

in den konkreten politischen Auseinandersetzungen in den einzelnen Ländern. Daraus erklärt sich auch die Vielfalt und Komplexität der gegenwärtigen Menschenrechtsdiskurse in Ostasien. In allen behandelten Ländern und, so könnte man ergänzen, auch in Taiwan existieren intensive Debatten um Inhalt und Realisierung der Menschenrechte. Dabei geht es um unterschiedliche Auslegungen und verschieden gesetzte Prioritäten, nie jedoch um pauschale Ablehnung. Diese bei allen Gegensätzlichkeiten zu beobachtende grundsätzliche Akzeptanz der Menschenrechtsidee bietet einen Ansatzpunkt für eine pragmatische Politik im Sinne der weberschen Verantwortungsethik. Fazit: Hier liegt ein wichtiger Band vor, dem eine breite Beachtung zu wünschen ist.

Klaus Mühlhahn

In aller Kürze

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard/Mads Kirkebaek (Hrsg.): China and Denmark. Relations since 1674.

Nordic Institute Of Asian Studies, NIAS 2000, 337 Seiten

In May 2000 Denmark and The People's Republik of China celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Denmark was, in fact, one of the first Western countries to enter diplomatic relations with the new government in Peking.

However, Danish-Chinese relations go much further back in history: Denmark has had more or less regular commercial relations with China for at least 250 years. In fact, the first danish ship arrived at the South China Coast in 1676, setting the date of the first commercial link more than 300 years ago. Yet although the relationship has a long history, no single comprehensive account of Sino-Danish relations is available.

This study aims to remedy the lack of research into relations between Denmark and China. The study does not pretend to give the full story, but only aspires to cover some of the more important aspects of the relationship, such as diplomacy , economic and commercial relations, and political affairs. It addresses a period of about 300 years, which will make it possible for the reader to obtain an impression of the long-term processes at play.

Non-Danish will be interested in how a singularly non-imperialistic Danish approach to China has shaped a relationship quite different from the pattern of domination and conflict that have characterized the relations between the Middle Kingdom and the traditional Great Powers of the West.

Verlag/M.U.

Stefan Eklöf: Indonesian Politics in Crisis. The long Fall of Suharto, 1996-98.

Nordic Institute of asean Studies, NIAS 1999, 272 Seiten

Despite severe economic crisis, widespread social unrest and growing pressure for political change, former Indonesian President Suharto's hold on power seemed secure until shortly before his fall in May 1998. However, when the Asian economic crisis hit Indonesia in mid-1997, there was already a widespread feeling that his resignation was long overdue, especially since the legitimacy of his authoritarian regime had been under heavy pressure from an increasingly vocal opposition during the preceding two years. By describing the unfolding events in the two years leading up to Suharto's fall, tracing the economy and social background, analysing the government's response and evaluating the actors around Suharto and in the opposition, this study provides key insights for understanding the process which led to the final fall of Suharto and for understanding the complex political and social map which has emerged in Indonesia in the wake of his resignation.

Verlag/M.U.

Ruth McVey (Hrsg.): Money and Power in provincial Thailand.

Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, NIAS, Denmark 2000, 288 Seiten

Most studies of Southeast Asian economic change have focused on growth in a few big cities with studies of the countryside tending to concern themselves with the social and environmental impact of metropolitan growth. Very few analysts have looked at the middle distance between metropolis and countryside. This is the horizon and focus of this volume, spurred by recent developments in Thailand. In the past decade, the rise of a frequent violent competition for business and political leadership in the Thai provinces – an arena of growing national importance – has drawn attention to how these centres are being transformed by capitalist development. Promising to be a classic in its field, this volume does much to aid our understanding of this transformation.

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