

Indien durch eine zunehmende Differenzierung noch weiter zementiert wird. Dies fördert kommunalistische Aktivitäten. Hier wäre eine kritischere Haltung angebracht gewesen.

Den zweiten Teil des Bandes leitet Jamal Malik mit seinen Ausführungen zum Rat der Islamgelehrten ein. Sämtliche Beiträge beziehen sich auf die Stellung der muslimischen Minderheit. Christina Oesterheld betitelt ihren Artikel „Kein Platz für Muslims in Indien?“ und führt die Schwierigkeiten der Muslims auch als literarische Minderheit in der Indischen Union vor Augen. Sumanta Banerjee problematisiert den seit mehr als 50 Jahren schwelenden Kaschmir-Konflikt und betont dabei nicht nur die Verstrickung der beiden direkt involvierten Staaten Indien und Pakistan, sondern auch die Verantwortung der Vereinten Nationen, die mit ihrer Resolution zwar eine Volksabstimmung zur staatlichen Zugehörigkeit Kaschmirs beschlossen haben, die staatliche Selbständigkeit des Landes aber nicht einmal in Erwägung zogen. Der Beitrag zur kulturellen Identität und zum politischen Islam in Bangladesh von E. Kirleis schließt das Buch ab.

Es fällt auf, daß Kommunalismus fast durchgängig mit dem neuerdings aufkeimenden Hindu-Nationalismus gleichgesetzt wird. Einen Muslim Communalism scheint es nicht oder nur als eine zu vernachlässigende Größe zu geben. Weiter wäre zu fragen, ob dem Minderheitenkomplex der Hindus nicht ein unbewußt (?) gepflegtes Selbstverständnis der Überlegenheit seitens der Muslims entspricht. Sind die Muslims in der indischen Union tatsächlich eine Minorität, die sich ohnmächtig mit kommunalistischer Gewalt konfrontiert sieht und keinerlei eigenständige politische Agitation kennt? Dem Umfang eines solchen Buches sind sicherlich Grenzen gesetzt, doch hätte man das Spektrum der Beiträge ausdehnen sollen. Zweifelsohne aber ist ein wertvoller Anfang gemacht worden, der hoffentlich eine breite Leserschaft finden wird.

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HELMUT BUCHHOLT / THOMAS MENKHOFF (eds.), *Vom Wanderkrämer zum Towkay. Ethnische Chinesen im Prozeß der Modernisierung der asiatisch-pazifischen Region.* (Schriftenreihe Internationales Asienforum, 8). München: Weltforum Verlag, 1996. 223 pages, DM 59,-. ISBN 3-8039-0460-9

An important but often neglected factor in the history of many developing countries are so-called 'trading' or 'middleman minorities'. Being mostly of colonial origins, these minorities have frequently been able to acquire a dis-

proportionately influential and sometimes even dominant position in the economies of their respective host societies. Because of their visible economic success, trading minorities have frequently attracted the wrath of indigenous populations, particularly in times of economic and political crisis.

One of the more well-known middleman minorities is represented by the ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia who, according to most observers, have played a significant role in the spectacular economic success of the region during the past two decades. The present reader edited by Helmut Buchholt and Thomas Menkhoff, two seasoned experts on the Chinese population in Southeast Asia, basically attempts to achieve three closely related purposes: (1) to contribute to a better understanding of the social situation of the ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia, thereby helping to reduce prevailing prejudices against this minority; (2) to shed more light on the historical roots of the Chinese population in the region and their involvement in development processes; and (3) to analyse the particular features of Chinese economic behaviour and to "demystify" their business practices. The essays contained in the reader were first presented in December 1995 during an international conference organized by the Sociology of Development Research Centre of Bielefeld University.

A general conclusion shared by all participants maintains that no single cause can account for the striking economic success of the ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia. The contributors emphasize to a varying degree the combined impact of socio-cultural, economic, and historical-political factors. The first three essays focus on the major reasons for the economic success of the ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia. In her more general discussion of the Southeast Asian Chinese, Karin Tomalla lays particular stress on the significance of cultural factors, such as Confucianism, whereas Heiko Schrader emphasizes the importance of the political-economic framework for the success of Chinese moneylenders in colonial Java, an aspect that also figures large in Buchholt's essay on the Chinese in the Philippines (see below). On the basis of a case study of Chinese small-scale entrepreneurs in Penang, Malaysia, Dieter Borsutzky argues that the Chinese success story is a result of both organizational, entrepreneurial, and cultural factors.

The contributors to the second part of the book focus their attention on the structural features of Chinese business behaviour. Thomas Menkhoff points out that the organizing principles of Chinese trading networks in Singapore have undergone considerable changes in the recent past. Kinship, dialect, and regional background are all losing their previous importance. The contributions by Ingrid Lambertz and Hubertus Pleister appear somewhat misplaced in the present volume. Lambertz's interesting description of her fieldwork among Chinese women entrepreneurs in Singapore does not (yet) contain any substantive findings and, therefore, would have been more

suitable for a book on ethnological research methodology. Pleister's study on entrepreneurial networks in Taiwan is slightly inappropriate in a reader on the Chinese minority of Southeast Asia, since Taiwan is conventionally neither considered a part of Southeast Asia nor does its population comprise anything that might be appropriately referred to as a Chinese "minority".

The third and final part of the reader contains a number of more historically and politically oriented discussions of the development and present situation of the Chinese populations in Indonesia (Mary Somers Heidhues, Yiu-Siu Liem, Ingrid Wessel), the Philippines (Helmut Buchholt), and Malaysia (Werner Vennewald). The three articles on Indonesia are characterized by a considerable overlap with regard to the historical roots of the Chinese population, which could have been avoided. The concluding essay by Vennewald is of particular interest because it provides empirically based arguments against the undifferentiated and exaggerated manner in which the economic and political influence of the Chinese in Southeast Asia has often been treated.

As a whole the reader by Buchholt and Menkhoff may be highly recommended not only for those interested in the phenomenon of the Chinese diaspora but also for anyone desirous of understanding the dynamism behind the present economic development in Southeast Asia and the overseas Chinese contribution to it.

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HANS ANTLÖV, *Exemplary Centre, Administrative Periphery. Rural Leadership and the New Order in Java*. (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Monograph Series 68). Richmond (Surrey): Curzon Press, 1995. xii + 222 pp., 1 map, 3 graph., 2 tables. ISBN 0-7007-0293-8

HANS ANTLÖV / SVEN CEDERROTH (eds.), *Leadership on Java. Gentle Hints, Authoritarian Rule*. (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Studies in Asian Topics; 16). Richmond (Surrey): Curzon Press, 1994. vii + 197 pp. ISBN 0-7007-0295-4

In the wake of the 1997 general elections and in view of the presidential succession in 1998, an investigation into the patterns of leadership in Indonesia, and on Java in particular, seems to be very relevant. Two books, published by the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies in Copenhagen in 1995 resp. 1994, deal with this important aspect of contemporary Indonesian society and politics.