

Willy Kraus, Wilfried Lütkenhorst: *Wirtschaftsdynamik im Pazifischen Becken. Entwicklungstendenzen, Handelsverflechtungen und Kooperationsansätze.* (Bochumer Materialien zur Entwicklungsforschung und Entwicklungspolitik, 30) Stuttgart: K. Thienemanns Verlag, 1984. 251 pp., DM 54.-

The present volume is a study of the "Pacific Basin – Growth Dynamics, Trade Interdependencies and Approaches to Economic Cooperation". Most of the papers are the outcome of a research project on economics in the Pacific Basin, started at the "Institut für Entwicklungsforschung und Entwicklungspolitik" (Ruhr Universität Bochum) in 1982. In the first chapter – "The Crisis of Global Trade Policy, GATT between Self-Destruction and Reform", pp. 1-25 – the two GATT principles of most favoured-nation treatment and reciprocity are discussed with respect to their erosion as the rules governing world trade. Three fundamental issues are addressed: the Safeguard clause, the Graduation issue and the conditional MFN-treatment. In their conclusion the authors point out that "the main threat to GATT's future role is not to be found in the modification of its original principles – which in fact now only exist as ruins – but in the vanishing readiness of many member countries to accept compromises and to come to a general consensus in complex negotiations". (English summary, p. 221)

The second chapter – "Import Barriers and Export Promotion in South East Asian Developing Countries", pp. 26-75 – deals with tariff protection accorded to industrial production and non-tariff-barriers in the ASGN- and NI-countries of the Pacific region.

After an analysis of Japan's export success esp. during the years following the oil price increases, the study focusses in the chapter "Japanese Trade Policy in Controversy" (pp. 76-112) on Japan's competitive advantages and its mercantilist trade policy. This includes issues such as "social dumping practices" (e.g. wages, working time, leisure and annual leave, social security system), high productivity, adoption of technological progress, tariffs, administrative import control procedures, exchange rate policy etc.

The final chapter on "Concepts of an Institutionalized Cooperation in the Pacific Basin" (pp. 113-201) offers an extensive analysis of the various cooperation concepts. The authors present two basic arguments in favour of the adoption of a regional approach to trade policy issues:

- (1) the erosion of the principles of GATT and Bretton Woods on the one hand and the increase of bilateral protectionist measures on the other,
- (2) the deadlock in the global North-South-negotiations and a growing regional potential for consensus on the basis of identifiable common interests. Then the different concepts for Pacific-Basin-Cooperation are discussed: the Kojima propo-

sals, the OPTAD-option, the recommendations by the ASEAN Study Group on the Pacific Community, the Japanese Special Committee on Pacific Cooperation and the proposals of the various Pacific Economic Cooperation Conferences. After an analysis of the degree of economic interdependence in the region, the chapter concludes with a political evaluation from the perspective of several major actors, i.e. the USA, ASEAN and Europe.

In their conclusion the authors side with Barnett's judgement of the cooperation ideas as "amorphous dynamism" serving as a strong incentive for the future development of regional economic relations. But "the necessary economic and political conditions for cooperation as integration, i.e. for an EG-type approach, still do not exist" (p. 227).

Further economic integration probably remains "a task for the beginning of the 21st century" (p. 195). This highly recommendable, well researched and balanced volume also contains an extensive English summary (pp. 218-229) and a bibliography of 323 titles (pp. 230-251).

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