

mirror of a society's demands as far as wood and non-wood products are concerned. The merit of this study is that this is supported by empirical evidence in the different types of high altitude forests.

From the perspective of ecology it may be asked whether the use of forest as common property by local villagers is really unregulated and destructive, as the author claims (e.g. pp. 21, 160), or whether it is not the specific way a forest is used that regulates it in that very way. One should be aware of the fact that free access towards the forests which are a man-made resource, is a kind of regulation through which man and nature have built up a highly selective process of succession of trees in specific forest types. This is not a regulation through social or customary norms, but one that is generated through the interplay of human activity and natural events.

D. Schmidt-Vogt's book is a valuable contribution to the contemporary discussions on mountain ecosystems. It will certainly get the attention it deserves.

Klaus Seeland

WOLFGANG MÖLLERS, *People Power macht nicht satt. Die Philippinen unter Corazon Aquino*. (Sozialwissenschaftliche Studien zu internationalen Problemen, Band 181). Saarbrücken/Fort Lauderdale: Breitenbach Publishers 1992. 283 pp., DM 42.-. ISBN 3-88156-574-4

Long virtually unnoticed, the so-called People's Power Revolution all of a sudden catapulted the Philippines into the limelight of German media. For quite some time in the mid-80s the Far Eastern archipelago became an almost daily news item. Initially depicting the EDSA revolt in glowing colors as a peaceful revolution, a miraculous change from dictatorship to democracy, disappointment began to overshadow the reports when it became increasingly clear that the Aquino government was unable to live up to its lofty reformist agenda. Subsequently the Philippines was again featured as a feudal society ruled by a numerically small oligarchy and a „changeless land“. By the early 1990s the country had virtually disappeared from the public interest.

With his book Wolfgang Möllers has made a determined effort to correct the sometimes biased and emotionalized picture of the Philippines in the German public. Conceptualized as a reader, the book is a sequence of essays written between 1985 and 1991 – reflecting the author's six years of working experience in the country.

Möllers starts with a collection of essays illustrating the agony of the nearly 20 year old Marcos regime. The watershed event for the regime's rapid decline was the murder of senator Benigno Aquino in 1983. Aquino, the dictator's most outspoken opponent for many years, was shot dead when he stepped out of a plane that had brought him home after three years' exile in the United States. While Möllers vividly narrates how the regime tried to stem the ensuing wave of political opposition in Metro Manila, describing the rapid growth of a procommunist insurgent movement in the countryside and the desolate state of the economy, he also takes to task a highly factionalized opposition for its lack of political vision and coherence. Worse than the manipulation of the country's political institutions, whereby Marcos hoped to keep the opposition off-balance, was the depressing economic situation. In the long run, it was the economic crisis more than the cynical political maneuvers that mobilized Filipinos against the regime. In the sugar provinces of Negros, the collapse of sugar prices created a hunger crisis, with desperate rural poor swelling the ranks of the insurgent *New People's Army*. Even the once powerful hacenderos, in Filipino parlance known as the *sugar bloc*, who in boom times amassed fortunes, were now hard hit by the depression. What, however, says most about the state of Philippine society is the elite's inability to learn the lessons from prior depressions. Although the 1984/1985 sugar crisis may have been the worst in many years, it was definitely not the first. Unlike farmers in Thailand and other Asian countries, Philippine sugar planters failed to react to the vagaries of the world market by diversifying agricultural production. Other economic indicators likewise illustrate the sorry state of the Philippine economy: a soaring inflation (64 % in October 1984) and a staggering foreign debt of some 29 billion US\$, translating into a debt service ratio somewhere in the order of 50 %.

The articles of part two focus on the transition from Marcos to Mrs. Aquino. President Marcos, increasingly under pressure at home and abroad, tried to restore his waning legitimacy by an early presidential election in February 1986. However, calling a snap election was too little and too late to halt the regime's accelerating disintegration. Surprisingly, this time the otherwise notoriously divided opposition was able to agree on a single presidential candidate. Corazon Aquino, wife of slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino, proved a formidable opponent that could neither be subdued by defamation campaigns nor by the strongmen tactics usually employed in Philippine elections. Despite mobilization of the entire bureaucracy and rampant election fraud, Marcos failed to secure a majority of votes. The ensuing stalemate and attempts of the President to break

it by unconstitutional means finally ignited the EDSA revolt that brought down the dictator and forced him into exile.

Part three, the core chapter of the book, deals with the Aquino years (1986-1992), highlighting the process of rebuilding democratic institutions. The essays on the drafting and ratification of the 1987 constitution, the 1987 parliamentary and 1988 local elections and the seemingly chaotic political party system are skilfully interwoven with an analysis of basic economical and societal developments in these years.

