

Dănuț-Vasile Jemna (2017), *Demografia României* (Romania's Demography), "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Publishing House, University of Iași, 276 pages, tables, figures, bibliography.

Demography is a science that attracts both specialists from diverse fields and the general public interested in its issues. The "Romania's Demography" book appeared in the context of the need for in-depth and competent analyzes in this field, because the demographic situation of Romania is not enviable, the natural and migratory balance being negative.

This book, which can be considered one of the reference research endeavors on Romania's demography, a result of the author's teaching and scientific activity, addresses the issue of Romania's demography from a useful perspective for various categories of readers (students, specialists, the general public); the paper is organized by four chapters which form a unitary analysis of this subject: introductory and methodological elements, Romania's population in the European context, Romania's population in territorial profile and the demographic future of Romania.

Thus, the first chapter contains a presentation of this discipline: the history of the discipline, methodological aspects (Lexis diagram, probabilities, transversal and longitudinal analysis), very useful to specialists and to those who study demography, followed by elements about the structure of the population and the main demographic indicators (birth rate, mortality, migration, marriage, divorce). This first chapter includes both methods (illustrated with numerous formulas and examples) as well as a historical on Romania's demography, including data from the communist censuses. The issue of migration (both before and after 1989) is detailed at the end of the chapter, illustrated with data in Romania.

The second chapter, referring to the population of Romania in European context, presents the main theories in the field of demography (pessimistic, optimistic, neutralistic, demographic transition – analyzing the new social transformations related to marriage, birth rate, and gender relations), a sub-chapter being devoted to the demographic transition of Central and East-European countries, which presents a number of hypotheses existing in the scientific literature on the demographic evolution of the countries of the former communist bloc: the hypothesis of a strictly demographic development, the hypothesis of the poor economic conditions, and the mixed hypothesis).

The last but one subchapter, treats the demographic evolution of Romania in the last century: general considerations (which estimate that the signs of the demographic transition were observed from the beginning of the last century, and the natality policy of the communist regime failed to stop the decline of birth, only delaying it by some twenty years), population in UN censuses and estimates (the Romania's population is estimated at 10 million inhabitants in the year 2100), the ethnic structure of the population (which recorded significant variations, as the share of some minorities kept decreasing), the religious structure (correlated with the life environment structure, the share of minorities and the beginning of a process of secularization), the life environment structure and of the structure of education. The last part of this subchapter deals with the demographic transition of Romania, both for the communist period and the post-1989 period.

The third (and last) subchapter of chapter 2 is very interesting in terms of comparisons made in Central and Eastern Europe for the communist and post-communist periods, the author considering that the statistical analysis of the main demographic indicators supports the hypothesis of a common pattern of demographic evolution in the case of the ten analyzed countries, as well as the continuation of demographic trends in the past. This subchapter is illustrated with numerous tables, graphs and a comparative multivariate statistical analysis, using the SPSS program, and the main component method, resulting in the grouping of states into certain categories. The econometric modelling of fertility with panel data (the stages being the verification of the stability of the data series and their appropriate transformation, the identification of appropriate models, validation of the models), in the last part of this subchapter, has the merit of statistically substantiating and confirming the theoretical framework adopted.

The third chapter, referring to the population of Romania in terms of territory makes an analysis of population by counties and development regions; in this part of the chapter the author resorts to the statistical analysis and the econometric modeling (this also contains an interesting and brief synthesis of the literature on the three categories of determinants of fertility – social, demographic, economic). The results suggest that, at national level, the demographic transition has reached the last stage but that there are significant regional differences regarding the level and variation of fertility and its possible determinants.

