

DIETER CONRAD/WOLFGANG-PETER ZINGEL (eds.): *Pakistan. Zweite Heidelberger Südasiengespräche*. (Beiträge zur Südasienforschung, 150). Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1992. IX, 162 pages, DM 50.-. ISBN 3-515-06168-1

Pakistan is a country that usually does not receive the attention it needs and deserves. To compensate this lack - and in continuation of its regional round table talks - the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg convened in June 1991 a conference of the most knowledgeable persons united Germany can offer concerning Pakistan.

Like in the 1990 talk on India, it was not just an exclusive get-together of scholars, even though most of the papers were presented by them. High-ranking officials from the German Foreign Service like the acting ambassador to Pakistan, his predecessors from East and West Germany, senior representatives from German transnational companies, development agencies, civic institutions and the press dealing with Pakistan formed a pool of knowledge which led to a level of discussion one seldom finds.

The editors of the resulting publication must be congratulated on having taken upon themselves the tedious task of reporting the discussion in detail. In fact, this well recorded discussion forms one of the great assets of the publication which is now available in German. While the papers are of different intensity and depth the comments complement even the few weaker contributions in such a way that the reader gets an excellent insight into the most important aspects of Pakistan as it was in 1991:

- nation, language(s), literature and the question of national identity, which still forms one of the big problems of this young nation;
- Pakistan's domestic policy, its structural determinants, its constitutional developments after the dismissal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and the chaotic situation in its province of Sindh;
- Islamisation and traditional Islamic institutions including their specific relations with the traditionally secular-oriented state institutions;
- Pakistan's recent economic development with special papers on new differentiations in its agriculture, Islamic economic institutions and foreign investments (as seen by a foreign investor);

- Pakistan's foreign policy towards India (Kashmir, nuclear non-proliferation), Afghanistan and its relations with Germany (as seen by the German ambassador).

One would have wished to also see papers on institutions important for Pakistan's democratic development such as the press, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations. But it would appear that it is not only in Germany that there is a lack of research on these topics. However, future events of similar high standard will certainly compensate this minor deficiency.

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WINFRIED MANIG (ed.), *Rural Institutional Development and its Impact in Northwest-Pakistan*. (Socioeconomic Studies on Rural Development, Vol. 88). Aachen: Alano Verlag, edition herodot, 1992. 107 pages, DM 22.-. ISBN 3-89397-149-2.

The authors aim at analyzing the process of institutional change in the fields of production and of generation and distribution of income. Institutions are defined as (stable) regulatory and organizational principles and rules governing the interactions between individuals and the interactions between individuals and the environment. These principles and rules are recognized and sanctioned by the respective society. Organizations and associations are considered as part of the institutional framework of the society, but they are not regarded as institutions and are thus excluded from the investigation.

Hypotheses are formulated for analyzing institutional change; they concern

- the determining factors of institutional adaption and change;
- qualitative aspects of institutional change;
- the speed of institutional change and the possibilities to influence the same;
- the effects of institutional change mainly on the different social strata and the role and tasks of the private sector and the state.

The authors base their analysis on empirical investigations. The starting point is an empirical inquiry which was carried out by their research