

Empire, and, secondly, that its peoples had a distinct identity before the white colonists arrived on their shores.

These are the two main themes of the author who uses the unpublished papers of Karl Vieweg (1883-1945), his father, as basic material for a narrative-type of book. His father's life and experiences as a coco-nut plantation assistant and buyer gave him unparalleled, detailed and intimate insight into the life of various ethnic groups in different parts of the then colony 80 years ago. Having not yet developed a state-like organization of society, life was then organized on the village level, but dominated by men's societies as they are known in the country's namesake in West Africa and strongly interwoven with religious beliefs and elements.

The breadth and depth of socio-cultural and socio-economic detail observed and recorded in this book are truly remarkable. One is inclined to say that colonialism may claim mitigating circumstances in so far as it has left books like this which provide records for a period during which the colonized were not yet able to write their own. For, as the author - himself with a life-long career as a development expert in Africa and India - has personally checked and compared on a long study trip to Papua-Newguinea in 1986, change has taken its toll in the 80 years since the times, the spirit and the customs described in this book.

Therefore, the peoples of the new state and their scholars will welcome this book as a most valuable addition to the historical and ethnological literature of Papua-Newguinea. The modern reader, be he development expert, businessman or tourist, will find in this book a humorously and well written introduction to the background of a developing country in search of a modern national identity, a country in a not untroubled neighbourhood with Indonesia with which it shares the major island, on the Indonesian part of which a movement clamours for an independent Irian Jaya.

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VOLKER SCHULT, *Mindoro - Sozialgeschichte einer philippinischen Insel im 20. Jahrhundert. Studie eines verzögerten Entwicklungsprozesses.* (Europäische Hochschulschriften, Reihe III, 488). Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1990. 288 pages, DM 84.-

Volker Schult's study of the social history of Mindoro makes a welcome contribution to historical studies on the Philippines, something of a rarity in Germany. It developed from a thesis written at the department of Southeast

Asian Studies, University of Passau, and successfully integrates local history into the development of the Philippines as a whole. But the book also closes a gap from an international point of view. Monographs about Mindoro, despite its being the seventh largest island of the Philippine archipelago, are virtually non-existent - at least as far as they are with the Christian population of the lowlands and not with the ethnic minority of the Mangyans.

This readable treatise is founded upon Spanish, U.S. American, and especially Philippine source material, complemented with information taken from both relevant and remote literature on the subject. Based on a vivid description of the natural characteristics of the area, its ethnic and historic framework, the author unfolds the history of Mindoro from the end of the 19th century up to the administration of Corazon Aquino. Within this rough chronological structure, politics, economy, and society, as well as educational and minority politics are individually examined. The book is rounded off with maps and charts along with a statistical appendix providing demographic, political, and socio-economic information.

Schult begins by showing how the Spaniards fundamentally changed the history of Mindoro by severing the island's trade relations with China. In addition, the Spaniards broke the trade lines of the Muslin peoples of the southern Philippines who retaliated by raiding the Spanish-controlled parts of the archipelago, in particular Mindoro. The island successively depopulated and degenerated to an isolated and barely developed outpost, surviving on a minimal subsistence economy. It was only shortly before the end of Spanish rule that efforts towards development intensified.

Yet, economic exploitation, political oppression, social discrimination, and - though less pronounced - social tension between Spaniards and Filipinos as well as within the Philippine population were nevertheless felt, drawing Mindoro into the struggle for independence against the Spanish and the war against the USA. The new colonial power asserted itself - decidedly brutally at times. Under American rule, the administrative and as yet very modest infrastructural preconditions developed for joining Mindoro economically with the rest of the Philippines and with the international, above all American, market. Now a "belated process of development" got under way, creating export-oriented agriculture and forestry (cattle breeding, copra, luxury wood). This increasingly attracted immigrants, further aggravated the unequal social and proprietary structures already developed in Spanish times, and led to a marginalization of the Mangyans. However, social contrasts remained less drastic than in most other parts of the Philippines, thus shielding Mindoro until very recently from guerilla activities and large-scale political unrest.

As Schult conclusively argues, the year of Philippine independence (1946) designates for Mindoro less a break with the past than a continuation of political and social conditions which in essence persist to this day. Meanwhile, however, the social "period of grace", which Mindoro had enjoyed thanks to its delayed development, has terminated. Reckless foresting has led to severe ecological damage. Although President Marcos succeeded in increasing rice production considerably and ameliorating the food situation by intensifying irrigation, his ambitious development programs, sold as "Mindoro Strategy", failed, as did his land reform. Poverty among the rural population as well as oppressive tenancy relations are growing.

The study is especially informative thanks also to insights into the structure and functioning of Philippine politics and society; for instance patronage, the formation of factions centered less on programs than individual persons, or the debt of gratitude principle (*utang na loob*) and its consequences. The author further presents evidence for the astonishing adaptability and tenaciousness of the native leading classes, which managed to survive largely intact all reverses of history up to the present time. Finally, Schult gives a revealing description of the elites' ability to dodge and bend, for example, American colonial policy and - as with property laws - to use it for their own ends.

One point of criticism - the reader has to do such analytical interpretation him/herself, for the facts are mostly offered in narrative form. Some may also miss a more extensive consideration of the problems concerning the development of tourism in and around Puerto Galera. However, these objections cannot detract from the overall positive impression of the study, which provides those already familiar with the Philippines with an in-depth history of Mindoro and gives the novice a substantial introduction to the history of the Philippines as exemplified by one of her islands.

Reinhard Wendt

KAUKO LAITINEN, *Chinese Nationalism in the Late Qing Dynasty: Zhang Binglin as an Anti-Manchu Propagandist*. (Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies. Monograph Series, vol. 57). London: Curzon Press, 1990. xiv + 209 pages. £ 10.50

Coming shortly after Young-tsu Wong's *Search for Modern Nationalism: Zhang Binglin and Revolutionary China, 1869-1936* (Hong Kong 1989), this is the second monograph on the famous revolutionary writer and activist to be