

# Editorial Foreword

**THE FAMILY AND ECONOMIC ROLES.** The articles in this section, though very different, both criticize some standard models of family organization and social change through careful use of quantitative measures and thus show that systematic investigation of the evidence is rather threatening to many accepted assumptions. Andrejs Plakans in discussing household structure in the non-industrialized world draws from the article by Hammel and Laslett in vol. 16:2. Joan Scott and Louise Tilly now undertake for Europe the analysis of the statistics on employment of women which Bandettini called for on Italy as long ago as our vol. 2:3. Other related articles dealing with women's roles are those by Sidney Mintz (vol. 13:2), and several in vol. 15:3, while the transformation of family tradition was considered by John and Leatrice MacDonald in 15:2 writing about the Caribbean.

**COLONIALISM.** Richard Joseph shows how competition among European societies leads to greater penetration in native societies and reciprocal activity from native societies to the European ones. Peter Ekeh argues that the colonial experience has given contemporary African politics a particular character: some of the conflicts he describes can be compared to those dealt with by R. S. Khare in 'Home and Office' in vol. 13:2 and by J. de Vere Allen on the Malayan civil service in 12:2. Colonial society and nationalism was also treated in several articles in vol. 4:2, and by Shanti Tangri on Malawi in 10:2, while Ekeh's discussion of legitimation extends problems raised by Claude Ake's article on charismatic legitimation in 9:1.

**COUNCILS AND EXCHANGE.** The two pieces here go beyond description of village societies and a review of a book dealing with village societies to reach for a social theory which might be drawn from them. Earlier similar attempts were those by John B. Cornell on Japan in vol. 6:4 and by Marshall D. Sahlins on chieftains in 5:3.