In sum, the author arrives at a rather critical assessment of the Aquino era. While he concedes that Mrs. Aquino is to be credited with a determined will to democratize the country, he also illustrates that this ambitious goal was achieved only partially. Seen from a legal-formal point of view, democratic institutions were restructured, but democratic substance in decision-making is still utterly lacking.

Apart from these consistent efforts to consolidate precarious democratic institutions, Möllers points out the complete failure of the Aquino administration to initiate basic socioeconomic reforms. Except for 1988 and 1989 the economy's growth was sluggish, belying overly optimistic growth projections of the government. The reviewer himself vividly remembers Mrs. Aquino's state visit to Germany in 1989, during which her Minister of Industries, José Concepcion, boasted that by the year 2000 the Philippines would have reached a development level approximating that of South Korea in the 1980s. Such forecasts were, of course, totally beside the mark and displayed an alarming lack of realism. Not surprisingly, poverty is still rampant and major aspects of reform legislation such as the land reform were watered down by a landlord-dominated, change-resistant Congress.

Part four covers the backlashes of the old order. Möllers counts at least seven coup attempts, two of which were bloody and brought the Aquino administration to the brink of collapse. The chapter concludes with a Corazon Aquino still in power, this in itself being valued as a success by Möllers, but the outlook is gloomy. Mass poverty, economic decay, endemic corruption, a restive military, and a floating party system in which patronage and personalities still prevail over issues and programs are the parameters that still determine the Philippine policy discourse in the early 90s. No easy task ahead for Mrs. Aquino's successor Fidel Ramos, who was elected President by barely a quarter of the voters. Doubts remain as to whether Gen. Ramos will be the man to give the country a new push towards socioeconomic reform and economic growth.

Möllers' book does not pretend to offer new theoretical insights into the analysis of Philippine politics and society. Yet, it is a vivid description

of Philippine political and social life in the late 1980s and early 1990s, characterised by sensitive observation and profound inside knowledge. Written in colorful language and devoid of academic jargon, Möllers has succeeded in presenting a compilation of essays that covers a wide range of themes in a critical yet objective way. The book can thus be commended to a wide section of readers, such as academics, students, journalists, the interested public and even the observant traveller.

Jürgen Rüländ

WERNER PASCHA, *Die japanische Wirtschaft*. (Meyers Forum). Mannheim, Leipzig, Wien, Zürich: Bibliographisches Institut-Taschenbuchverlag 1994. 128 Seiten. DM 14,80. ISBN 3-411-10401-5

Werner Pascha versucht in dieser knappen Darstellung der japanischen Wirtschaft, multikausale Erklärungen ihrer Prozesse und ihrer weltwirtschaftlichen Erfolge zu geben. Dieser Versuch ist dank einer sehr stringenten Gliederung auch im wesentlichen gelungen. Das Buch gibt einen kurzen Abriss der japanischen Wirtschaftsgeschichte und der Entwicklung der verschiedenen Wirtschaftssektoren, gefolgt von Kurzdarstellungen der Arbeitsbeziehungen, der Managementformen, von Forschungs- und Entwicklungsbemühungen, der Außenwirtschaftsbeziehungen, der Finanzmärkte, und schließlich der Wirtschaftspolitik und des sozialen Umfeldes des Wirtschaftssystems. Am interessantesten sind Paschas skeptische Thesen zur Technologie-, Kredit- und Industriepolitik Japans sowie zur dortigen Patentpraxis, die manche alarmistischen Medienberichte relativieren sollten. Anderenorts bewegt sich die Schilderung im Reich gesicherter, sattsam bekannter konventioneller Weisheiten, wo Paschas Darstellung dann auch häufig den Eindruck eines lieblos herunterdiktierten Vorlesungskriptes erweckt („Erstes ..., zweitens ..., drittens ..., viertens ..., schließlich fünftens ...“). Unbefriedigend bleiben zum Beispiel die oberflächlichen Skizzen zur japanischen Kriegs- und Nachkriegswirtschaft, die Rolle der Agrargenossenschaften und die verschiedenen Formen der Keiretsu und ihre strukturpolitischen Konsequenzen.

Es ist sicher richtig, den Marktzugang in Japan als „Kernproblem“ anzusprechen, dann sollte man aber nicht auf (undefiniert bleibende) nicht-tariffäre Hindernisse im Dienstleistungsbereich verweisen, sondern auf die handfesten Zugangsprobleme bei Agrarprodukten, Lederwaren, Mineralöl, in der Bauwirtschaft, im Transportwesen, bei öffentlichen Auftragsvergaben oder auf die Einkaufspolitik der Keiretsu. Pascha, der in Nagoya stu-