The last chapter of this book represents an extremely useful approach to studying the demographic future of Romania, the author pointing out that the negative values of the natural balance suggest a worrying

demographic picture with very important implications. The estimation for the future of the population and the population structure by age groups is made through demographic projections, which present various evolution scenarios. Data and charts, including age pyramids, are the source of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In addition to the findings that Romania will face a decrease of young population (and a birth-rate recovery will have effects in thirty years), it is suggested that some lessons could be learned from the experience of West-European countries which experienced demographic decline long before Eastern countries; these lessons should be appropriated after thorough studies on the demography of Romania at present and in the future.

Gabriel Camară

Marcin Wojciech Solarz (Editor) (2018), *Geograficzno-Polityczny Atlas Polski/Atlas of Poland's Political Geography*, University of Warsaw, 248 pages, maps and texts in Polish and English.

Conceived and edited by Marcin Wojciech Solarz, Ph.D. Habil. Professor at the University of Warsaw, with the assistance of numerous contributors, this Atlas was issued as part of the events commemorating the lapse of one century since Poland won its independence.

The work contains four big sections, which offer a complex and comprehensive view of Poland against the background of the evolution of the regional geopolitical and geostrategic context, with highlight on the current situation.

The first part, which is also the most consistent one, presents *Poland's International Relations*, starting with the country's geographical positions on the Globe, its situation in the European Union and its enlargement, followed by two sets of geo-historical maps illustrating Poland's evolution as a state (Poland in Space and Time), basically the changes that have affected its frontiers in the course of time (*Territory and Borders*). An important place in this work represents the analysis of the course of events that changed its borders, the country acting as a geographical buffer between Russia and Germany, two empires with expansionistic tendencies over the time, Poland ranking among the European states with volatile frontiers. The first part second section (*Polish Geopolitical Metaconcepts*), discusses those geopolitical elements that have in time influenced border migration, being in turn influenced by them, e.g. the national background, religion, culture, migrations and place-names. After 1918, once the Polish State became independent, these elements are being analysed in the light of "geopolitics in practice" (*International Politics. Geopolitics in Practice*), illustrated by Poland's geopolitical situation during the Second World War, the country's spatial re-orientation during the post-war period, bilateral relations with other states, also within the framework of regional and international co-operation organisations, the visa regime, and of work abroad, etc. *Security* is the object of the next set of first chapter maps. An analysis is made of NATO reports-Russia and the defence system on Poland's territory, oil transport systems and considerations on resources. The section devoted to *Poland in Its Regional Environment* descusses the country's regional position in the light of the gross domestic product, human development, export of goods and services, number of soldiers and military expenditure.

Poland's arguments in favour of "soft power" are based on the analysis of geographical names worldwide regarding this country, Nobel Prize and Oscar winners, Award winners at the Cannes Film Festival, Summer Olympic medals, World Championships medals in team games, Crown of the Himalaya and Karakorum – first winter ascents, Participants in the International Chopin Piano Competition, Polish official development assistance, Polish Humanitarian Action activities outside Poland, Polish missionaries in the world, Pastoral visits of Pope John Paul II in Europe and in the world and Literature translated from Polish between 2004 and 2016. The last section of part one, *Religions and language*, has in view cultural geography regarding Poland's position within the European Union with highlight on religion and religious groups, the proportion of christians, muslims, and atheists in the EU states, Dominant language or language group and Domination of the official language in the European Union.

The second part of this work is devoted to the *State*, its political system, justice and security, equality, administrative divisions, elections and referendums, communization and decommunization of public space and independent Poland in public space.

The first three sections of this chapter illustrate Poland's position in the EU in such matters as: Head of state – method of selection, term of office, System of government, National territorial systems, National

