

# Summaries of articles

## **Sociobiology and its explanation of humanity**

Ch. DAVIS

*Sociobiologists claim to explain human social behavior in terms of genetic evolution. The claim demands serious consideration by social scientists, for biological evolution unquestionably formed human beings, who are the components of social phenomena.*

*In this article, three characteristic sociobiological explanations are cited and analysed. In terms of these examples, and of some principles of evolutionary biology which are reviewed, an attempt is made to bring out some peculiarities of sociobiological reasoning, to determine to what extent they are inherent in the method, and to show how they affect the scope of its applicability.*

*The author argues that evolutionary explanations have validity in social science only subject to some conceptual precautions not currently observed by sociobiologists. In particular, he tries to show how such an explanation can be vitiated by defining the trait to be explained in simplistic, post facto terms, or by failing to set the postulated change in the period of prehistory when it must have occurred.*

## **Analysis of an agricultural market and structures of production by means of "dynamic model-building": The Market for tablewines and viticulture in Languedoc-Roussillon in the 20th century**

R. PECH et O. MARCANT

*The distortions affecting most agricultural markets have had serious consequences for the evolution of structures of production in the 20th century. With respect to the market for table-wines, the consequences of viticultural crises were felt with particular acuteness in the region of Languedoc-Roussillon ; these included economic effects (e.g., periodic destruction of a portion of the production, a restructuring of land holding) and social effects (e.g., rural exodus and reshaping of the rural environment). The abandonment of the imposed political policy of a controlled market has, during the past decade, accelerated this evolution.*

*The consequences of market crises have often been analysed in a static manner on the basis of agricultural studies and censuses.*

*In this article, the utilization of "dynamic model-building" on a computer contributes to understanding these economic and social phenomena in the context of their historical development.*

*The authors analyse the behavior of the following two models as applied to the viticultural crises :*

- 1. The market model of the years preceding the 1950's, which explains the permanence of the balance between small and large producers in Languedoc-Roussillon.*
- 2. The contemporary model, showing the fundamental role of the market in the rapid evolution of structures of production which resulted in the elimination or marginalization of less competitive producers.*

**Allergico cantabile**

M. MORINEAU

*This article summarizes a longer study which could not in its entirety find a place in Annales ESC. It takes note of some "strange silences" which have, for the past decade, surrounded some of the factual evidence for the economic history of the modern period. The author probes the reasons for these omissions and impasses. He shows that they result from the development of a cult of the personality combined with a failure of a critical sense which in turn lead to a departure from the elementary rules of scientific control and to a rigidity with respect to the kinds of problems deemed worthy of investigation.*

*In spite of its occasional humorous tone—in the spirit of Mark Twain—the subject is without any question a serious one.*

**The Confraternité des prolétaires :  
Class consciousness under July Monarchy**

W. H. SEWELL

*Before the Revolution of 1830, the discourse and practice of French workers was derived essentially from the pre-industrial corporate tradition. But when workers were thrown into the political arena by the July Revolution, they had to formulate their demands within the political vocabulary of the new regime—a revived version of the liberal discourse of 1789. This required them to reconcile the revolution's individualistic language with the collectivist corporate traditions of the artisan trades. They solved this problem by elaborating a new idiom of "association", which not only enabled them to reformulate their longstanding demands for corporate regulation of their trades, but transcended narrow corporate loyalties and provided the conceptual foundations of a class-conscious outlook. Working-class solidarity, when it first appeared in France, was a transformation and enlargement of the corporate solidarity of the artisan trades.*

**Marriage, youth and society in Orléans in 1911**

A. PROST

*While respecting certain statistical reservations, and in spite of their limited number (528), the marriage contracts from Orléans allow us to carry out a kind of survey of town's population. A study of geographic mobility demonstrates the tendency toward individual migration for men as opposed to the familial context of migration for women. The study of social mobility shows the self-contained nature of the bourgeoisie which was much more reticent about misalliances than of entry into less distinguished professions.*

*The study of the age of marriage and the circumstances of the young couples highlights the originality of the bourgeoisie (late marriages for men who are on the average six years older than their brides). The national marriage market of the bourgeoisie stands in contrast to the more local matrimonial market of other social classes among whom the age differences were smaller and where the choice of a partner followed the lines of geographic and professional proximity. Many young girls were seamstresses which permitted them to stay at home while continuing to work, while the daughters of the working classes had to accept work in the homes of strangers. The bourgeoisie, on the other hand, rejected any and all work for the young ladies of their households.*