

Lertap 5 documents series.

Platisla and the HADB.

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PLATISLA

Platisla is an island nation of some eight million people, situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, east of Brazil, west of Angola.

As an island, Platisla is not at all similar to the others of the South Atlantic. It was once, rather a long time ago, one of the earth's largest volcanoes. What is left of the cone today still manages to rise nearly six thousand metres from the sea. The island's highlands circumference, slightly more than 800 kilometres long, now consists of 272 jagged mountain peaks, over 50 of which are perpetually snow covered.

What was once the mouth of the inferno is today a verdant crater which, because of its size, appears more to visitors as a mountain valley. The floor of the crater is 1,500 metres above sea level; the diameter of the crater is generally cited as being 250 kilometres, although, strictly speaking, the crater itself forms an ellipse, not a circle.

As you might imagine, the island has three fundamentally distinct climatic zones. The highlands region seldom sports temperatures in excess of nine degrees Celsius. The lowlands, lying on the broad skirts of the old volcano, rarely have mid-afternoon temperatures lower than 30 degrees Celsius. Twixt these two extremes, the central valley (the crater) has a pleasant, sunny climate with daytime temperatures ranging from 18 to 28 degrees Celsius. Nights in the valley sometimes dip below 10 degrees, but not often.

For hundreds of years the island had two very different cultures. For geographical reasons only, these cultures lived in virtual isolation. The highlanders, the "Montabs" are an industrious, religious people content only with the

cold temperatures and rarified atmosphere of the mountains. Their societal structure is patriarchal in nature. As late as the year 1940 they were still known to be following their custom of offering the occasional human sacrifice to a sun god.

The lowlanders are known as the "Asados". They are a jolly, seemingly carefree people, with a matriarchal societal structure (if "structure" is the correct term). The Asados could not properly be called industrious. Perhaps they have little reason to be! Fruit is naturally abundant; vegetables grow with little care; and the ever-present Asado offspring are content to while away much of their time fishing in the surf and island streams. Besides, as almost any of the friendly Asados will tell you, it's really too hot to think much about what the "Euros" call work.

The Euros now constitute the island's third culture. They began settling on the island in 1918 after a German explorer found a fairly accessible pass leading from the lowlands into the internal valley (crater) area. Today the descendants of the original settlers live in the modern, bustling city located almost on top of the centre of the old volcano. With the advent of computer-managed banking, and the perfection of global satellite communications networks, the island's only true city has become a monetary centre, threatening to put Switzerland in second place as the world's money haven.

To this day little mixing of the three island cultures has occurred. The Montabs, besides being naturally aloof, have strict religious laws which prohibit it. Those few who have drifted down to the bright city lights know that they can never return. The Euros have attempted to provide modern medical and educational facilities for the two indigenous cultures. Their efforts have met with some success among the lowlanders, but nearly none in the mountains. Some Asados displayed an interest, or at least a curiosity, in big city life during the Fifties, but the majority of those who tried it found the Euro's work ethic not at all to their liking.

THE 1978 CENSUS

The federal government of Platisla commissioned a census of the island nation in 1975, the first ever to be undertaken officially. Because it was the first, several years of planning were necessary. Population zones were enumerated, a system of national identification code numbers was

devised and implemented, and census missions were sent to lowlands and highlands areas to prepare the *populus* and local officials.

Information was collected on several characteristics of the people of Platisla. Originally, the information was verbally requested by each census taker and recorded on a standard census field data collection form. Later these forms were numerically coded so that the information could be computer processed.

Although a lot of data was collected in 1978 by the census commission, not all of it has been released to researchers. Listed below are eleven "variables", or characteristics of the *populus*, which have been approved for distribution by the Platislan government.

Variable 1: "ZONE" : Population zone code.

The population zone codes devised by the 1975 census commission are based on a two-digit code number. For the 1978 census data, the codes are as follows:

Numbers 11, 12, 13, 14 : denote highlands zones.

Numbers 31, 32, 33 : denote valley (crater) zones. B-3

Numbers 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78: denote lowlands zones.

In the data banks derived from the 1978 census, the ZONE code for an individual is that in which the person had established permanent residence at the time of the census.

Variable 2: "SEX": Respondent's sex.

The sex of each respondent was numerically coded as 1 for males, 2 for females.

Variable 3: "CULT": Respondent's culture type.

In the census codes, a 1 represents an Asado, a 2 a Euro, a 3 a Montab.

Variable 4: "AGE": Respondent's age in years at census time.

For census purposes, age was taken as the number of years completed as of the respondent's last birthday.

Ages given in the 1978 census were recorded during the period 1 October 1978 to 31 January 1979.

Variable 5: "HEIGHT": Respondent's height in centimetres.

Variable 6: "WEIGHT": Respondent's weight in kilograms.

Variable 7: "HAND": Respondent's hand dominance.

In the census data, a code of 1 indicates that the respondent was left handed; a 2 means right handed; a 3 signifies that neither hand was dominant; a code of 9 indicates that, for whatever reason, the respondent's hand dominance could not be determined.

Variable 8: "PARED": Educational level of parents.

The census commission developed an index to summarize the collective formal education level of each respondent's parents.

For each parent, a code value of 1 was applied if he or she had completed at least three years of education; a 2 for six years; a 3 for twelve years; and a 4 for fifteen years or more.

These were then added to give the "PARED" index for each respondent.

For example, if an Asado's mother had completed four years of education, that would be assigned a value of 1. If the father had completed, say, two years of education, that would be assigned a value of 0. The sum of these two values would then form the "PARED" index for the respondent, which in this case would be 1.

Variable 9: "LANG": German language ability.

A test of language proficiency was given each respondent. A perfect score, 100, indicates excellent command of both spoken and written German.

Variable 10: "MATH": Four-function arithmetic ability.

Each respondent over the age 9 years was tested for his/her ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide. The test involved 25 questions for each of these functions. Calculators were not allowed. Instructions for taking the test were given in the language of the respondent's choice.

Variable 11: "EXTRO": Index of extroversion.

The "outgoingness" of each respondent was assessed, and expressed on a 15-point scale, with low numbers signifying introversion and high numbers indicating extroversion.

THE HIGHLANDS ADOLESCENT DATA BANK

Several subsets of the 1978 Census Data Bank have been compiled by the Platislan Ministry of the Interior and made available to researchers. Among them is the subset published under the title of the "1978 Highlands Adolescent Data Bank", or the "HADB".

The HADB has information regarding all of the eleven population variables mentioned above for young Montabs with a reported age of 13 to 16 years, inclusive. The HADB has approximately 600 records of information, one for each of the highlands adolescents.

For research and data processing purposes, each entry in a Platislan data bank subset is indexed by an identification, or "ID", number. It is important to note that this number bears absolutely no relation to the person's national identification code; the numbers were assigned sequentially by a computer program, and all data bank records were randomly shuffled by the computer before the ID numbers were attached to them, thus ensuring confidentiality.

The Ministry of the Interior of Platisla is pleased to make data bank subsets available to any and all qualified researchers. It is felt that the particular uniqueness of the country, wherein three very distinct cultural groups live in harmony and virtual independence, may provide social scientists with an extraordinary opportunity to develop and test theories of interest. The Ministry wishes to remind researchers of the agreement made when the data bank subset was supplied, viz., that the publication of research reports based in whole or in part on the 1978 Platisla Census Data Bank or any subset of it is not permitted without the prior written approval of the Ministry.

[Click here](#) to branch to the actual data.

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