parliaments, European Parliament, Confidence in the national government and in the judicial system and courts, Size of administrative units, Observance of political rights and civil liberties, Volunteering – active citizenship, Criminal, civil and commercial court cases, Judges, Prosecutors, Perceptions and Corruption, Terror attacks and murders, Arrested for terrorism and overall prison population, Inequalities, Women's suffrages, women in parliaments and women in politics and business, Employment and Unemployment of women and men, Salaries of women and men and Life expectancy of women and men. *The administrative system* is represented by a set of maps on the evolution of the country's administrative divisions over 1939-2018, followed by an analysis of the last administrative outline in terms of some relevant social and public administrative indicatives. Electoral geographical aspects (*Elections and referendums*) focusses on some aspects (the parliamentary and presidential elections in 2015, the presidential elections in 2014, 2011, and 2001, the presidential elections in 2010, 2005 and 2000, the elections for the EU Parliament in 2009 and 2004, parliamentary elections in 2007 and 2005, the referendum for EU accession in 2003 and the constitutional referendum in 1997. Of particular interest is the set of maps on the *Communization and decommunization of public space*, many such maps being a pioneering attempt in the Geography of Europe and of the World; it contains Communist Names in Public Space and Names in Public in Independent Poland.

Chapter Three is devoted to **Society**, with focus on three major aspects: *Demographic processes and migration*, *National and ethnic minorities and regional groups*, and *Polish people abroad*. The cartogram of the first illustrated set reveals Poland's EU situation, and emphasizes the country's main demographic situation: Natural increase, Fertility, Median age of population, Pre-working age population, Old dependency ratio, Urban population, Capital city versus country population, Polish citizens in the EU and EFTA countries, Polish-born and Born in the country of residence, Emigrants and Immigrants, Net Migration, Non-EU citizens Immigrants and EU Countries according to types of migration. The second section of this chapter speaks of *National and Ethnic Minorities and Regional Groups*; it opens up with a general map on the Spatial Distribution of National / Ethnic Minorities and Regional Language Groups, followed by maps in detail regarding the distribution of each national minority and regional group in Poland. *Polish People Abroad*, is a particularly comprehensive section in which thematic cartograms illustrate the size of Polish communities worldwide and in Europe, the biggest "Polish" cities outside Poland, offering a detailed representation of Polish communities in Lithuania, Belarus and Latvia, Ukraine, the Czech part of Cieszyn (Zaolzie), Romanian Bukowina, the United Kingdom, USA, Canada and Kazakhstan.

The last chapter (**Development**) provides an illustrated cartography of Poland's development level within a EU context in terms of the quality of life and of environment, the economy and infrastructure, respectively. The first section of this chapter groups a set of maps of economic-social indicators relevant for the *quality of life*: Human Development Index (1990, 2015), Increase in the Human Development Index (1990–2015), Overall Life Satisfaction Index (2014–2015), Life Expectancy at Birth (2014), Practising Physicians per 100,000 inhabitants (2014), respectively *mediu*: Terrestrial Protected Areas as a Percentage of Total Land Area (2014), Forests and Other Wooded Land as a Percentage of Land Area (2015), Total Emissions of Sulphur Oxides, of Benzo(a)pyrene, of Nitrogen Oxides and of Particulate Matter PM10 per inhabitants (2014). The last section of the Atlas presents cartographically, at UE-28 level, the GDP per capita; International Trade Balance and Economic Openness; Imports and Exports; Total Reserves and Gold Reserves; General Government Gross Debt and General Government Deficit/Surplus; Services, Industry and Agriculture; Carbon Dioxide Emissions; Railway Lines, Motorways and Passengers Air Transport; Internet Users; Weekly Working hours; Labour Productivity; Work on Sundays; Time Required to Start a Business; Earnings and Incomes; Young Adults Living with Their Parents; Unemployment and Quality of Education.

The work ends up with a useful Polish-English Glossary of Geographical Names, and Polish Political Parties.

By scope, rigour and subject-matter, the *Atlas of Poland's Political Geography* represents a reference work for the cartography of Europe and of the World at large, being actually a model in guiding the elaboration of other national atlases on a similar topic.

Radu Săgeată

Sorin Geacu (2018), *Vertebratele României în perioada 1940–1950* (The Vertebrates in Romania over 1940–1950), Romanian Academy Publishing House, București, 200 pages, 34 figs, references.

