

Es bleibt abschließend noch einmal hervorzuheben, daß der Sammelband einen sehr guten, weil weit gefaßten Einblick in verschiedene Teilaspekte des Hindu-Muslim-Konflikts gibt. Angesichts der vergleichsweise geringen Beschäftigung mit modernen Entwicklungen und Konflikten in Indien und Südasien in Deutschland ist den Herausgebern zu danken, einem breiteren Publikum einen solchen überaus gelungenen und zumeist auch sehr gut lesbaren Einstieg zu ermöglichen, der sich durch seine Differenziertheit wohltuend von den weitverbreiteten Allgemeinplätzen der Medienberichterstattung abhebt. Daß Studierende ein solches Vorhaben mit einem selbstorganisierten Symposium und einer anschließenden Publikation angegangen sind, kann deshalb nicht genug gewürdigt werden. Es bleibt zu hoffen, daß ihr Engagement für die Region durch eine weite Verbreitung des vorliegenden Bandes die wohlverdiente Anerkennung findet.

Christian Wagner

**Dieter Rothermund (ed.): Liberalising India. Progress and Problems**

New Delhi, Manohar Publishers 1996, 200 S. (South Asian Studies; 29)

This comprehensive volume on "Liberalising India" is a collection of papers and comments by the leading Indian Economists including the former Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, which were presented and discussed at a seminar in January 1996 at New Delhi convened by the editor Prof. Rothermund of the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg. In addition to these papers the volume contains an introductory chapter by the editor himself.

This compilation differentiates itself significantly from the current literature on general debates about advantages and disadvantages of liberalising Indian Economy. The approach of the said seminar and so also of the papers and discussions of this volume is a pragmatic one. It does not aim at confirming or refuting neo-classical theory which is the starting point of the process of liberalisation, as Rothermund states in the Preface of this book. The main thrust of the deliberations of the seminar was to address to the problems of the inadequacies of the institutional framework as constraints to the process of liberalisation in Indian Economy.

The book begins with a very important chapter by Rothermund on "India's Liberalisation in Historical Perspective". According to Rothermund Indian economy was an open one of the colonial type at the beginning of the Twentieth Century under British rulers. He then gives a brief history of the development of interventionist state during the second World War and the emergence of the institutional framework of Indian Administrative Service (which was known as the steel frame to keep India together), Planning Commission, Public Sector Units of the commanding heights (which have now become the sick industries) in the course of time to today's date. While analysing the ambivalent relationship between India and the World Bank and the IMF on one side and the problems of foreign debts as well as the issue of balancing the budget on the other Rothermund considers the balance of payments crisis of 1991 in India as a boon in disguise, as it strengthened the resolve of the government of India to go ahead with internal liberalisation. Rothermund stresses the needs

of reorganising, rationalising and if necessary elimination of certain old institutions in the light of New Institutional Economics.

In his inaugural address the former Finance Minister Manmohan Singh gives the salient features of the government's liberalisation policy and the programmes to combat the problems of inflation, poverty, infrastructural bottlenecks among others. He stresses the role of local governments like Panchayati Raj institutions for strengthening the delivery system for basic social services. While appreciating the progress achieved so far, he asserts the fact that "we have a long unfinished agenda before us" (p. 27).

The other eight papers cover the four problem areas of strategic importance, as follow :

- Strategies of Privatisation: An Approach to the Oil Industry by Vijay Kelker, Petroleum Secretary, Govt. of India;
- Discussant's Comment to above paper, by Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI;
- Food Trends, Public Distribution System and Food Security Concerns, by R. Radhakrishna, of ICSS-R, New Delhi;
- Discussant's Comment to the above paper, by V. M. Rao of ISEC, Bangalore;
- Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Nets, by S. Guhan of the Madras Institute of Development Studies;
- Discussant's Comments to the above paper, by Suresh Tendulkar of Delhi School of Economics;
- The Impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme on Industrial Employment and Industrial Relations, by L. K. Deshpande, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay;
- Discussant's Comment to the above paper, by Ajit Ghose, ILOSAT, New Delhi.

