

analyses the reasons for this failure and suggests several factors which have to be taken into account, if environmental planning is to be successful: 1) a learning process approach, 2) putting local people's priorities first, 3) secure rights and benefits for the poor, 4) sustainability through self-help, 5) high calibre, commitment and continuity of staff.

Wagner's book represents a major contribution to the study of cultures located in peripheral areas of Indonesia. It is to be hoped that works of this kind will also appear for other areas of the Barrier Islands, such as Nias or Enggano.

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VO NHAN TRI, *Vietnam's Economic Policy since 1975*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1990. 253 pages.

With his latest book the well known Vietnamese economist Vo Nhan Tri continues the studies published in 1967 in Hanoi: *Croissance Economique de la Republique du Vietnam*. By doing so he fills a gap in research work about the economic development of Vietnam after 1975. Being written in English the book will certainly find a wide range of readers. The subject is of interest not only to scientific experts.

Five chapters follow a short preface: 1. Legacy of the Development Model of North Vietnam, 1955-75; 2. Reunification and "Socialist Transformation", 1975-80; 3. The Third Five-Year Plan, 1981-85; 4. Economic "Renovation", 1986-90 and 5. Conclusion.

The first chapter is a summary of the material from the sixties up to the year 1975. But there is one important qualification: The author distances himself from his own works published in Vietnam and abroad before 1980. They were all subjected to a censorship imposed by the government or by the author himself (p. XI). The author does not really bring any new statistical data. However, his evaluation of the figures is much more critical. This is especially true of the development of agriculture after 1965. Regarding the situation in Vietnam, Vo Nhan Tri has adopted unreservedly the popular formula of "Stalinist-Maoist economic development strategy".

In the following chronologically structured chapters the author paints a picture of economic development in Vietnam. He refers to basic data in the fields of agriculture, industry and handicrafts, foreign trade and the standard of living of the population. Extensive statistics - including internal reports -

have been analyzed. For the non-Vietnamese reader these facts are of great value.

The pursuit of the Stalinist-Maoist economic development strategy even after reunification is regarded by Vo Nhan Tri as the main reason for the deep economic crisis at the end of the eighties: top priority had been given to heavy industry, forced and accelerated collectivization in the agriculture of the South and brutal "socialist transition" of private industry and trade had taken place (p. 108).

Despite some attempts to correct the mistakes, even the years between 1981 and 1986 did not change the situation radically. It was only a "small surgery whereas the patient needed a great surgery" (p. 241). It was the Sixth Communist Party Congress in 1986 which finally initiated first steps towards economic reforms: Agriculture and light industry were to be promoted by investments, heavy industry was to meet the interests of other branches more directly and foreign trade to contribute substantially to economic growth.

The figures this chapter is based on only cover the development up to the year 1987, although Vietnamese sources are available up to 1989.

In his concluding remarks Vo Nhan Tri refers to a quotation of Lenin, made after the revolution in 1917, that socialism could only be discussed on the basis of experience (p. 241). But the Vietnamese leadership was much more influenced by Mao than by Marx (p. 242). Vietnam's experience was not only catastrophic in economic terms but also very costly in human terms. These conclusions of the author (p. 250) express the great dejection he feels about the development in his country which he had left in 1984. That is why it would be too much to expect that Vo Nhan Tri could provide new, progressive conceptions so urgently needed by Vietnam to overcome its present economic problems. This might be considered as a defect in the author's analysis. Maybe Vo Nhan Tri regards this as a task for the younger generation.

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