

Reviews

WOLFGANG REINHARD, *Geschichte der europäischen Expansion*. Vol. 4: Dritte Welt Afrika. Stuttgart, Berlin, Köln: Verlag W. Kohlhammer, 1990. 286 pages, 20 illustr., 14 tables, DM 98.-

Over 15 years ago Prof. Reinhard started working on his "History of European expansion", of which the fourth and last volume, elucidating Africa's path into the state of underdevelopment, has now appeared. (Vols. 1-3 were reviewed in Vol. 20 (1989), No. 3-4, of this journal).

The first four chapters trace the course of Africa's history from the 15th century to the eve of the second world war, dividing the period of imperialism into three stages: 1875-85, 1889-1900, and 1900-36. From the first Portuguese conquest (Ceuta, 1415) to the British dominance reached at the end of the 18th century, the huge continent of Africa was associated by Europeans with two things: coastal trading stations and labour power of black slaves. In 1790 only 25.000 Europeans had decided to spend their lives in Africa, most of them having chosen the climatically acceptable South. The inner African penetration actually started around 1800, with Napoleon in Egypt, Mungo Park on the banks of the river Niger, and Protestant mission schools in West and South Africa. Shortly after 1830 it was the French who first placed Algeria under permanent colonial rule.

After another century, with half a dozen European nations scrambling for a piece of African earth, the final result was quite astonishing: the winners were not European governments, but missionaries and European firms, especially mining companies and corporated societies. In 1913 and 1935 over 50% of Africa's export value was based on gold, diamonds, and copper. Cotton, wool, rubber, palmoil, as well as cacao, peanuts, and maize - originally grown in America - played a minor role (p. 110). For some rich Europeans Africa now meant a diamond from "De Beer", for some poor a piece of soap from "Unilever". Chapt. 5 gives a rough picture of the various national solutions to the problems of decolonization, this passage being concluded by a very interesting survey of

South Africa's secondary colonialism (*Sekundärkolonialismus*), built up on racial prejudice. Between 1960-1977 1200 people lost their lives in the State of South Africa - through legal executions (p. 175). Weighing up the positive and negative effects of European colonial rule on Africa, Africa as a whole lost. Most of the 50 new African states are nowadays confronted with some kind of post-colonial dependence. The attitudes of the new African elites, often marked by obstinacy and stubbornness, should not be forgotten though.

In the last chapter Reinhard looks back over the whole process of 600 years of European expansion, described in his four volumes. What were the driving forces? Is our modern world, divided into three different kinds of "worlds", the result of intended and planful human acting? Reinhard tries to present some kind of a result by briefly analyzing the development and state of five criteria: ecology, economics, society, politics and culture/civilization (pp. 206-213).

Here again it becomes obvious that the author never had the intention of giving his deliberations a more theoretical framework. Reinhard emphasizes the fact that a new theory, written in future times by another scholar, should keep in mind that the European expansion was a very *heterogeneous* process, supported by different groups with different interests, acting in different places and times. It is very likely that the non-intended side-effects and the misjudgements made by colonial rulers or civil servants were more important than anything else (p. 205).

Perhaps Reinhard himself will some day attempt to formulate such a theory. He should then integrate the role of European/modern technology in a more systematic way - the mere mentioning of new navigation instruments, railways, and machine guns would not be enough.

Uwe Granzow

JAN-HEEREN GREVEMEYER: *Afghanistan. Sozialer Wandel und Staat im 20. Jahrhundert*. Berlin: Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 1990. 430 Seiten, DM 48.- (ISBN 3-927408-27-4)

Das vorliegende Buch, das als Habilitationsschrift an der Freien Universität Berlin vorgelegt wurde, setzt sich mit den Fragen des sozialen Wandels in Afghanistan vom Anbeginn seiner Entstehung bis zum Abzug der sowjetischen Truppen im Jahre 1989 auseinander.

Das Schwergewicht der Arbeit liegt in der Darstellung der politischen und sozialgeschichtlichen Entwicklung des Landes seit der Machtüber-