

history and sequential patterns, but it seems difficult in some cases to make a clear distinction between strategic groups and social classes. Strategic groups are characterized by competition for a share of surplus from increased production, the mode of appropriation of which may be personal, corporate, or collective, in order to create the most favourable strategies and conditions towards that end. Therefore, strategic groups show different orientations in their strategic behaviour and action. Social classes, on the contrary, arise from alliances between various strategic groups or from the so-called hybridization of only one strategic group.

The advantage of this concept stems, in our opinion, from an improved method for analysing social strata, the consideration of the subjective factor, the abolition of the one-sided principle of dominating relations of production, and the close connection between theory and empirical data. Ownership of the means of production and the appropriation of the surplus product are to be understood as factors of importance within the scope of other structural elements. The dynamics of social processes can thereby be better registered and documented than by preconceived models of unilinear development or fixed socio-economic laws because of the possible alternatives depending on both internal and external factors.

The book under review is a remarkable contribution to the discussion and analysis of social as well as historical developments especially in respect of comparisons of Europe with the rest of the world. This theory helps to prevent the danger of putting modern (and early) Asiatic institutions and political systems into a preconceived European model with its corresponding terminology.

*Hans Dieter Kubitscheck*

KLAUS SEELAND, *Gegenseitiges Verständnis als Entwicklungsprozeß. Beiträge zur Theorie und Praxis der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit.* (Konkrete Fremde 6). Grösch: Verlag Ruegger, 1989, 286 p., SFr. 38.- (ISBN 3-7253-0340-1)

This is a *Festschrift* in honour of Professor Martin Menzi on his 60th birthday. He does indeed seem to be a remarkable man, combining agricultural practice (chicken breeding seems to be one of his favourite activities) and academic management (he is director of the post-graduate course in development studies at the Technical University of Zürich). As no list of his publica-

tions is included in this book, there is no sound basis to make any judgement about his scientific standing.

What is the point of such a book? As far as the underlying aspects of personal relationships are concerned, the person honoured might derive some satisfaction. But beyond this, is something of the programmatic sum of Swiss development co-operation really to be found in this publication?

The book contains 15 contributions of a most diverse quality. Those written by people hailing from academic institutions are mostly pieces hastily put together and/or based on material and research findings much better presented elsewhere. This is the usually unpleasant side of "Festschriften". It is for this reason that I refrain from giving the names of these authors; they deserve to be read at the proper places.

On the other hand, most of the contributions written by the so-called "practitioners" of development co-operation shed some light on the Swiss type of co-operation: What is the proper place of the "partner" both in project implementation and evaluation? How can the socio-cultural values and realities better be incorporated and considered in such programmes? Seen from this angle, it is less the general texts in the book which are stimulating; the insights come more from the case studies. Just to name three: A. Henz, an architect and planner, on cultural dimensions of architecture in Tunisia; R. Steppacher, an economist on the "paradox of health" in Kerala; R. Baumgartner, a regional representative of the Swiss Development Directorate (within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) on the Mysore bullocks, grazing grounds (*kavals*), *kavalgars* and *shervergars* (herdsmen). These case studies are really delightful reading.

To sum up: not at all a path-breaking book, more a mosaic of raclette, pizzas and apple-pies cooked in the charming kitchen of Swiss development co-operation. Mr. Menzi will doubtless have enjoyed it.

*Hans F. Illy*

MAGNUS MÖRNER/THOMMY SVENSSON (eds.), *The History of the Third World in Nordic Research*. (Acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum et Litterarum Gothoburgensis, Humaniora 25). Göteborg: Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället, 1986. 201 p., SEK 90.- (ISBN 91-85252-36-0)

Even if a non-Scandinavian does happen to have regular contact with his colleagues in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, he will not pretend to