

JAMES P. DORIAN, *Minerals, Energy, and Economic Development in China*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994. 304 pages, £ 40.00, ISBN 0-19-828744-5.

Although China's mining industry is one of the largest in the world, first in coal production, sixth in petroleum output and holding a leading position in several metallic and non-metallic resources, there are few comprehensive and systematic studies on its development since the country introduced a Soviet-style central planning system in 1949. For someone interested in the overall role played by the mining sector in producing rapid growth in the Chinese economy, *Minerals, Energy and Economic Development in China* is the place to find it. This book gives a detailed survey of China's mining industry (including metals, non-metals and mineral fuels), examining both its internal development and relationship to other sectors of the economy. Furthermore, the author provides a case study of State involvement in the country's economic development, analysing the nature, process and reform of central planning and its influence on the mineral and energy production and consumption patterns in China.

"The overall objective of the book is to define thoroughly the characteristics of the Chinese mining industry based on past and present performance" (p. 14). To this end the author has made a successful attempt to develop an analytical framework for understanding the present status and growth prospects of the industry, in terms of output, consumption, trade employment and impact on economic development, as well as for assessing the extent to which the structure and development of the industry has been affected by central planning.

The book consists of three parts. The first part (Chapters 1, 2 and 3) examines the development of China's mining industry since the founding of the People's Republic of China and its relationship to the central planning process. Output levels of main products in China's mining industry since 1952 are documented in four distinct periods. The first period (1953-1960) was characterised by positive and rapid growth in the industry until the disastrous effects of the Great Leap Forward. Mining development during the second period (1960-1971) was noted for instability and erratic behaviour. The third and fourth periods, covering the years from 1971 to 1980 and 1980 to the present are characterised by both positive and strong growth. In particular, market-oriented economic reforms in the fourth period have changed the character of the industry dramatically. Because China's mining industry did not develop in isolation from other sectors of the national economy, its interrelationships with agriculture for example are briefly reviewed. The analysis reveals an important linkage between

China's agriculture and the mining industry, namely, the mobility of the rural labour force which is increasingly entering a more profitable profession – mining.

China's complicated process of mineral and energy planning is described, with the emphasis on the three planning tracks in the development and implementation of policies: mining – enterprise, State Planning Commission – planning section/division, and provincial government – enterprise. From 1949, mineral and energy development strategies in China were based on domestic needs for industry, employment levels, technology availability and export opportunities. The sectors such as iron and steel, coal and petroleum were most crucial to China's overall economy and generally received priority in China's economic plans and development strategies. Even in periods of economic chaos such as the Cultural Revolution, capital investment levels in these sectors remained high.

The second part (Chapters 4, 5 and 6) of the book describes the economic characteristics of China's mining industry in terms of geological conditions, mineral endowments, production, consumption and trade, and examines its growing foreign economic relations. Despite her huge mineral and energy endowment, China's huge population of more than 1.1 billion people means that the mineral and energy position per capita is below that of most other resource-rich countries. In addition, poor quality or remote locations of the deposits make them very costly and difficult to exploit.

Production and investment in China's mining industry is largely controlled and supervised by the government, but the organisational structure of control and supervision is rather complicated. The current organisational structure of the entire mining industry was thoroughly revised in an attempt to initiate more efficient operations, provide more incentives and attract foreign investors.

The mineral and energy trade accounts for about 14 percent of China's total trade turnover, with exports estimated at \$ 11.08 billion, imports at \$ 7.71 billion in 1991. The mineral and energy trade balance was positive in 1991, with a surplus of \$ 3.37 billion. However, the export value of petroleum and petroleum products has declined since 1985, and imports of the goods are rising. By the mid-1990s China may become a net importer of petroleum (p. 183).

While direct foreign investment in China has increased tremendously, it has been less than expected in mining exploration and development activities, with the exception of offshore and onshore oil and gas ventures. Foreign investment in China's mining industry largely depends on international perceptions of investment opportunities, benefits, and drawbacks in

the country. Though the relevance of many laws to the mining industry is unclear, there are obvious weaknesses in the laws guiding minerals and energy exploration and development, and the regulations regarding equity joint ventures involving domestic and foreign investment are slightly outdated (p. 238). The uncertainty about legal issues concerning direct foreign investment has been greatly reduced in China since the late 1980s.

