

Pacific Islands, there is a remarkable degree of interaction emerging. With the passage of a reasonable amount of time (a key but often neglected factor) economic development that will conduce to the levels of interdependence that Mitrany argued would make functional integration an option. Already evident are signs of harmonization across the region of laws dealing with fisheries, customs and immigration, transport, and the environment. While these are not all located in the Forum, proposed changes to the South Pacific Organizations Coordinating Committee are likely to give the Forum much more responsibility for such integrative processes. Other examples could be found for the Pacific Islands and perhaps also for some, if not all, the other regions canvassed.

As noted at the outset, this is a timely book and a thought-provoking one. One need not agree with all its premises or conclusions to find it well worth the time to read and consider. Serious scholars of international relations and development studies will encounter much to challenge them. The work is readable throughout, making its content accessible to students and others with an interest in the issues covered—both theoretical and substantive. Of course, area specialists will be attracted to chapters focusing on their specific interests, but it is to be hoped they will allow themselves to be drawn into Axline's worthy attempt to pursue cross-regional comparisons as well.

RICHARD HERR
University of Tasmania

* * *

La Nouvelle-Calédonie au tournant des années 1990: Un état des lieux, by Louis Arréghini and Philippe Waniez. Montpellier/Paris: ORSTOM-RECLUS/La Documentation Française, 1993. ISBN 2-11-002987-0, 236 pages, tables, figures, maps, bibliography. F220.

Atlases, for the French, are not mere pedagogical aids designed for school classrooms, family reference collections, and, eventually, the coffee tables of wealthy nations. They are working tools, of crucial importance in the planning process. Governments, concerned to draw accurate portraits of the territories under their jurisdiction, make frequent use of them in order to formulate development policy and strategies in all domains in which spatial organization is an essential parameter.

It is thus hardly surprising that the business of map and atlas making is a very dynamic one in that country. Cartographers are concerned to develop new forms of graphic representation, juxtapose image and text in a creative manner, and produce static (paper) and interactive (computer) versions of the same documents.

It is also hardly surprising that by far the best Pacific Island atlases are produced by the French. Their monumental *Atlas de Nouvelle-Calédonie* (1981) and the *Atlas de la Polynésie française* (1993) bear ample testimony to this fact, as does Benoît Antheaume's and Joël Bonnemaïson's *Atlas des Iles et États du Pacifique* (1988). (This last, I should add, urgently awaits translation—and updating—to fill an unjustifiable gap

in the English language literature on the region.)

La Nouvelle-Calédonie au tournant des années 1990 is a direct product of this synergy between academics, national research bodies, and the state. The authors, Arréghini and Waniez, are geographers attached to the GIP RECLUS and to ORSTOM, the former a metropolitan research institute renowned for its innovative work in spatial analysis and cartographic representation, and the latter a state research organization dedicated to applied research “in cooperation,” principally in the third and tropical worlds. A third institutional partner is La Documentation Française, France’s official government publisher, responsible for the distribution of the atlas.

This particular synergy occurred in response to the 1988 Accords de Matignon, a historic agreement that brought the territory back from the verge of civil war between the Kanak and Caldoche communities and granted it respite until 1998, when a referendum will be held on its political future. Divergent political aspirations are founded on fundamental ethnic, economic, social, and geographical cleavages, simply and poignantly expressed as the distinction between a wealthy, white Noumea and a poor and underdeveloped Caledonian bush or hinterland (“*Noumea la blanche*” and “*la brousse [mélanésienne]*”). By virtue of the Matignon Accords, France is committed to rapidly reducing these inequalities. To facilitate the process, the territory was divided into three provinces, one of them, the Province Sud, rich, European, and loyalist, and the other two, Province Nord and

Province des Îles, poor, Kanak, and “indépendantiste.”

In direct response to this political decision, ORSTOM, which has a major research facility in Noumea, decided in 1989 to implement a major research program aimed at identifying the “cultural and geographical strategies for the development and the spatial reequilibrating of New Caledonia.” Seven themes, designed to identify social and spatial disparities and the trends in such disparities within the territory, were identified. They were also aimed at identifying a certain number of indicators that might be used to assess the impact of policies implemented as a direct result of the Matignon Accords. Geography was at the heart of the matter, and the creation of an atlas was, therefore, judged a priority because it would provide an appropriate data medium and baseline for those called on to implement the “re-equilibration” process.

La Nouvelle-Calédonie au tournant des années 1990: Un état des lieux is precisely that: a state-of-the-nation report composed of some 169 maps and 96 diagrams, accompanied by brief analytical commentaries, and based on data drawn essentially from the years 1989, 1990, and 1991. The territory is assiduously “photographed” in some thirteen chapters organized around four major topics: population; work force, employment, and qualifications; economic activities; and politics, living conditions, and culture. A wealth of data drawn from a variety of official sources (censuses, administrative files, and studies) are thereby presented. They are organized around an array of “key indicators”

ranging from migration to unemployment, land ownership to political parties, morbidity to infrastructures for sport. The result is impressive. A vast amount of information is presented graphically in a succinct and articulate manner. Each map is accompanied by a series of *chorèmes*, or models, designed to represent complex reality in a simple way and illustrate how space is structured and controlled.

