

But, side from these suggestions, the Dictionary is an important contribution to a better understanding of Indonesian developments, for laymen and students of Indonesia alike. It is informative and balanced in its judgements and in some aspects, particular as regards the bibliography, it is better than noted monographs on modern Indonesian history.

Bernhard Dahm

DIRK KAMM, *Thailand auf dem Weg zum Industriestaat? Probleme und Perspektiven des Strukturwandels der thailändischen Wirtschaft in den 80er Jahren*. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 206). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1992. 182 pp. DM 28.-. ISBN 3-88910-101-1.

Thailand has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years. With a per capita income of nearly 1.700 US \$ and the manufacturing sector's share of the GDP approaching 25 percent, Thailand is now on the threshold to becoming a NIC. Kamm's book is an attempt to review Thailand's modern economic history, although the focus of analysis is clearly on the last decade, when the Kingdom's economy advanced in quantum leaps. Kamm examines the underlying planning and decision-making processes that propelled this rapid growth. He portrays a top-heavy, centralized and bureaucratized planning machinery which succeeded in producing impressive economic growth, but at the same time must be held responsible for serious deficiencies such as the rapidly widening social and regional inequities.

Another chapter studies the political and societal developments born of the economic change. Although the author sets out to explore the influences that major societal groups exert on the government's economic policies, the readers misses concrete examples of how major economic interest groups are interlinked with politics and how this affects economic strategies, economic growth, income distribution and the political power equation. (The seminal works of Riggs, Hewison and Suehiro can illustrate the interlinkage).

Another key chapter deals with the major external and internal forces that shaped Thailand's economy during the 1980s. As far as the internal factors are concerned, major consideration is given to rural development, the industrial sector and the financial aspects of economic growth.

Ample space is also devoted to the social problems emanating from Thailand's Bangkok-centered economic growth.

Among the internal factors the author cites an increasing and diversifying foreign trade, the influx of foreign investment and a quite substantial amount of development aid that has benefited Thailand over the years.

The study's strength undoubtedly lies in its profound empirical basis. The author has accumulated a huge amount of data and information and presented them in a readable manner. However, some weaknesses exist when Kamm seeks to explain the causal inter-relationships between economy, society and politics. Nevertheless, this is a very useful book for a wide readership, commendable to students, researchers, economic practitioners and even the interested tourist desirous of learning more about this fascinating country than what tourist guides generally offer.

Jürgen Rüländ

NICOLA SPAKOWSKI, *Die Autorität der Vergangenheit. Funktionen der chinesischen Geschichtsschreibung am Beispiel der Rezeption Li Dazhaos*. (Berliner China-Studien 24). München: Minerva-Publikationen 1993. 205pp., DM 49.-. ISBN 3-597-10620-X.

Li Dazhao has not received much scholarly attention in Western sinology since the publication in the late 1960s of Maurice Meisner's masterful biographical study (*Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism*, Cambridge/Mass. 1967). Nicola Spakowski's study of Li Dazhao's position within recent Chinese historiography is therefore a most welcome contribution. It belongs to the category of research on individual historical personalities and their function in contemporary politics (another example would be Stefan Simons: *Das Bild Qin Shihuang's in der Geschichtsschreibung der Volksrepublik China: Die Historiographie des ersten Kaisers von China, 1949-1979*. MOAG 96, Hamburg 1984). These studies have in common the extremely high degree in which biography is functionalized for political discourse, and they are therefore studies of historiography and contemporary politics at the same time.

Nicola Spakowski starts her study with highly informative methodological reflexions and then divides her subject into four main chapters, concentrating on four points on the historical axis, when Li Dazhao played a particularly prominent role in Chinese historiography: Yan'an