

Editorial Foreword

SOCIETY AND THE SHAPE OF ARMIES. Warfare is an inefficient way to compare armies in which only the outcome matters. Nevertheless, because their desperate and primitive purpose makes armies seem to reflect in relatively simple ways the societies that produce them, the military has long been a favorite vehicle for paper comparisons of whole nations and civilizations. And fatuous findings about *élan vital* and race, while hardly making the topic less popular, have often deflected scholars who treat society with more respect and on a smaller scale from searching among fighting units for fresh insight into society itself. The essays in this volume exemplify three quite distinct ways in which this can be done. In a wide-ranging yet specific analysis of imperialist warfare in Asia, Ness and Stahl find the critical difference less in courage or technology than in organization, a social factor. They thus highlight another aspect of the disruptive and compelling impact of western societies, studied from different perspectives by Joseph and Ekeh (17:1) and Wallerstein (16:4) while by implication they suggest an explanation for the enlarged role of the military in modernizing nations that concerned Lissak (9:3). Don R. Bowen studies with quantitative analysis a group of guerrillas in the American Civil War cautiously discovering in their social origins an explanation for their disaffection. His findings fit Moreno's analysis of Che Guevara (12:2), but Moreno's emphasis on those circumstances in which violence is viewed as legitimate also underscores a theme in the essay of Edward Price. Price's approach is to identify the types (which stem from society) and tactics of terrorism, analyzing through compared cases their political effects, an approach that brings him in turn close to Kuper's article on race and revolution (13:1).

MIGRATION AND STRATIFICATION. Kuper's central concern, however, stressed in a second article (14:4), was the relationship of race and class in social stratification. In the cases he studied, he found race the more fundamental; but David Lane (17:2) subsequently argued for their interrelationship in systems of stratification. Mary Wilkie now continues this effort at a more abstract and theoretical level, using a classification of three types of ethnic stratification. All three have received attention in earlier issues of *CSSH* (even marginals, the least frequently studied, were the topic of Goulet and Walshok's essay on Spanish Gypsies in 13:4 and Biskup's on aboriginal Australians in 10:4). As must always happen in the social sciences, the picture is immediately complicated, in this instance by Brian Moore's skillful analysis of a mixed case, both colonial and immigrant: Indians in British Guiana, where attention is directed to their internal adaptation of caste. Without the full complexity of the Varna schemes (discussed by Fox in 11:1), the recreation of village culture achieved by the Indians in Mauritius (Hazareensing in 8:2), or the richer associations of the Chinese in Singapore (Freedman in 3:1), this case shows once again the remarkable adaptability human beings can find in even the most exclusive systems of stratification, a point with which Wilkie would not disagree.