

colleagues in other informal subsectors where circular migration seems to be a common phenomenon and where more employees hope to move to better occupations.

The contribution of the informal enterprises to the imparting of occupational skills is remarkable. On average the enterprises studied have already been in operation for nine years, indicating that they can survive economically over a long period. Informal enterprises are not family firms; more than half of the employees are not members of the owner's families. Wages in the manufacturing sector differ remarkably; on average women earn not much more than half the wages of their male colleagues. On average the net income of the heads of enterprises was higher than what most of them can expect to earn in the formal sector. The main sources of capital were savings of the heads of the enterprises and their families and credits from informal sources, whereas the special government programs to support capital formation in small-scale industries seem to have no measurable impact on the informal sector. This conclusion is also supported by the author's interesting overview of the different programs run by government agencies (Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Manpower, Central Bank etc.). The majority of heads of the enterprises are of the opinion that net income and sales have decreased in recent times, which is seen by the author as an indication that under the present macroeconomic conditions the growth of the informal sector is involutory.

To sum up, this book throws light on a subsector of the informal sector which has often been ignored by empirical research and presents helpful background knowledge for discussion on possible starting points of programs to support the informal sector.

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Helmut Forster-Latsch, Jochen Noth: *Chinas Weg in die Moderne. Anders als Moskau?* Frankfurt am Main: Sandler, 1986. 359 pages, DM 32.—

When the Chinese communist revolution finally succeeded in 1949 the leaders of the new People's Republic faced a very underdeveloped, mainly agrarian country. It was clear at that time that the main task of the communist leadership had to be the economic development of the country. In the 1980s, under the reformist group around Deng Xiaoping, economic development still remains the major concern although the concept for this development has drastically

changed since Mao's death in 1976. During the history of the People's Republic of China its social and economic development has often been viewed as an example and model for the countries of the Third World. Western intellectuals as well as Third World countries saw in Mao Zedong's concept a promising way to a new society following neither the capitalist nor the soviet-communist example.

In *Chinas Weg in die Moderne. Anders als Moskau?* the two authors, Helmut Forster-Latsch and Jochen Noth, critically ask whether the Maoist development strategy was in fact a unique and new one. They argue that it was not, that the Chinese leadership mainly tried to employ the Stalinist concept of development although it was represented by the Maoist group as being entirely new. According to the authors, the PRC has simply followed the major available example of a communist development strategy - that of the Soviet Union, which was viewed as relatively successful since it has helped the USSR to gain the status of a major power in the post-World War II period. The authors point out that China, very much like the Soviet Union, has concentrated on the development of a strong heavy industry. This approach neglected the real conditions of the mainly agrarian society and consequently led to the catastrophes of the "Great Leap Forward" and the "Cultural Revolution". Not the needs of the ever-growing population but the iron and steel production - above all important for the build-up of an adequate war industry - dictated China's development policies of the first three decades. As Forster-Latsch and Noth point out, Mao, as the main proponent of this concept, subordinated the economic development and improvement of the standard of living of the people to the goal of national independence which was regarded as the major one. Looking at the history of communist China and the various attempts of her leadership to gain international recognition as a globally influential power, this argument seems to be plausible although the authors do not discuss China's interests and her role in the international arena.

Although Mao implemented his ideas in the field of economic policy several times throughout the history of the PRC, both major attempts, the "Great Leap Forward" in the late 1950s and the "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" 1966 - 1976 failed disastrously. The authors point out that especially during the period of the "Cultural Revolution" the Maoist group was able to represent its strategy as completely new and completely different from the Soviet way. Its concept was based on the wartime communism of the Yennan years with its principle of self-reliance as well as the inherited central bureaucracy of imperial China, transformed into a highly centralized party apparatus. Accord-

ding to the authors the concept based on these foundations led to a state monopolistic society with a new separation of the working people from the means of production.

But the Maoist approach was not unquestioned. A competing ideology existed which sought to develop China's economy according to the needs of the people and the economic structure of Chinese society. This strategy focused on the improvement of the standard of living as the primary goal, although under the conditions of a strong, centralized leadership of the communist party. *Chinas Weg in die Moderne* is written as a history of communist China from 1949 to the reform program of Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s. It understands the PRC's development as a result of the struggle between the proponents of two leading concepts, with Mao's approach dominating throughout the first three decades and the other approach after Mao's death in 1976. This approach to Chinese contemporary history is widely accepted and often discussed. Helmut Forster-Latsch and Jochen Noth's book does not provide the reader with much new insight into this major pattern of recent development in China. But it does discuss in depth the economic and ideological dimensions of this conflict although one may miss a discussion of the impact of the changing international environment and numerous international events on the development of China. The authors concentrate solely on internal development. The assumption that the Maoist approach to a new society was in reality nothing more than a copy of the Stalinist model has surely to be questioned in a discussion of the Chinese model. Many will argue that Mao's attempt to form a new society was much more, as it was based on the creation of a new man. However, the book's intensive analysis of the changing economic conditions during the history of the PRC is very helpful to the reader interested in China. The vast amount of data utilized and carefully analyzed makes the book a valuable storehouse of information.

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