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STATUS OF GEOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHY IN ESTONIA

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On the occasion of the 1984 International Geographical Congress, the Estonian Geographical Society published an elegant volume, *Estonia: Nature, Man, Economy*, which introduces us to geographical activities, past and present, in their republic. The introductory chapter, "Estonian Geographical Society," deals with the organization of the Society, constituted in 1956 with the approval and support of the Geographical Society of the Soviet Union. The Society publishes a yearbook, usually a collection of papers discussing aspects of Estonia (e.g. "Agroclimatological resources of the Estonian SSR" in 1978; "Genesis of landscapes in the Estonian SSR" in 1980), as well as monographs (e.g. *Outline of the History of Cartography of Estonia*, by E. Varep; *Electrification of Estonia from an Economic-Geographical Aspect*, by M. Vabar), and collections of articles, in Estonian, with summaries in Russian, as well as in English or German.

Geographical work in Estonia has a much longer history as a subject taught at the long-established university in the city of Dorpat, renamed Tartu at the time of Estonian independence in 1918. Tartu University was founded in 1632, by order of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, the country being under Swedish rule at the time. Reorganized several times during its long history, it remains the intellectual leader of Estonia. In his essay on "Geography at Tartu University," Professor Varep provides a detailed panorama of the role geography played there. Among the early students who earned a geography degree at Tartu/Dorpat was one Johannes Risingh, later governor of New Sweden in North America, from 1654-1655.

The other essays in the volume deal with meteorology-climatology; palaeogeography; peatlands ("Autogenic succession of mires—a Markovian approach," and two other essays on bogs, lakes, and rivers); the mineral resources of Estonia, of which only oil shale is generally known to the outside world; industrial location; population mobility; and a concluding essay entitled "A systemic concept of the object of uniform geography and the fundamentals of the theory of geographical relations." The entire volume is written in English, making this a rare occasion to know geography in Estonia, as Estonian is one of the lesser known languages of Europe. Each essay

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contains bibliographical references of work done in Estonia and in the rest of the Soviet Union.

The list of contributors to the volume represents a variety of organizations carrying on important work in geography in Estonia: Laboratory of Ecosystems at Tartu University; Estonian Agrometeorological Laboratory; Department of Geography at Tartu University; Estonian Geographical Society, working under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences of the Estonian SSR; as well as the several research institutes of the Estonian Academy of Sciences.

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GEOGRAPHY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC*

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Geography has made notable advances in the Dominican Republic over the past 20 years. Demand for geographical problem-solving approaches and spatial analytical methods in planning and implementing socioeconomic development programs at national and regional scales has increased. Today geographers are employed by public agencies and the private sector in technical and management positions.

In 1940 creation of the national mapping agency, University Geographical Institute (IGUASD), marked the beginning of contemporary development. Of prime concern during the early years was the compilation of a National Topographic Map of the Dominican Republic (124 quadrangles at a 1:50,000 scale). The IGUASD was responsible for contracting, monitoring, and archiving aerial photographic coverage. This photography, taken during the 1940s and 1950s, served as a source of information for subsequent land use studies. But few geographers, with the exception of Crist [14], Barrett [11] and Augelli [10], undertook field studies prior to the mid-1960s.

Geographical planning models were used in one of the earliest projects of the National Planning Office (ONAPLAN). This regionalization scheme established a basis for policy-making and program implementation in the Republic [28]. From 1965 to 1966 ONAPLAN and the Organization of American States jointly evaluated natural resources [30] on which to base natural resource management and agricultural planning. This bilateral agreement continued during the 1970s and resulted in several comprehensive regional development schemes of which PLAN DELNO, focusing on the Dominican northwest, is illustrative [25].

The State Secretariat of Agriculture (SEA) introduced spatial analytical methods into its regional planning structure in the 1970s. Several projects experimented with the use of census data, multivariate analysis techniques, and computer mapping [2,5,6]. A comprehensive planning model was designed for rural development of the Sierra region [3].

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