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The Southern Appalachian Region: A Survey.

Edited by Thomas R. Ford. University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, Kentucky. 308 pages. 1962. \$10.

IN GENERAL, the economic and social problems of the Southern Appalachian region are well known. Public policies and programs in the past have not been sufficient to enable this important region to share fully in the economic growth of the Nation, so as to relieve the chronic poverty that prevails among a large proportion of its people.

The study of the problem of too great a population pressure on too few resources was the concern of the relatively limited regional survey of economic and social conditions of this underdeveloped area almost 30 years ago. At that time the investigation was mainly concerned with the causes for the area's problems. Since then, many fragmentary economic and social studies of the Appalachian area have been conducted to develop a better understanding of localized problems. In total, these studies have been insufficient to develop comprehensive policies and programs for the economic development of the region.

The urgent need for a comprehensive study of the region's resources, the important changes that have occurred during the last three decades, and potentials for economic and social development were recognized to be basic to the development of programs designed to increase this region's living standards to the national level. This concern for the region was the basis of a conference which resulted in the planning of a series of studies which would analyze all aspects of economic and social activity in the Southern Appalachian region. The Southern Appalachian studies were financed largely by the Ford Foundation, assisted by area colleges and universities and public agencies; they were administered by Berea College.

Extensive regional surveys were conducted to measure social and economic changes in order to gain some insight into the relationships between those changes and the values, beliefs, and attitudes of the people affected by them. Most of the people in the region now have the major goals and standards typical of American society. An important guideline for policy determination is that the old stereotypes that have so long guided social action in the region no longer apply to the great majority of the residents.

This report consists of 19 chapters developed by an interdisciplinary group of research specialists who have done an excellent job in presenting the region with respect to its human, physical, and economic resources, cultures, obstacles, and potentials for economic development. The subjects of each chapter were well selected and developed so as to present the reader with a comprehensive understanding of the progress made by the people in the region, as well as the region's many problems. The human resource of the region and the investments needed to properly develop this important national resource received adequate recognition. The chapter on agriculture could have been more helpful, if the authors had incorporated the 1959 agricultural census data in their analyses. Important changes in the structure of agriculture occurred during the period 1954-1959.

The Southern Appalachian Studies group made a timely and important contribution by providing those interested in furthering the development of this important region with an objective analytical perspective of all aspects governing economic and social activity. In addition, early recognition is given to the overriding influences of our national and international policies and programs. Future development of the Southern Appalachian is a challenge to our Nation. It is the hope of those concerned that this comprehensive regional study will be translated into sound, progressive, and practical program activities for the purpose of ameliorating the intolerable conditions of poverty that prevail throughout the region.

E. L. Baum