raise in captivity.

Bamboo has always been a bachelor. Massa, one gorilla acquired as a mate, turned out to be a male. No other attempt at providing a companion for Bamboo is reported by the Zoo.

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