To understand the direct or indirect economic impact of China's mining industry on the output, income, and employment of other sectors, especially those which supply inputs directly to the mineral-related industries, the author made an input-output analysis of the national economy, demonstrating the interrelationship between mining and the economy. The input-output technique quantitatively and systematically describes China's economy as a system of interdependent sectors, and demonstrates how an initial economic stimulus or change in China's mineral sectors can produce widespread secondary and tertiary effects which are felt throughout the economy.

Examination of the historical development of the Chinese mining industry reveals patterns which shed light on the possible future course of the industry. Part three of the book (Chapters 7 and 8) explores the long-term prospects of mining development in China as well as major government policies for long-term development of the industry. Several problems which may hinder future mineral and energy development in China are outlined: limited foreign investment, the local-centre dichotomy of interests, an irrational pricing system, transportation bottlenecks, environmental degradation and inefficient mining. The analysis points out the conflict between the nation's ambitious long-term economic growth targets and resource availability, which may arise if the Chinese government deals with these problems seriously.

In conclusion it is emphasised by the author that China's mineral and energy industries are critical to the overall economy, as evidenced in all China's economic development plans, where their growth was always considered a priority. With the current modernisation programme under way, China's mining industry is continuing to receive strong support and financial backing from the government, but problems such as general lack of hard currency and rising imports are afflicting the industry. "Today, certain aspects of the Chinese mining industry are very promising. Mineral and energy resources are plentiful in China and have not been fully exploited or utilised. Resources of nearly 160 different kinds of mineral and energy resources have now been identified, while the proven deposit sizes of many resources in China rank very high in the world." (p. 263) How the industry ultimately develops will depend, at least in part, on the pace of

economic reform within the industry. If indeed the nature of central planning in China continues to change in the years ahead, this, in turn, will have a huge impact on mineral and energy development in the country.

Without doubt this book is an important reference work for those studying China's industrial development and system reform. Dorian's empirical analysis of China's mining industry not only tells the story of a single sector of the economy and provides enough material for further studies in this field, but also, perhaps more importantly, offers an analytical approach to a better understanding of the industrial development of the country.

Wang Hao

GUDULA LINCK, *Befähigung anderer Art? Zur Lebenswelt körperlich Behinderter in China*. Pfaffenweiler: Centaurus Verlagsgesellschaft 1995. 219 Seiten, DM 48.—. ISBN 3-89085-952-6.

Ein seltenes Buch, fürwahr. Wer kommt schon auf die Idee, ein Buch über Behinderungen in China zu schreiben? Doch nicht nur das Faktum als solches ist beeindruckend an diesem Buch, sondern die Art und Weise, wie die Kieler Sinologieprofessorin Gudula Linck diese Aufgabe angegangen ist: den historischen Untersuchungen über die Stellung von Behinderten und die Haltungen chinesischer Gesellschaften zu Behinderungen über 200 Jahre hinweg stellt sie die aktuelle Situation gegenüber. Die Gretchenfrage: Inwieweit ist die heutige Situation der Behinderten in der VR China ein Ergebnis historisch tradierten Werte und Einstellungen? Kann man hier von einer gewissen Kontinuität sprechen? Welche gegenwärtigen sozialen und politischen Entwicklungen modulieren historische Traditionen?

Der erste Teil des Buches "Körper, Mängel und Moral. Das Erbe der Geschichte" gibt zunächst einen etymologischen Überblick über verschiedene chinesische Begrifflichkeiten, die Behinderungen um- und beschreiben. Dann folgt eine Sozialgeschichte des versehrten Körpers in China. Die Autorin untersucht die Haltung verschiedener historischer Epochen und sozialer und ideologischer Strömungen zu Behinderungen, hier vor allem die des Daoismus, Konfuzianismus und des Buddhismus. Erstaunlich genug zeigen sich hier mehr Gemeinsamkeiten als Unterschiede. Dem daoistischen 'Lob der Unbrauchbarkeit', der buddhistischen Geringschätzung diesseitigen Lebens gesellt sich die Haltung der Konfuzianer hinzu, die inneren Werte einer Person höher zu schätzen als ihre äußeren. Dennoch bestehen Widersprüche und Brüche, die zu Ambivalenzen gegenüber