

**S. Nihal Singh: The Yogi and the Bear. A Study of Indo-Soviet Relations.**

New Delhi: Allied Publishers 1985, 324 S.

This subject has been dealt with extensively by Indian, Soviet, and Western scholars over a long period. In various ways it has served for case studies of Moscow's Third World policy since 1955, the year Khrushchev and Bulganin 'discovered' India and set new patterns after the Stalin era. Present-day authors can thus build a new broad base of accumulated knowledge but also have to be measured as to how far they have been able to break new ground.

Nihal Singh is a senior journalist of wide esteem as newspaper editor and opinion-builder. In the late 1950's, he was The Statesman's correspondent in Moscow and up to this day the only full-time Indian newspaper representative there (p.236) which is significant by itself. Nihal Singh wrote this book while on a fellowship in the United States, drawing extensively on own reports and analyses of previous decades but also taking in much of the available source material. The result is remarkable although the method employed, 'the narrative rather than the purely analytical form' (Introduction), makes reading at times cumbersome, the more as the field covered is much wider than bilateral relationship indicated in the title. The author tries in fact to present his subject in the context of main features of Indian foreign, domestic, and economic policies since independence which is a tall order for anyone.

The main thrust of this study is that India has gone far, if not yet too far, towards dependence on the Soviet Union. An important criterion, he stresses, is not so much the arms relationship but trade. In this area, Indian firms have such a stake in exporting to the Soviet Union that Moscow possesses a handle by which it can apply political pressure on an Indian government, witness the temporary cut-off of orders in 1983 which was meant to bring the point home. 'The Soviet Union exercises tremendous leverage through the major, and, in some instances, the sole importer of Indian products manufactured in large parts of the country' (p.235). Lately, crude and oil products have constituted over 80 per cent of Soviet exports to India. A Soviet trade representative asked his Indian audience, 'Can you give an example of any country supplying you with oil and oil products and buying in exchange garments and other consumer items?' (p.203) This pattern has to be taken into account when one assesses the prospects for change in Indian economic policies.

The author sees the 1971 friendship treaty as an important Soviet achievement to which Moscow will tenaciously hold on and which, due to the nature of the overall relationship, could not be renounced by an Indian government in the foreseeable

future. In 1969, Indira Gandhi had felt the need for such an instrument of outside support, mainly for domestic reasons; consequently it was prepared but held in abeyance until 1971 when it seemed indispensable as a security shield. Soon afterwards, it became increasingly expendable for New Delhi, but for Moscow it remains important in the context of 'Asian collective security' in which India would be assigned 'a junior partnership' (p.232). Through Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has now entered South Asia directly, thereby setting the limits of India's regional role (p.237). Pakistan might be coopted at a later stage – an issue of pervasive concern for New Delhi. As one alternative option Nihal Singh suggests a more imaginative use of the China card, but it seems that he over-estimates Chinese willingness to abdicate claims (the border issue), not to mention the sharing of power in Asia with an India whose freedom of action continues to be hemmed in by domestic and regional conflicts. Another option for gaining national independence would be an Indian decision to go nuclear which the author sees rapidly approaching although he does not advocate it. 'In all likelihood, both India and Pakistan will become nuclear powers before the next decade arrives' (p.241). This reviewer tends to be less fatalistic in this respect, but the danger is certainly there.

Nihal Singh's views may not be shared by too many in the political establishment, but his voice is a refreshing sober one, and the author's main asset is the fact that in his journalistic capacity he has proven correct in the assessment of many previous developments. Some might also remember that in the difficult years of Indira Gandhi's emergency (1975–1977) he stood out as a rare example of fore-sightedness and of personal courage.

Dieter Braun, Ebenhausen

**Bernd Wullfen: Wörterbuch wirtschaftlicher Begriffe. Indonesisch-Deutsch, Deutsch-Indonesisch**

Kamus Istilah Ekonomi. Bahasa Indonesia, Jerman – Bahasa Indonesia, Brandstetter, Wiesbaden 1985.

Das von Bernd Wullfen aus seiner täglichen Praxis als Leiter des Wirtschaftsdienstes an der Botschaft Jakarta (1980–83) zusammengestellte Wörterbuch ist ein bedeutender Beitrag zu den sich stetig entwickelnden Wirtschaftsbeziehungen zwischen Indonesien und Deutschland. Es ergänzt das ohnehin spärliche Angebot deutsch-indonesischer Wörterbücher um ein bisher sehr vernachlässigtes Gebiet.

Durch seinen übersichtlichen Artikelaufbau, seine Seitenaufteilung mit nur zwei Spalten und kurzen Zeilen bietet das Wörterbuch seinen Benutzern einen schnellen Zugriff zur gesuchten Übersetzung. Besonders erwähnenswert ist auch die