

Angesichts der schnellen, manchmal hektischen, nicht immer geradlinig verlaufenden Entwicklung in China sind manche Details des Buches mittlerweile überholt; das liegt aber an der Natur des Sujets und mindert keinesfalls den Wert der hier vorgelegten grundlegenden Informationen. Zu bemängeln ist die uneinheitliche Transkription chinesischer Namen und Begriffe; von einem Buch, das in den schwierigen chinesischen Markt einführen soll, muß in dieser Hinsicht Präzision gefordert werden.

Erhard Louven, Hamburg

The State of India 's Environment – 1984/85. The Second Citizen 's Report.

New Delhi: Centre for Science and Environment, 1985.

India's economic growth is very encouraging at present, the production of foodgrains has even created a surplus. The "Green Revolution" has progressed and industry seems to emerge from a prolonged recession. But can this growth be sustained? And at what social and ecological cost has this progress been achieved? The "carrying capacity" of India's poor and of an environment threatened by deforestation, soil erosion, overgrazing etc. may prove to be severe limitations for further growth unless economic development is approached from a different angle. Several groups concerned about environmental problems have highlighted such problems in recent years and have done excellent work in getting the people involved in activities which are aimed at correcting policies and projects which are designed without regard for the environment which they will affect. The Centre for Science and Environment is not an apex-organisation of these groups, but in the field of the publication of the results of such work it performs the function of such an organisation. The first "Citizens' Report" published in 1983 was already a major event, it has now been far surpassed by this second report both in depth of research, wide coverage of the field and sheer volume of the evidence presented. The Centre itself is a very small institute which supports itself entirely by the sale of the reports. Anil Agarwal, a young engineer, who heads the Centre and does most of the writing and research coordination draws on the intellectual resources of various local groups whose contributions are fully acknowledged in the report. In fact, one of the particularly attractive features of the report are the detailed case studies of local phenomena which are very skilfully integrated in the chapters of the report which deal with thus general themes as land, water, forests, dams, health, energy, living resources

etc.

The report highlights some of the lesser known problems of ecological devastation which are crucial for India but often escape the notice of technocrats. There is the enormous need of firewood of millions of Indian households which leads to deforestation and a terrible waste of energy. It seems to be a paradox, but wood is now the most expensive form of energy but the only one which the poor can afford. Inefficient but cheap stoves use only five per cent of the energy of the wood burned. The price paid for the wood either in the market or in terms of endless marches of the women who collect fuel wood or shrubs and dried weeds is exorbitant, the method of burning ruins the health of the women, but kerosine and gas which need relatively expensive equipment which could easily be stolen from the poor man's hut or shelter are beyond the reach of the poor. The crisis is fast approaching: Madhya Pradesh, India's largest state with great forests has already banned the export of firewood beyond state limits so as to keep the price within the state at a comfortable level. Re-forestation has not kept up with deforestation. Commercial projects have favoured mono-cultures of eucalyptus trees with all their inherent ecological problems.

Atomic energy on which the Government of India has staked the future of the country's energy supply comes in for a great deal of detailed technical criticism in this report. The prevailing reactor technology in India is both oldfashioned and unsafe and depends on heavy water which is in very short supply. The new technology of the fast breeder with which India wants to achieve independence from external supplies of uranium is hazardous and untried. Health hazards due to exposure to radiation are treated in an cavalier manner by the authorities concerned. Similar criticism is meted out to the chemical industry. The Bhopal disaster is analysed in a great detail in this report.

Throughout the writers of the report are not only concerned with technical problems which are discussed with great attention to detail showing expert knowledge, but also with the fate of the people affected by all these developments and with the need of actively involving them in the control of their environment. The report emphasizes that crucial information is often withheld from the people, it is either shrouded in official secrecy or made available in such a manner that those concerned cannot take note of it. The "Citizens Report" breaks new ground in this respect. It is a masterpiece of technical information presented in a convincing and readable style. Several editions in Indian languages are helping to get the knowledge within easy reach of those who are immediately affected and who will certainly provide an important feedback which will enter into

subsequent reports. Urbanisation which is discussed not in great detail in this report but is seen as a great problem of India's immediate future, will also get more coverage in such subsequent reports. In order to maintain its independence from official control the Centre depends on a wide circulation of its reports and whoever reads them will benefit from them and will recommend them to others.

Dietmar Rothermund, Heidelberg

Takeyoshi Kawashima: "Die japanische Gesellschaft. Familismus als Organisationsprinzip". Übersetzt aus dem Japanischen mit Einführungen und Anmerkungen von Kunihiro Kamiya und Gerd Reinhold.

München: Minerva-Publikation 1985, 245 S. (=Minerva-Fachserie Geisteswissenschaften)

Takeyoshi Kawashima, 1909 geboren, emeritierter Professor für Rechtssoziologie der Universität Tokyo, nimmt einen besonderen Rang in der Geistesgeschichte Nachkriegsjapans ein. Zusammen mit dem Politologen Masao Muruyama, dem Wirtschaftshistoriker Hisao Otsuka, dem Romanisten Takeo Kuwabara und anderen ist er den sogenannten Modernisten zuzurechnen, Intellektuellen, die sich nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg mit großer Vehemenz für die Modernisierung und Demokratisierung der japanischen Gesellschaft einsetzten. Damit zählt Kawashima zu dem in der japanischen Wissenschaft gar nicht so selten anzutreffenden Typ des Forschers, für den Theorie und Praxis untrennbar sind.

Im Gegensatz zu den späteren Bestseller-Autoren aus dem Kreise der Wissenschaft, Chie Nakane und Takeo Doi, deren Werke in deutscher Sprache sogar in Taschenbuchausgaben erschienen sind, sind die Modernisten bei uns, - wenn man vielleicht von Maruyama absieht -, fast unbekannt, obwohl ihre populären Werke nach dem Krieg unter den Studenten aller Fachrichtungen in Japan enorme Lesezahlen erreichten. Der Münchner Soziologe Gerd Reinhold und Kunihiro Kamiya, Professor an der Kansai Universität in Osaka, haben sich nun endlich des Werkes Kawashimas angenommen und etwa zwei Drittel von Kawashimas 1948 erstmals erschienenem Bestseller "Nihon shakai no kazokuteki kosei" (Die familistische Zusammensetzung der japanischen Gesellschaft), der damals mit dem angesehenen Mainichi Kulturpreis (Mainichi shuppan bunka sho) ausgezeichnet wurde, sowie ein Siebenteil seines zweiten berühmten, 1957 erstmals aufgelegten Buches "Ideogogii to shite no kazoku seido" (Familiensysteme als Ideologie) ins Deutsche übersetzt.