

RUTH CREMERIUS, DORIS FISCHER, PETER SCHIER (eds.), *Studentenprotest und Repression in China, April - Juni 1989. Analyse, Chronologie, Dokumente*. 2nd revised and enlarged edition. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 192). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1991. 582 pages, DM 36.-

Hardly any event in China - not even the Cultural Revolution - has received as much public and international interest as did the democracy movement of spring and early summer 1989. The military crackdown on students demonstrating peacefully for more freedom and democracy on Tiananmen Square shocked the international public and abruptly and bloodily terminated the hopes of reforming the Chinese Communist system peacefully and from within. Ever since, questions of origins, progress and effects of the events leading to the massacre have been prominent in the academic and public discussion all over the world. After a first wave of speedy assessments and eyewitness reports, partly written on portable typewriters and published head over heels, more and more books are now being published which address the topic from a more sober and academic point of view. Given that many documents necessary for a final historical reconstruction of all major events have not yet been released by the Chinese authorities, the interested reader is grateful for any kind of reliable information.

The book under review here certainly belongs to a still comparatively small number of publications which provide this kind of information.

Written and compiled by three China experts of the Institute of Asian Affairs in Hamburg, the book offers a thoroughly researched chronology of events, background information, eyewitness reports and documents covering the period between April 15, 1989 (the death of former Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang) and June 30, 1989, when Chen Xitong, the Mayor of Beijing, presented the leadership's official report on "the smashing of the counter-revolutionary coup".

A first edition had already been published as early as April 1990. Due to the high sales rates and continuing public interest, the authors followed up with a second revised and enlarged edition in 1991. In addition to the already impressive compilation of documents of the first edition, the book now includes 15 more documents (e.g. Deng Xiaoping's important April 25 speech), a revised report by Amnesty International and six further eyewitness reports. It thus certainly offers the most comprehensive and detailed documentation and chronology of the Chinese democracy movement published so far.

After a 30 page introduction to the political development of early 1989 and its economic and social background, the book follows a chronological order in

presenting a well-arranged mixture of authors' commentaries, a compilation of historical facts and 43 of the most important documents from both the Chinese authorities and the students' movement.

What at first sight seems to be a somewhat problematic mixture of different and incompatible text elements, turns out to be the major asset of the book: it allows for a critical synoptical reading and thus helps to enhance the understanding of the complexity of events leading to the massacre and beyond. The reader is also grateful for a German-Pinyin glossary of institutions involved and a personal index which, in addition to four maps, provides quick and direct access to relevant information.

Although this study by Cremerius, Fischer and Schier is certainly not compiled just for informative reading, it comes close to a political thriller in some passages due to its presentation of cascading events in the critical days of early June 1989. In sum, it is a book which is characterized by a balanced and objective presentation of different positions and competing assessments and allows - as far as is possible today - for an almost complete reconstruction of events. Therefore, the reviewer is convinced that it will stand the test of time.

Eberhard Sandschneider

LUTZ-CHRISTIAN WOLFF, *Der Arbeitsvertrag in der Volksrepublik China nach dem Arbeitsvertragssystem von 1986*. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 189). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1990. 344 pp., DM 36.-

The author provides a systematic survey of labour legislation in the People's Republic of China. He especially emphasizes the role of the newly introduced labour contract system, which he considers a step towards a more statutory regulation of relations between the Chinese workforce and their work units.

The first chapter deals with the status of Chinese labour legislation within the framework of the Chinese legal code. It discusses the difference between Chinese and Western - i.e. German - concepts of the role of law in society. The author describes the Chinese concept of labour as ideological because, on the one hand, it propagates the workers' status in society as that of the master of state, while, on the other hand, it grants them guaranteed labour, wages etc as a kind of individual right.

According to Chinese sources, labour legislation is a distinct law of its own. In particular, it is not part of civil law. This conception has certain consequences for the role of natural persons and legal entities when regarded as