The distinctively different dynamic evolutions of the vertebrate species over the years depends on the abiotic conditions and the condition of their preferred habitats. In addition to these natural conditions, also the anthropic factor plays a part, it usually affecting the biocoenoses in a negative way. Man's interventions being sometimes imposed by political decision-makers, one can better understand that past periods in human society are also reflected in the previously mentioned dynamic developments, especially of economic and hunting interest.

The volume, elaborated by Mr. Sorin Geacu, Ph.D., covers the years 1940–1950 when all vertebrate groups experienced significant populational oscillations. According to the author, the Second World War had favoured an abnormal incidence of poaching, some species losing 90–95% of their effectives, others coming close to disappearance.

The practice of grazing on the alpine meadows, of herds entering forestland, the numerical increase of stray dogs, deforestations, when sometimes tens of thousands of hectares were set ablaze, lack of additional food (eg. for the big mammals) at times of harsh draughty episodes, etc. have all a negative impact on the vertebrate populations.

Choosing for this study the period spanning the years 1940–1950 is motivated by the author who cites from a Report issued by the Commission for the Monuments of Nature in 1942, which reads as follows: “*from some military vessels navigating on the Danube, there is steady shooting, with automatic armament and rifles, of the game seen on the banks of the Danube, or: in 1944–1945, on the territory of Brașov County alone, “all kind of dezertors, hidden in the mountain forests, and holding automatic arms, destroyed much of the game in order to secure their everyday food”*. And examples may continue by quoting some situations from Banat, where in 1944–1945, “*extremely high and unhindered poaching*” actually decimated the game stock.

According to Philipovici, in 1947 all shepherds used to bear arms, because strychnine for controlling the packs of wolves was missing and... “*in the remotest mountains it is the poaching shepherd's rifle that keeps singing*”. Moreover, in the most deserted and almost inaccessible valleys, one hears the sound of people's axes who put down the few clusters of an old forest, or of a primary forest. The end of the war and the months that followed, disorder was still raging and plenty of incontrollable arms and ammunition being at hand, the last stocks of stags would be destroyed. During the Second World War, among the species most severely affected were the cervides and the alpine chamois.

In 1948, the Buzău-based Hunting Inspectorate reported to the Ministry of Agriculture that the number of faunistic elements had shrunk also because of the last three draughty years that deeply affected the reproduction rate and the development of the young.

As from 1949, a campaign was launched for liquidating all ichthyophagous species (mainly birds, but also amphibian mammals) by any means, starting with destroying, nests, breaking eggs and killing the offsprings. A next campaign targeted the predatory species: foxes, weasels, wild cats, polecats, pine martens, badgers, ermines, otters, etc.

Noteworthy, some legislation of the time prohibited fishing in certain waters in order to help remake the fishing stock. In addition, some programmes were aimed at repopulating with mammalian, bird and fish species of hunting, sporting and fishing importance and of economic value.

The data reported in this book have been obtained by the author after a long documentary endeavour in the National Archives and the forest-related institutions of several counties, the study of synthesis articles and works on Romania's vertebrate fauna, or focussing on hunting and fishing species alone.

The information gathered is presented by the author chronologically and synthetised in tables and – what proved to be most difficult –, distributing them by vertebrate classes in 141 pages, covering basically 70.5% of the book (which make up the special part of the 200 pages). Appended to each species is its scientific class, order and family name (with mention of the author's name and description year), the Romanian and scientific name of the respective species, the list of localities, or points where it was signaled out. In some cases (e.g. Salmonidae), these data cover 4–5 pages on the history of their presence and people's preoccupations for organised economic exploitation.

The book on *The Vertebrates in Romania over 1940–1950* represents an important historical synthesis on the biodiversity of vertebrates in this country. Its publication at the *Centenary of the Great Union of 1918* is meant to be the author's homage paid to the foundation of the Romanian Unitary National State.

Dumitru Murariu