

lume 2. To the detailed bibliography on Melaka one entry should definitely be added: the book under review itself. I guess it will soon become the most important single source on the history, economy, social anthropology and geography of Melaka. Generally the papers are of good, sometimes excellent quality. They are well-argued and well-documented. Furthermore, numerous tables, figures, plates and maps make it a joy to browse through the two volumes and to start reading. Of course, the high quality printing has its price which only better-funded libraries will be able to afford. Overall, one should not expect one major new hypothesis emerging from a work containing so many diverse contributions. As far as possible in a multidisciplinary effort, however, there is order and integration in the organization of papers within the section and in the data presented. The unique value of this magnum opus lies in its detailed documentation of the multifaceted nature of development for one particular case. The main message for Southeast Asianists contained in this book is methodological: one should pay due regard to local as well as regional opportunities and constraints when analyzing the formation of Southeast Asian cultures. A case study like this is uniquely suited for an assessment of both kinds of forces.

Thomas Schweizer

Friedrich W. Fuhs: *Agrarverfassung und Agrarentwicklung in Thailand.* (Beiträge zur Südasiensforschung, 82). Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1985. XVIII, 311 pages, 24 graphs, 96 tables, DM 60.-

The "Introduction" depicts briefly the general historical background of the development of modern Thailand, whilst the succeeding four chapters concentrate on the political and economic framework, the natural conditions of agricultural production, the systems and institutions of agriculture itself, and the agricultural development in the main sectors since – roughly – the beginning of this century. Analysis is primarily based on official statistics interpreted with the sure eye and ample experience of an observer familiar with Thailand's agricultural problems for many years. All the more surprising are the few and very short recommendations given in chapter 5 ("Outlook"); but broader future perspectives were probably wisely withheld, thus making the whole book a clear-headed empirical (instead of a more or less passionate political) study.

Nonetheless, there are many useful hints for readers who tend to neglect the functional reasons for social changes unfamiliar to "Western" eyes, – as, for instance, the statement that abolition of statute-labour in the 19th century had to be followed by huge monetary investments, thus paving the way for private capital-

ism which, for its part, turned to landlordism (certainly in a situation still free from rural population pressure), – or, to give another example, the remark that big irrigation systems "presuppose a stable social organization" (p. 54), a view widely held since Wittfogel's penetrating studies (mentioned p. 64).

At any rate, there has been a strong expansion of the cultivated area in all parts of the country. Not only has the acreage alone increased more than fivefold since 1930 (accompanied by the introduction of a broad variety of crops), but also the padi producing area (making Thailand one of the world's main rice exporters) has nearly tripled in the meantime (p. 70). On the other hand, the days of large-scale "pioneering" seem to be over since 1970: Chapter 3 discusses problems of growing population pressure, swidden practices (p. 71 ff.), traditional and recent land use (p. 83 ff.), rural squatting and legal counter-measures (p. 93 ff.), customary land inheritance in face of dwindling solidarities (p. 98 ff.), and so on. – Another important part of this chapter (p. 119 ff.) deals with the more recent development of co-operatives, credit institutions, marketing organization, agricultural advice and research, "Community Development", land-opening projects, and also casts some light on the rural labour and income situation.

Chapter 4 (p. 187 ff.) gives a detailed analysis of the agricultural development – cultivated areas, number and size of farms, production figures – of the country's four main regions (i.e the Central Region, the North, the North-East, and the South). Finally, the most important crops – rice, maize, kenaf, cassava, sugar cane, cotton, beans, and rubber – are systematically examined so that the trends during the last decades can easily be compared.

As said above, the concluding "Outlook" (p. 273) proves to be unexpectedly short. Advice for the future is scarce, prophecies are missing altogether. – Why? To cite the author's own words: "Unfortunately, there is no ready-made formula; solutions how to structure the optimal farming systems will have to be worked out not only by regions but by districts and even subdistricts, where natural conditions make it necessary" (p. 311). This argument is convincing.

All in all, a solid book based partly on the author's own field work, partly on sources not always available to the interested reader.

Dietrich Kühne

Wolf Donner: Thailand ohne Tempel. Lebensfragen eines Tropenlandes. Frankfurt/M.: R.G. Fischer Verlag, 1984. 204 pp.; DM 24,80.-

Donner's book reads like a travel guide that does not focus on the exotic but rather on the problems which are the unwanted side effects of modernisation. These