

PATRICK ZILTENER, *Regionale Integration in Ostasien. Eine Untersuchung der historischen und gegenwärtigen Interaktionsweisen einer Weltregion*. (Ostasien im 21. Jahrhundert). Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2013. 486 pages, € 49.95. ISBN 978-3-531-17940-7

This book on regional integration in East Asia provides a synthesis of several of Patrick Ziltener's earlier studies on the subject, supplemented by new empirical data.

Overall, the author pursues two objectives. First, he analyses both the historical and the current state of East Asia as a world region and eventually classifies it as such with regard to its economic and political interdependence. Second, he develops a new theoretical framework to approach regional integration.

From the outset, Ziltener bases his detailed elaboration of the historical development of East Asia as a delimited region on extensive empirical data, covering a period of no less than 2000 years. Even though he does not seek to write a history of East Asia (p. 413), he narrowly identifies central mechanisms of regionalization and dense networks of interaction between North- and South-east Asia. The author's examination of the international and transnational exchanges in the region leads him to disagree with the common view that countries like China, Japan and Korea were isolated from foreign contact. Instead, he provides evidence of a multitude of tributary missions and associated trade in the region.

Following the historical overview, Ziltener turns to the latest developments in East Asian integration, which are analysed with a focus on economic and political interactions. Accordingly, he identifies the main determinants of integration trends during the respective time periods: whereas the Chinese tributary system was once one of the main drivers of interaction, now national economic considerations encourage countries in East Asia to intensify their interactions with each other.

The second objective Ziltener pursues with his book is to make a contribution to sociological theory building with respect to integration. He achieves this by developing an innovative approach that combines Immanuel Wallerstein's world-systems theory and the neofunctionalism of Ernst B. Haas and Joseph S. Nye. As a result, he defines regionalization in relative terms so that it can only be comprehended in reference to the encompassing world system. While all units of the system may be interrelated to some degree, a world region is characterized by a significantly greater density of these connections, which manifest themselves economically before political linkages emerge as a result of spill-over effects.

By abandoning comparative approaches that benchmark regions in relation to the European Union and instead applying his universal criteria, Ziltener provides new tools of analysis within the fields of area and integration studies. Thanks to this well-structured approach, the book is also instructive for

scholars outside East Asian studies inasmuch as it is potentially applicable to questions of integration in other regions of the world as well.

At the same time, the embedded interaction analysis renders unnecessary the notion of geographical determinism in that it does not assign geography an important role in the definition of a world region. Although the author admits Southeast Asia may culturally have been more closely related to South Asia, his analysis nevertheless reveals closer economic ties with East Asia.

Despite this opportunity, Ziltener uses an *ex-ante* definition of East Asia by naming in advance the respective nation states that comprise the region in order to follow the tradition of hypothesis testing. Although this is a valid approach, it imposes unnecessary limitations which effectively preclude other countries that might share comparable economic and political links. For example, if it were included in the analysis how would Australia perform, considering that its main export markets are China, Japan and Korea?

With respect to the present state of integration in East Asia, the structure of the book as a compilation of earlier publications has some shortcomings as in some places it lacks clear references to the theoretical framework. Moreover, the focus on interactions only prior to 2005 and the absence of any literature more recent than 2007 relativizes the phrase "present modes of interaction" in the book's title. However, these aspects carry less weight for readers primarily interested in either the theoretical approach or the historical part of the book since they can be read independently.

Overall, the book is well-written, which helps the understanding of the detailed historical material. This is also supported by the clear organization of the study as it first provides an innovative theoretical framework, followed by a well-structured analysis based on extensive empirical data.

*Philipp Olbrich*

EUN-JEUNG LEE, *Yun Ch'i-ho. Ein Intellektueller in einer Transformationszeit*. München: Iudicium, 2012. 126 Seiten, € 8,-. ISBN 978-3-86205-108-3

Yun Chiho lebte von 1865 bis 1945. Sein Leben umfasst somit jene dramatische Zeitspanne von der hermetischen Abschottung Koreas durch die reaktionäre Yi-Dynastie bis zum Ende des Pazifikkrieges. Dem großen koreanischen Reformler und Patrioten wird, wie vielen seiner Zeitgenossen, heute die partielle Zusammenarbeit mit der japanischen Kolonialmacht angelastet. Eun-Jeung Lee von der FU Berlin hat Yuns Werdegang und seine intellektuelle Entwicklung anhand seiner sehr ausführlichen, weitgehend erhalten gebliebenen Tagebuchaufzeichnungen, die er zunächst auf Koreanisch und später auf Englisch verfasste, sehr gelungen und anschaulich nachgezeichnet.