

Biographienteil keine Berücksichtigung mehr finden. Aber wo bleiben etwa die Direktoren der Staatlichen Administration für Zivilluftfahrt (CAAC) und der Nationalen Tourismusverwaltung, die Präsidenten des Chinesischen Industrieverbands, der Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Sozialwissenschaften, der Nachrichtenagentur Xinhua? Bei aller Einsicht in die Beschränkung der Auswahl an leitenden Personen bei den Staatsratsorganen bleibt da ein großes Fragezeichen. Doch trotz all dieser Kritikpunkte ist der Band ein äußerst nützliches Nachschlagewerk für "einen potenziellen Partner, Konkurrenten oder auch nur einen interessierten Beobachter", wie es zu Recht im Vorwort heißt. Und wer hier nicht fündig wird, der kann im Internet unter www.chinavitae.com seine Suche starten. Die englischsprachige Datenbank aus Washington/DC, die inzwischen frei zugänglich ist, bietet biographische Daten zu fast 2.500 chinesischen Führungspersönlichkeiten.

Liu Jen-Kai

**Scott A. Waldron, Colin G. Brown,
John W. Longworth: Rural Development in China – Insights from the Beef Industry**

Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003, 298 S., 49,95 GB£

This book on the relationship between industry development and overall rural development is of interest on a number of analytical levels: first, the Chinese cattle and beef industry is an industry which only emerged during the post-1978 reform era and has been virtually non-existent before. Thus, a case study of this industry is refreshing if only for the fact that for once the authors do not have to dwell on the numerous inherited burdens and their impact on transforming and modernizing the industry under consideration. Second, the book illustrates the conditional relationship between industry development via targeting special industries

and rural development in general. The authors point to many instances in which state-induced growth, that is, in most cases, extensive growth in the form of increases in production output, had an adverse effect on rural development, resulting in declining incomes due to over-supply or the marginalization of small-scale and household producers through large-scale industrial corporations. Third, despite its clearly economic focus, this industry case study is interesting for the political scientist and law expert concerned with China as well. The case of the beef industry illuminates how institutional and structural arrangement preclude efficient and informed decision-making at all levels; moreover, the still only incipient implementation of the rule of law impacts upon the establishment of reliable business relationships through enforceable business contracting and causes continuous reliance on informal business practices.

It is a very technical book, and the authors strictly refrain from ruminations over potential social corollaries of failing rural development initiatives. The book is meticulously organized in an almost textbook-like fashion, with introductions and conclusions to every chapter and even small sections; the authors do a lot of signposting in the attempt to capture the complexity and interrelatedness of the *problematique*. The study provides an overview of market and administrative reform measures implemented in China, yet always focuses on those issues pertaining in particular to rural industries and rural development. A comprehensive introduction to the organizational structure of and major actors involved in the cattle and beef industry is followed by a detailed illustration of growth dynamics and segmentation of the industry and an explication on how emerging market structures and government initiated industry integration processes impact upon the direction of the industry.

The second part of the book focuses on the institutional framework under which the industry operates and introduces a number of

pillars of this framework, including the role of the CCP, the government apparatus including the various ministries as well as industry associations and agricultural research institutions. Here we encounter the typical muddle of bureaucratic hierarchies, overlapping responsibilities of government bodies, and the conflicts between central directives and local know-how, well-known to everybody studying institutional reforms in China. The authors, however, do a good job in always keeping an eye on their specific case – the beef industry.

The third part of the book is the most interesting as it brings together policy directives on one hand and industry as well as rural development on the other hand. The authors evaluate reform policies and strategies of the government with regard to achieving the goal of sustainable rural development. On a macroeconomic level the authors make a case for facilitating instead of targeting policies. This specifically includes the facilitation of an efficient market and market information systems and the establishment and enforcement of a law-based system. The absence of accessible industry information is one reason for oversupply and subsequently diminishing income levels.

On a micro- or industry-specific level the authors argue that the major potential of the industry lies in the mid-value market segment because this segment could best facilitate broad-based participation and thus widespread development. While the low market segment – which consists of literally tens of millions of households which were encouraged to raise one or two heads of cattle – inevitably led to over-production in the absence of transparent market information systems, the high value market "will continue to be serviced by large-scale, agro-industrial systems that marginalize or exclude smaller rural actors" (p.251). A focus on the mid value market segment however would serve a number of social objectives which feature prominently with regard to the cattle and beef industry: poverty alleviation,

the environment, and food safety. All of these issues and their relationship with the larger problem of rural development are addressed in detail. The authors also point to specific strategies, such as the establishment of designated slaughter points, which can foster co-operation between household producers and group producers or traders and facilitate specialization, higher hygiene standards, inspection, and certification for better access to the mid value market segment.

Despite the concentration on but one industry targeted for the purpose of rural development, the authors poignantly relate to the issue of rural development – arguably the most important developmental objective of the Chinese state today – wherever possible. It is a well-researched book, based on extensive fieldwork, and employs a very technical and pragmatic analytical approach to the complex issue of rural development.

Karin-Irene Eiermann

Jonathan Unger: The Transformation of Rural China

New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2002, 256, IX S., US\$ 23,95 (Softcover)

Kaum ein Tag, an dem nicht über China berichtet wird. Angesichts der hohen Wachstumsraten und des noch ungenutzten Marktpotenzials richtet sich der Blick vieler Investoren auf die boomenden Städte an der Ostküste. Vergessen wird darüber vielfach, dass auch heute noch die Mehrheit der chinesischen Bevölkerung auf dem Lande lebt und hier die wirtschaftlichen Bedingungen denen in den Städten keineswegs entsprechen. Nicht von ungefähr hat die chinesische Regierung zu Beginn des Jahres 2004 ein Hauptaugenmerk auf die Anhebung der ländlichen Einkommen gerichtet, muss sie doch sonst über kurz oder lang mit größerer Unzufriedenheit in Chinas Dörfern rechnen. Die Lektüre des Buches von Jonathan Unger könnte hier das nötige Hintergrundwissen