

idea that her daughter might be coughing, because a cough was not part of the symptom complex she had in mind when she asked for medicine against worms.

And as for the father of the three children ailing and dying from measles, it was the fear of the revenge of the pock goddess which made him reject the intervention of western medicine.

This book is a major contribution to South Asian medical anthropology. It gives us first hand information on the cognitive structures, patients' behaviour and illness concepts among the Tamang.

It is obligatory reading for all physicians working abroad and an interesting introduction to applied cognitive anthropology for all South Asianists.

Beatrix Pfleiderer

**Michael Nebelung (red.):** Bangladesh im Schatten der Macht. Mit Beiträgen von W. Böttcher, I. Hepp, J. Jansen, B. Jessen, T. Lawo, W. Mey, M. Nebelung, M. Rashid, D. Reinhardt, M. Sander, C. Windelen. (Aachener Studien Sozialwissenschaften, 3). Aachen: Rader Verlag, 1986. VI + 385 pp., DM 28.–

Aid and trade links between Bangladesh and the German-speaking world are far from unimportant. For example, West Germany is the third largest donor of bilateral aid and spends well over 100 million DM in the country each year, i. e. about one DM per inhabitant. The humanitarian reasons for this are clear: Bangladesh is one of the most poverty-stricken countries in the world.

It is thus surprising that so little is written about Bangladesh in German. This book, which prides itself on being the first general collection of essays in German, was published fifteen years after Bangladesh attained nationhood.

*Bangladesh im Schatten der Macht* is intended for a general readership. It focuses on the everyday problems facing people in Bangladesh and on the close links between these and problems and contradictions in Germany and other industrialized societies. It is also intended as a de-mystification of development policies in Bangladesh and as an exhortation not to ignore what is going on in Bangladesh simply because it seems to be of little importance internationally.

The book is not just another pamphlet. On the contrary, it is a well-balanced, excellent introduction to its subject. Some of the information contained in it is new, or has been culled from relatively inaccessible sources, and this makes the book a welcome addition to the literature on contemporary Bangladesh.

In fifteen chapters the book deals with an array of historical, economic and political themes. Special attention is paid to food and health, poverty and rural life, de-

velopment efforts, the position of women and the issue of solidarity. The problems of tea workers and that of ethnocide in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are also dealt with. Each chapter presents a capsule analysis of its theme. Most chapters are packed tightly with information but numerous case studies and personal experiences have been included for easy reading and comprehension. Some of these convey the obvious vitality of Bengali villagers.

The book is at its best when it deals with the political economy of Bangladesh. I was mildly disappointed not to find a detailed account of the international ties linking Bangladesh to countries such as Germany. In this context it would be very useful to be provided with an analysis of both aid and trade links between the two countries. A second aspect that would have merited fuller treatment is the problem of regional (and sectoral) disparities in the country. Methodologically, it would have been good to warn the reader more explicitly against relying too much on Bangladeshi statistics. In the light of the suggestion that Bangladesh is suffering from 'cultural schizophrenia', and yet local culture should provide the basis for proper development, a more thorough analysis of Bangladeshi culture might have rounded the book off. Finally, it could have done with a more detailed and up-to-date political map of the country.

These omissions are minor ones and anyone wishing to learn more can turn to the good bibliography and extensive documentary and statistical appendix. As for interpretations of the main developments in Bangladesh, I found myself agreeing with most of the authors. But their historical notions seem to be derived too one-sidedly from the 'nationalist' school of thought whose ideas are currently being re-examined.

*Bangladesh im Schatten der Macht* is a storehouse of relevant information on the fifth largest society in Asia. As such it may well become a reference work as well as a good general introduction. I hope it will find a wide readership and stimulate discussion on the role of foreign aid and trade in Bangladesh.

Willem van Schendel

**Bernd Schubert et al.:** *Proposals for Farming Systems-Oriented Crop Research of WAWI Highland Agricultural Research Station in Northern Thailand.* (Schriftenreihe des Fachbereichs Internationale Agrarentwicklung, 101). Berlin: Verlag Josef Margraf, 1986. XXXIII, 323 pages, DM 29.-

The present report was written by a team of eight postgraduate students under the guidance of Bernd Schubert from the Centre of Advanced Training in Agricultural