is of current interest as Micronesian leaders negotiate the political future of their islands with an awareness of the interrelationship that exist between economic and political development. Although the report was written in 1946, the present edition of the University of Hawaii Press is a facsimile reproduction of the 1951 edition expanded by a foreword by John Griffin, editorial page editor from the Honolulu Advertiser.

The report is the summary of an economic survey conducted by a team of twenty-three specialists during the summer of 1946 under the sponsorship of the United States Commercial Company (USCC), a branch of the wartime Foreign Economic Administration. The purpose of the survey, which was concerned with Guam and the former Japanese Mandated Islands, was “to assist Naval Military Government in its task of administering these islands.” Douglas L. Oliver, the editor, was a member of the team. Currently, Dr. Oliver is professor of Pacific Anthropology at the University of Hawaii and is also author of several books on the Pacific.

The report is divided into four parts with additional notes at the end of each chapter regarding changes in Micronesia between the time the survey was done, 1946, and the time of publication, 1950. The foreword is extremely valuable in that not only provides data about the last two decades but also gives good insights into the subject.

The first part of the report presents the geographic and human setting of the six different districts, Guam included—a total land area of 901.4 square miles and a total number of 2,137 islets which show four different types of geologic structure. The total population at the time of the survey is listed as 73,132 with the birth rate exceeding the death rate.

In the next three parts the basic needs and resources as well as income and institutional needs are discussed. Great importance is given to land and the Micronesian concept of land ownership. According to this concept, an area that might be referred to as “no-man’s land” does not exist even though landmarks might not be visible and documents might not be readily available. This concept, the report states, clashed with the official attitude of the
Japanese who considered as public domain and state property all those lands which were not actually continuously in use. Moreover, the report proposes, as an urgent need, the disposal of those lands which the Japanese declared government land and opened to Japanese immigrants.

The report recommends that the United States Administration should establish for residents of the islands a level of income that is at least equal to that which existed under the Japanese prior to the war. A brief résumé is included of the prewar economy in Micronesia. The approach suggested is based on a native self-sufficiency, particularly in foodstuffs and labor. Copra production as well as development of offshore fishing and of the handicraft industry are stressed.

The last part treats institutional needs: weights and measures, finance, public facilities, transportation, communication, conservation, and education for economic development. Emphasis is placed upon development of adequate transportation facilities between Micronesia and outside areas. Conservation of natural resources such as soil, water, native plants, and animals is also stressed.

The report as a whole reflects the progress during the period of the Japanese Mandate, war damage, and the obligation which the United States inherited when it assumed the obligation of providing for the economic well being of the Micronesian people. The notes at the end of each part reflect efforts made under Navy Rule which were not continued in the 1950's.

In addition, some of the recommendations of the survey are in the process of being implemented. One of them, the Land Cadaster program, was finally launched on January 1970 to provide for a rapid program of surveying and land ownership registration throughout Micronesia. Also, a bill authorizing a total of a $25 million to pay World War II and post-secure damage claims was passed in the United States Congress in June 1971.

Since the report was written, Guam, as a United States territory, has followed a different path from that of the other islands of the Trust Territory and Guam is now enjoying a booming economy.

Planning Micronesia's Future is a valuable source which presents a Micronesian approach to economic development with respect for the traditional values and a concern for the preservation of the fragile island ecosystem.—MARIA TERESA DEL VALLE, Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam, Agana, Guam.