

legende Inhalte konzentriert sich Flick auf die „Harmonie der (fünf) Völker“ und den „Königlichen Weg“.

Im Bezug auf die unterschiedlichen Lehrmaterialien für chinesische und japanische SchülerInnen stellt er dabei eine bemerkenswerte Widersprüchlichkeit hinsichtlich der japanischen Rolle in der Mandschurei fest: Die japanischen de-facto-Machthaber taten sich schwer, die japanische Bevölkerungsgruppe als gleichberechtigten Bestandteil in Mandschukuo zu integrieren und konzentrierten sich in der Erziehung auf Japans Rollen als Führer und Beschützer.

Nach einer übersichtlichen Zusammenfassung (3.4) kontrastiert Flick in einem abschließenden Exkurs die Ergebnisse der vorangegangenen Unterkapitel mit der Kolonialerziehung in Taiwan und Korea. Er stellt fest, dass sich – anders als in der Mandschurei – für beide Gebiete eine aggressive Assimilationspolitik nachzeichnen lässt, die auf eine „eindeutige Tendenz zur Negierung der individuellen Geschichte“ (S. 297) hinweist. Flick spricht deshalb von einem „mandschurischen Sonderweg“ (S. 302). Denn obgleich sich im Zuge der Japanisierung, Militarisierung und Faschisierung in der unmittelbaren Kolonie Guandong und im Marionettenstaat Mandschukuo assimulative Tendenzen verstärkten, unterscheidet Flick diese von der „Gleichschaltung der Erziehung“ in den alten Kolonien Taiwan und Korea.

Zwar betrachtet Flick die japanische Kolonialgeschichte der Mandschurei mit einem engen Fokus auf Erziehungsfragen, er versteht es aber, die Ergebnisse mit einer gut aufgearbeiteten japanischen Sekundärliteratur zu verknüpfen, die einer interessierten Leserschaft weitere Perspektiven eröffnet. Gleichzeitig ist die Lektüre all jenen nahezu legen, die sich für Fragen der Geschichtserziehung in Schulbüchern, die japanische Kolonialgeschichte oder den Themenkomplex Mandschukuo allgemein interessieren.

Simon Preker

Sayo Saruta: Without Dreams. Children in Alternative Care in Japan

O. O.: Human Rights Watch, 2014. 119 S., (e-book)

Human Rights Watch has recently published this substantial study and survey on the situation of the 39.000 children in institutions in Japan, and found significant shortcomings in the management and operations of the system, notably the preference of institutional large accommodation over foster families, the absence of family court decisions, the frequency of staff changes, an upbringing in an fashion alienated from mainstream society and generally socially and mentally deprived future lives of the former inmates as a result. Given vested bureaucratic interests in running the institutions forces for change are weak, according to Human Rights Watch's analysis.

In detail:

The study was originally motivated by interest in the fate of the 241 children orphaned by the Tsunami of March 11, 2011. It was quickly found that they, supported by an outpouring of public sympathy, had almost all been placed with relatives (uncles, aunts and grandparents) and were as a rule well taken care of. The real discovery however was the fate of the 39.047 children living in care institutions, not because they were orphaned, but because child welfare officials had assessed their parents to be unable or unwilling to care for them properly. 85% of them are placed in large state-run institutions, and only the rest individually or in small groups living in foster families, a tiny group (300) was adopted in 2011.

Children in the large institutions live in crowded dormitories and share bathrooms and dining rooms with no privacy. As care workers work in shifts and change frequently there is no possibility of bonding. Although officially discouraged, there is still plenty of slapping and kicking by the care workers as well as bullying by the older children towards the weaker ones. As they

are run as bureaucratic institutions the main objective is safety and the prevention of incidents. Hence activities are restricted and contacts to the outside world are very limited. As the children cannot cope with the traumas suffered from past abuse or neglect, they suffer from developmental delays and intellectual or emotional disabilities.

Given their social isolation, the stigma associated with a youth institution and no access to higher education, the “careers” available to them after discharge at age 18 are those of low income menial jobs. One additional difficulty is the need for a guarantor for anything like opening a bank account or renting an apartment. Also they usually lack funds for acquiring driving licences which are a requirement for construction workers or craftsmen. Often enough homelessness and a life in the lower margins of society are the result.

The preferable alternative would be foster families. Comparable rates in Australia are at 94%, US 77%, UK 72%, France 55%, Germany and Italy 50% — whilst Japan stands at 12% only. Foster parents are registered with only minimal qualifications (married households with one homemaker and no criminal record) and almost no training. They receive a stipend of 70.000 Yen/month per child. But are mostly only used to cope with overcrowding of the institutions. There have been incidents in the past of abuse or even murders in foster families. Hence foster parents are held in little regard by the local child guidance centres, who as general municipal workers are not trained as child social workers and also don't have the resources for counselling and inspection visits.

In spite of being clearly dysfunctional and expensive the current system hence favours the bureaucratic structures of the institutions, whose revenues are based on the stipends per number of children they admit. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has introduced a “third party committee” monitoring process, which however is seen as

pure formality with no practical purpose by notables with no pertinent qualifications. Human Rights Watch rather demands the strengthening of the foster family system, with proper training, guidance and supervision, decisions by family courts, the encouragement of adoptions during early childhood as well as the closure of the current institutions. These appear as very sensible requests and conclusions in a depressingly well researched and argued substantial research report.

Albrecht Rothacher