PREFACE

We hope this book will be useful to civil servants in charge of development planning as well as to future planners during their university education. It tries to provide building blocks rather than a completed building. A number of features characteristic of development programs are dealt with in a systematic way. The expository principle underlying the book, whereby each feature is presented in the simplest conceivable way, is due to the great master of one of us, Paul Ehrenfest.

The book uses mathematics, since we think the subject requires it. The mathematics used are modest, however, and within reach of those who have followed calculus and algebra courses, with some slight extensions which can be mastered for the purpose without much trouble. The emphasis is on the economic significance of the subject matter.

The choice of the models treated is not arbitrary, but in our opinion represents the main contribution we have to offer. We have deliberately left out some approaches, well known from theoretical literature, which we think are not of much practical value. To be sure the reverse is not true: we have indulged in a few topics which are not practically applicable either, but which are thought to contribute to understanding.

We are aware of our own limitations and shall welcome any comments our readers may care to make.

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