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Book Reviews

Migration and Urban Development. A Reappraisal of British and American Long Cycles.
By Brinley Thomas. London: Methuen, 1972. Pp. 259.

We have before us a case of return migration. Brinley Thomas circles back to his well-known 1954 book, *Migration and Economic Growth*, and strives to rescue that place of origin from the ignominies which have befallen it in the interim. Two distressing things happened to *Migration and Economic Growth* between 1954 and 1972. First, gaps and discrepancies showed up in the arguments and in the evidence. For example, Thomas had earlier argued that in countries of immigration (as well as countries of emigration), internal migration tends to rise when external migration falls; he now reasons that in the United States, at least, *white* internal migration rose and fell with immigration, while *black* internal migration displayed the inverse movement; in effect, whites (both native-born and foreign) and blacks were alternative labor pools for northern cities, and whites got preference when they were available. Second cause for distress: economic historians ignored or rejected Thomas' contention that economies at the opposite ends of major migration streams tend to undergo complementary, interdependent but opposite long swings as a consequence of flows of population and capital between them. For instance, H. J. Habakkuk has resolutely explained fluctuations in house-building in the U.S. and Britain as consequences of purely domestic factors on each side: the national trade cycle, the availability of capital, and so on. Thomas seeks to stir Habakkuk and all others from their indifference/skepticism by assembling data concerning housebuilding, migration and population increase in England, Wales and the United States from 1875 to 1910. (Oddly enough, although Thomas quotes recent spectral analyses in defense of the existence of long swings in the American economy, he asks his readers to gauge the

covariation of the series he presents without statistical analysis, through visual inspection of smoothed curves.) The book is actually a series of linked essays; to paraphrase Thomas' chapter heads: 1. American models of the long cycle, 2. demographic determinants of British and American building cycles, 3. the role of international capital movements, 4. interaction in the Atlantic economy, 5. Negro migration and the American urban dilemma, 6. migration and regional growth in Britain, 7. the brain drain, and 8. the Kuznets cycle. On all these topics Thomas is both interesting and informative. There are so many ideas and observations per chapter that going through the text is something like playing pinball: the game is absorbing, but it soon becomes hard to remember what path the ball has followed. That is least true, however, of the most important chapter, the essay on interaction in the Atlantic economy. There Thomas sketches out a model of interdependent long swings in which population-sensitive capital formulation plays the pivotal part. Migration is there as both cause and effect. The chapter includes substantial justifications of the main relationships proposed, but it does not proceed to specification and testing of the model. If I read him correctly, Thomas regards the specification and testing as the responsibility of someone else, the econometrician. He provides enough argument and documentation to make the effort seem worth trying.

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Canada and Immigration. Public Policy and Public Concern. By Freda Hawkins. The Institute of Public Administration of Canada. Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1972. Pp. xvi-444. \$15.00; paper, \$3.75