Inevitably the atlas confirms much of what the informed reader already intuitively knows: the incredible domination of Noumea, for example, and the distinction between the eastern and western façades of the main island. But there are also some fascinating revelations, such as the fact that the vast majority of highly educated Kanaks come from the Loyalty Islands. And there are some major oversights, imposed by the statistics and conventional territorial wisdom: the impression that there is no mixed-race population in New Caledonia, to mention only one.

Globally, the parameters used are metropolitan ones, which is inevitable given the sources exploited. There are maps of the distribution of households possessing at least two vehicles, a washing machine, the practice of reading a daily newspaper, or of attending bingo, all variables that have a vaguely surreal air about them in a Pacific Island context. But then again there are maps addressing the question of the use of vernacular languages and the possession of yam gardens, to illustrate only two unequivocal expressions of Melanesian culture.

The atlas is a valuable and evocative document. At the same time it pos-

sesses one major shortcoming with respect to the specific context for which it was designed. New Caledonia is characterized by a series of nesting administrative structures: the territory as a whole, the three provinces established by the Matignon Accords, thirty-one communes, and 337 Melanesian tribes. The accords place specific emphasis on development at the provincial level and, by extension, the promotion of the material well-being of the Melanesian community. However, the data are presented, almost without exception, at the commune level, thereby obscuring the vital task of comparing provinces. Indeed, direct comparison is impossible because the boundary between the Northern and Southern Provinces cuts the commune of Poya in two!

In the final analysis, this is perhaps a minor frustration. The data are there in abundance and are presented and discussed in an eminently readable form. Further, the atlas is innovative, not only in its use of *chorèmes*, but in the availability of an interactive (computer) version. It is an important document, for the time being at least. However, it risks being surpassed in a few short years because of the urgent need to measure by 1998 the impact of policies implemented only a decade before. Such policies are designed, notably, to create one or more growth poles in the Northern Province, with urban, industrial, and port functions. As a part of such a challenging goal they have already resulted in the construction of a major east-west road in that same province (thereby disenclaving the east coast).

La Nouvelle-Calédonie au tournant

des années 1990 simply provides a necessary baseline for measuring subsequent change.

Will the policies implemented by the Matignon Accords result in a successful redistribution of wealth between regions and between ethnic groups in New Caledonia? In a brief concluding section the authors avow their skepticism. The spatial and ethnic structures that characterize the territory are extremely resilient. Time is incredibly short. The Kanak community has won the battle for external recognition, but achieving major and lasting social, economic, and political gains is another matter.

ERIC WADDELL
Université Laval

* * *

Human Biology in Papua New Guinea: The Small Cosmos, edited by Robert D Attenborough and Michael P Alpers. Research Monographs on Human Population Biology 10. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992. ISBN 0-19-857, xiii + 427 pages, tables, figures, maps, photographs, bibliography, index. US\$98.

This is a partial review. Partial in the sense that I read this volume with the intense interest of someone already fascinated by the diversity of “the small cosmos,” Papua New Guinea. But it must also be inadequate, as the broad range of subjects encompassed means that some of the disciplinary fields are utterly foreign to me, as they will be to any particular reader. Lest this be interpreted as a criticism, I stress that while this collection is clearly at one

level a reference book—encyclopedic in scope if not dimension—it is also a volume of interrelated essays that can be read as a complex regional study of human biology. The correlation of themes, the meticulous cross-referencing, and the clear editorial direction ensure that anyone can read this as an integrated study.

The most immediately impressive achievement of the collection is its demonstration of the value of interdisciplinary research in developing an understanding of the lives of people in Papua New Guinea. In the introductory chapter by the editors, the central themes of human biology and health are contextualized in space and history, with acknowledgment of the implications of linguistic, social, and cultural variation. The second chapter, by Bryant Allen, modestly entitled “The Geography of Papua New Guinea,” introduces the issue of diversity in its basic aspects—the physical, environmental, and climatic diversity of the country—but these are elaborated in their historical dimensions. Regional differences are made comprehensible in terms of the interplay of human forces—social, political, and economic—within the material universe. Issues of demographic structure and factors affecting population changes are initially raised in the chapter on demography by Ian Riley and Deborah Lehmann, who deal with migration, mortality, and fertility. These themes are then developed and explored in detail in later chapters on fertility and reproductive biology (James Wood), population origins (Robert Kirk), and genetics (Susan Serjeantson, Philip Board, and Kuldeep Bhatia).