Each of these papers and the comments to it outline the major problems of these sectors and evaluate critically government policies and instruments used so far to tackle these problems. Dr. Kelker and Dr. Amit Mitra show, for example, the implications of the instrument of "administered price" in oil and energy sectors of the Indian Economy and maintain the need of a consensus that government can give up its majority ownership and allow the capital markets to govern the behaviour of oil companies. A specific reference was also made in this context to set up a foundation which would siphon off some parts of the profit of oil companies as it was done in Germany in the course of the post-war privatisation of the Volkswagen company.

Radhakrishna and V. M. Rao give the picture of foodgrain production in India since 1980. They critically examine the problems connected with the access of Public Distribution Services (PDS) by the target group viz. the poor. They question the efficacy of PDS in distributing food to the poor as many empirical studies show the inefficient working of this scheme. The other paper by Guhan and comments by Tendulkar on the topic of poverty alleviation and social safety nets refer to various government schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), MCH, DRAP etc., and raise many questions about their efficiency. According to them for example "IRDP is very thinly spread political handout". Such direct Anti-Poverty Programmes in Indian context is to win political

constituency. They suggest "a shift from such direct government interventistic schemes to a financing institution like NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) and Panchayati Raj would bring a desirable transfer-efficiency to the poor". The final paper deals with "The Impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme on Industrial Employment and Industrial Relations" by Deshpande. The significant question addressed here was that of "deregulation" of the labour market and the safety net in the absence of publicly funded social security. A considerable attention was given to the issue of "exit policy" and to the role of BIFR (Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction) in the discussion of this paper. The role of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) was also discussed at length in this context.

By and large, this volume presents a concise picture of the progress of the liberalisation of Indian Economy and reveals that a number of steps are still needed toward internal institutional reforms.

The book contains a detailed bibliography to each of this topic, making it useful for students and researchers as well as policymakers for further research. Unfortunately, the readers are left to find out the details of the abbreviations used in some papers. Nevertheless, this book is of significant interest on quite a few counts of institutional aspects of liberalising Indian Economy. The material in this volume is a little more specialized than that covered in other existing literature on the subject. The editor Rothermund deserves a great deal of compliments for doing this arduous work of compiling these papers.

Sushila Gosalia

**Rüland, J. (ed.): The Dynamics of Metropolitan Management In Southeast Asia**  
Singapore: ISEAS, 1996, 260 S.

Die politische Unabhängigkeit und das nachfolgende ökonomische Wachstum der südostasiatischen Staaten haben dazu beigetragen, daß auch ihre urbanen Siedlungen nach dem 2. Weltkrieg/Pazifikkrieg einen enormen Aufschwung erfuhren. Besonders die Hauptstädte profitierten hiervon in einem Maße, daß sie in den jeweils unumstrittenen Rang als "primate city" ihrer Länder aufstiegen bzw. diesen festigen konnten. Sie alle weisen heute über eine Million Menschen auf; Jakarta, Bangkok und Manila haben inzwischen die 10-Millionen-Marke fast erreicht oder gar überschritten, so daß sie alle vor gewaltigen Managementproblemen stehen.

Nach einem Vorwort des Herausgebers werden von verschiedenen Autoren auf jeweils 25-30 Seiten Organisationsstrukturen und Verwaltungsfunktionen der Metropolen Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore und Yango/Rangun abgehandelt. Dabei zeigt sich immer wieder, daß diesen urbanen Zentren innerhalb ihres Landes die zu erwartende herausgehobene Bedeutung zukommt, welche gelegentlich sogar bis hin zur Konkurrenz der politisch agierenden Gruppen in Staat und Mega-Stadt reichen kann. Es sei in diesem Zusammenhang z.B. auf die große Popularität des ehemaligen Gouverneurs von Jakarta Ali Sadikin (1966-77)