Cities and Frontiers in Brazil: Regional Dimensions of Economic Development. By Martin T. Katzman. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1977. Pp. 252, tables, maps, appendix. $16.50.

This book's stated purpose is "to understand changes in the spatial organization of the Brazilian economy" and to test propositions from location theory with data from Brazil. The initial chapters deal with frontier expansion in the past fifty years: the settlement of the Goiás plateau associated with new roads and the planned capital city at Brasilia, the privately developed coffee zone of northern Paraná, and the recent highway-and-colonization projects in the Amazon. This portion of the book, which opens with a sparkling comparative essay, presents new material on the economic impact of Brasilia and a trenchant critique of the military regime's Amazonian venture.

The author next takes up the problem of disparities in regional development between the industrial center (São Paulo-Rio de Janeiro) and the impoverished periphery (the Northeast). Using quantitative evidence, he rejects the idea that net capital flows and migration are draining resources away from the periphery toward the center. São Paulo's spectacular rise vis-à-vis the old metropolis of Rio de Janeiro did not conform to the growth-pole explanation of industrial development, he finds. It could be attributed instead to the changing market potential of the respective hinterlands as the coffee frontier marched westward; to underdevelopment of the banking system, which impeded the outflow of capital accumulated locally by coffee planters and exporters; and to the effects of import-substitution policies, which encouraged foreign investors to build in-country plants and to minimize risk by locating near the pre-existing concentration of capital, skilled labor, and suppliers of intermediate goods. These hypotheses are not new, but the author tests and synthesizes them brilliantly, making his chapter on "the developing center" the best in the book. By contrast, his historical treatment of development planning in the Northeast merely updates previous work by Albert Hirschman and Stefan Robock. The final chapters on urban problems and planning throw new light on the much-discussed lag between urbanization and industrialization, and argue persuasively that the recent programs of investment incentives and forced savings are providing few benefits—in terms of employment or housing—to the majority of Brazilians.

Katzman's book deserves to be read by Brazilianists of all social science disciplines, as well as by location theorists and economic historians interested in the Third World. The author has a flair for summarizing complex theories in lucid prose, and he shows a thorough familiarity with Brazilian culture, derived from two years' residence and teaching at the University of São Paulo. Historians, in particular, will benefit from the wealth of theoretical material, which is gracefully combined with empirical findings on an array of currently debated topics.

BAINBRIDGE COWELL, JR., Yale University

The Middle Eastern Economy: Studies in Economics and Economic History. Edited by Elie Kedourie. Totowa, New Jersey; London: Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., 1977. Pp. xx, 185. $22.50.

For those who, like myself, remember the dearth prevailing until the Second World War, the florescence of Middle Eastern economists is one of the most