

ments. Their participation provides them with fulfillment in their search for a renewed identity and a meaningful universe.

The identification with the new spiritual construction is the more successful if old familiar ideas can be synthesized with new ones, still uncompromised and unchallenged by experience. The need to enact the new vision of oneself and the world, the wish to proceed from the vision to its realization, manifests the "inner necessity and intensity of human search for sense and meaning", displays the elementary desire that "man might find his meaningful place in the reality as an integrated whole" (P. Berger).

One of the great merits of Wagner's book is that he has demonstrated through the example of the Taiping Rebellion that religion is not just an epiphenomenon of society, still less an ideological factor which does nothing but stabilize society.

Gudula Linck

Kiyooki Tsuji (ed.), *Public Administration in Japan*. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press. 1984, 271 pages. Y 3000.

Much has already been written (often stronger in opinion than in fact) about the power and the inner workings of the Japanese mandarin state. Most of the research appears either to have focussed in a monographic fashion on individual institutions – like e.g. Chalmers Johnson's famous post-war history of MITI – or to have been more concerned about a general political economy analysis of Japan's political system, in which the government bureaucracy is a key player.

The volume edited by Professor Tsuji does not claim to fill this gap, but as a clear and factual introduction to Japan's formal administrative structure the book provides useful and reliable groundwork for scholars relying on English and wishing to pursue further research into Japan's governmental operations. The volume consists of 17 fairly brief articles dealing with the essentials of Japan's public administration, covering its legal framework, cabinet organization, public corporations, the civil service system, local administration (its finance and its relations to the central government), the audit system, administrative guidance, remedies against administrative actions, etc...

The majority of these articles were in fact provided by the various ministries and agencies concerned themselves. Predictably, some of them excel in the enumeration of detailed administrative rule book prescriptions. The National Personnel Authority, for instance, describes at great length recruitment, retirement, payment and disciplinary regulations for the civil service – without ever attempting to fill this regu-

latory skeleton with the flesh of real life, e.g. social origins of recruits, typical career patterns, post-retirement employment, frequency of disciplinary action, etc...

The articles written by academics are on the whole less tedious to read. Though also basically legalist in orientation, they on occasion engage in constructive criticism and references to real administrative life.

After the recent privatizations of JR, Japan Tobacco, NTT etc., the section on public corporations naturally appears slightly dated today (as are some statistics). But most of the other articles continue to offer useful topical information. For the diplomatic practitioner, obviously the sections on Cabinet Organization (by Isao Sato), Legislative Review (by the Cabinet Legislation Bureau), and the Budgetary System (by MoF) are of greatest interest.

Personally, I found an article on Administrative Inspection (by the Administrative Management Agency) most interesting: it describes a unique procedure by which the AMA conducts regular *substantial* policy assessments and efficiency analysis at all levels of government, thus going beyond the classical auditing to which administrative control is limited in other countries. Very well written is also a piece on Administrative Guidance (by Hiroshi Shiono), which succeeds in presenting this complex and controversial policy instrument in a succinct, straightforward and critical manner.

In sum, I feel that the modest hope expressed in the preface by the editor, Kiyooki Tsuji, of offering the book for wider use by scholars and practitioners of public administration, is fully warranted. It is indeed a very useful and well documented source on Japan's public administrative system.

Albrecht Rothacher

Helmut Laumer/Wolfgang Ochel (unter Mitarbeit von Suelo Sekiguchi und Jens-Uwe G. Jungnickel): Strukturpolitik für traditionelle Industriezweige in Japan. (Schriftenreihe des Ifo-Instituts für Wirtschaftsforschung, Nr. 118). Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1985. 173 pages, DM 68.–

Economic problems of industrialized countries since the first oil crisis (end of 1973) are being discussed more and more in terms of "structural problems" and rarely in terms of "problems of (overall) recession". Consequently, Keynesian anti-recession policy has lost much of its reputation – although not all its former influence – among economic policy makers of developed market economies. Of course, structural problems have to be expected when the price of a crucial raw material is rocketing. And in fact, oil was the one crucial input to the Japanese economy in the early