

- 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

institute in 6 villages around the town of Peshawar in 1967/68. The present study aims to ascertain and analyse the institutional change which has taken place in these villages during the period 67/68-86/87. Recent research findings and additional explicative factors have also been included.

The village is still the basic unit for the socio-economic activities of the majority of the population of Pakistan. Three levels of institutional intervention are thus distinguished: the individual household, the village and, at the macro-level, the nation, which is often represented by the town of Peshawar.

The villages studied differ mainly regarding the distance to Peshawar, the socio-economic structure (i.e. the relative proportion of landlords, tenants, labourers and land-owners; the relative importance of agricultural and non-agricultural income), infrastructure (private/state-owned irrigation systems, mosques, banks, schools, shops and basic health units) and the distance to (asphalt) roads with access to Peshawar.

Three normative institutions are included because of their relevance for local conditions: the *pukhtunwali* (the behavioural code of the Pashtuns, the major ethnic group in the investigated region), Islam and the state.

The analysis of the institutional modifications is based on investigation of the agrarian structure, the farming systems, the systems of agricultural extension service and rural taxation, the formation and utilization of capital, the credit system, the organization and management of the irrigation system, the marketing system and non-agricultural employment. The agrarian structure, the farming system etc are understood as "a momentary structural manifestation of several existing institutions". The authors try also to identify the most important factors leading to the modification of these systems. Finally, they summarize their results as follows: "The studied institutions in the region of Northwest-Pakistan changed both qualitatively and quantitatively in the various sectors to a very great extent and in very different ways so that the entire social framework changed as a result. The fundamental societal regulative mechanisms (basic institutions such as property rights system and the land tenure system) did not change. Other institutionalized behaviour and interaction patterns, in contrast, adapted themselves to the transformed conditions."

This interesting study shows on the one hand the great importance of institutions in the process of development. On the other hand it also in-

dicates the need for further investigations to deepen the understanding of institutional dynamics.

*Agnes Gerold*

HERMANN KULKE/DIETMAR ROTHERMUND. *A History of India*. London and New York: Routledge, 1990. (Revised and updated edition). 411 pp., £ 12.99 Pb. ISBN 0-415-04799-4

As James Mill finished his great work on Indian history in 1813 he noted the difficulties that had confronted him as he had struggled to make a coherent account from the confusing mass of materials that he had collected. His conclusion, shared by many writers since who have attempted to write a general history of India, was that the author has only two options: "Either he must resolve to observe minutely a part; or he must resolve to make a cursory review of the whole. Life is insufficient for more." Kulke and Rothermund have, however, found a third possibility for writing this excellent history of India. Both have, in Mill's terms, observed parts of Indian history minutely: Kulke as an Indologist has written detailed monographs on the temple cities of Orissa and Tamilnadu, and Rothermund as a modern historian has written on agrarian relations during British rule in India and on the freedom movement. Combining their diverse specialties, they have concentrated, not on attempting to provide a coherent chronological narrative, but on something much more valuable, an analysis of the structural patterns of the historical experiences of the Indian subcontinent. These patterns are examined in terms of a variety of topics: the rise of empires; the structure of Hindu kingdoms; the significance of the way Turkish invaders, who were Muslim in religion and Persian in culture, became *Indian* rulers in regions that remained predominantly Hindu in religion and culture; the imperial structure of British power; and the nationalist movement. This makes for a book that is quite different from previous one-volume histories of the subcontinent, and one that will be welcomed by students and teachers, as well as that mythical entity, the general reader, who seek to interpret a mass of seemingly unrelated, and sometimes contradictory, materials.

Kulke and Rothermund begin their analysis by relating historical developments to the environment, suggesting a tension between the dryer, western Gangetic plains and the wetter eastern region, with their diffe-