

The really remarkable aspect of this book, and the reason it is worth writing about at all, is its tone. The entire presentation is highly emotional. My conjecture is that this is the key to the meaning of the text. If my interpretation is correct, the text can be seen as a very interesting document.

The author has really not given us a reasoned critique, but a diatribe. My impression is that she started with the opinion that analysis was not only wasteful, but insidious and evil as well. It would then seem that she had picked upon systems analysis as a particularly vulnerable aspect of analytic planning, and launched into an attack without seeing the necessity to build a careful case. I suspect that the text should be seen as a moralistic statement against the rational model of the planning process. As such, it would be part of the growing antitechnology movement that is evident in the press and on campuses.

Systems analysts should be very much concerned with the kind of vehement sentiment against technology represented by this book. Quite apart from it being personally threatening, we may ask why this sentiment exists, what we may have done to help it grow, whether this is socially desirable and, if not, what can be done about it. We must recognize that, in this question, our differences are probably more over fundamental values and assumptions than over specific facts. If this is so, it is somewhat pointless to dismiss a statement, such as this book, merely because its arguments are weak and inconclusive. The questions will remain and will eventually be asked in more cogent (and probably more damaging) terms. This text is fair warning. We cannot assume that everyone shares our premise that rational planning is desirable. We will have to be prepared to defend this field.

**Introduction to Stochastic Processes**—Paul G. Hoel, Sidney C. Port, and Charles J. Stone (Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin, 1972, 203 pp.). *Reviewed by Richard Holley, Department of Mathematics, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. 08540.*

This is the third volume in a series of three on probability, statistics, and stochastic processes. It is intended for use by students who have had an elementary one-semester course in probability and know enough calculus to understand infinite series and to be able to solve some elementary differential equations.

The main topics covered are Markov chains and their stationary distributions; Poisson, birth and death, Gaussian, and second-order processes; and Brownian motion and elementary stochastic differential equations. A large part of the last half of the book is a study of the covariance function of second-order processes. Much of this subject can be developed using only elementary calculus; however, probability seems remote. Students who are primarily interested in biology or the social sciences may find these parts dull. On the other hand, those interested in the physical sciences or engineering should find them useful.

The text is generally well written with adequate illustration. The proofs are clear and correct. There are good problem sets at the end of each chapter, nearly 150 problems in all, most of which have answers in the back.

This book should be useful as a text in courses at the junior or senior level and for the undergraduate who has a good foundation in probability and wants to learn about stochastic processes on his own.