

Editorial Foreword

CHARISMA. Historians long ago abandoned the Great Man theory of history as begging too many questions, and many American social scientists feel that Max Weber's theory of charismatics should be relegated to the attic for the same reason. Others find stimulus in sorting out the questions that it evades. Here we present three different points of view. Gordon Stewart's study of the influence of an early Nova Scotian preacher demonstrates that careful research can overcome the dangers stressed in Claude Ake's 'Charismatic Legitimation and Political Integration' (*CSSH* 9: 1, Oct. 1966). Arthur Schweitzer re-evaluates Weber's whole body of reasoning about his typologies, on the whole fairly favorably. Joseph Sanders' comment, however, finds the seductiveness of the concept of charisma inherent in its internal vagueness.

EVOLUTION. Twentieth-century social science has on the whole regarded the study of form and function as its proper business, and has in consequence inclined to view long-run process only through formal analysis of 'transformations'. Revival of interest in process tends to go off into controversy over the validity of analogies between cultural and biological evolution. Kenneth E. Bock's profound and lucid essay on Sir Henry Maine shows how all three types of thought were already clashing in nineteenth-century England. Bock is the first scholar to do justice to the originality of Maine's idea of proceeding through 'the comparison of histories'.

COLONIAL CULTURAL DIVERGENCE. *CSSH* 5: 2,3 (1963) ran debate over Louis Hartz's stress on the fact that colonial migration from Europe carried a different segment of European culture to each new country. Without explicitly challenging Hartz, A. J. R. Russell-Wood now deals with the social and environmental variables that led to very similar solutions of numerous colonial administrative problems. Too modestly titled, his essay is an important move towards answering Silvio Zavala's plea (in *CSSH* I: 3, 1959) for a common history of the Americas.