

Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt: "Die Philippinen den Filipinos!" Die amerikanische Debatte über die Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungspolitik auf den Philippinen, 1898 bis 1906. (Europäische Hochschulschriften, Reihe III, 311). Frankfurt, Bern, New York: Peter Lang 1986. 494 pp.

The book provides a careful and for the most part thorough review and evaluation of one of the most disputed events in the United States history: the acquisition of the Philippines. Extensive descriptive and historical information about the time span 1898 – 1906 is given. The detailed footnotes, the instructive tables in the appendix, and a comprehensive bibliography (all in all over 150 pages) are not merely testimonials to scholarship, they are themselves exceedingly valuable tools for both specialists and those with a more general interest in the subject. The author makes use of an impressively wide array of sources; published and unpublished government printings, newspapers, unpublished private manuscripts and letters etc. The style and format of the German language original cannot help but reinforce the more positive stereotypes concerning German scholarship: it is thorough and well-disciplined and requires a firm grasp of the scholarly form of that language.

And the subject is indeed a vast one. Whereas the title suggests that it is "only" a treatise on the inner-American debate about the economic and administrative policy during the first period of American colonisation, it is also a study on the mechanisms of imperialism and a historical sketch of the American ideology of racial, economic and political superiority. This ideology helped the United States to quite crudely overcome its ill-preparedness and gross ignorance in governing an archipelago almost on the other side of the globe.

Glaser-Schmidt addresses the American political debate by giving priority to economic questions – and economic interests of the various factions within the United States – connected with the colonial expansion. Creatively, she interprets the political and philosophical ideologies behind these expansionist and protectionist economic interests. She then turns to the historical sequence of events, the debate whether to acquire the Philippines at all (chapter 2); the establishment of the American administration and its execution through the Department of War (chapter 3). The legal discussion concerning the status of the Philippines (1900 – 1901) is viewed in relationship to the so-called Insular Cases. Quite blatantly the protectionist and racist viewpoint was finally sanctioned by the Supreme Court. The American economic policy between 1902 – 1905 (chapter 6) focused on the policy of land titling and distribution, finance and currency reforms as well as a policy of incentives for American investments and the regulation of import/export taxation. The question of land (e. g.) shows exactly how much harm can be done by the introduction of seemingly benevolent measures – safety of land titles – to the majority of small

farmers (p. 223), a point which can easily be generalized. Even today the Philippines are confronted with these legal problems. The study ends with further discussion of economic policy in the years 1904 – 1906 (chapter 7), where the tariff policy and the investment policies in railway construction play an important role.

Even though the author is predominantly concerned with the American side of the discussion (the study grew out of a dissertation in an institute of Anglo-American history in the University of Cologne), she succeeds in providing concise information about the Philippines as well. The lessons the book provides are manifold: among others, one wonders at how little American governments have learnt in the meantime, if one takes their policies in post-war Germany, their engagement in Vietnam or their policy in Nicaragua into account. Maybe the United States have just become more sophisticated. The book also shows that the root of the special United States-Philippine relationship is not just some 50 years of colonialism but an ideology of knowing best what is good for others.

Unfortunately, given her excellent factual knowledge, the author seems to shy away from theoretical discussion about the roots of dependency and underdevelopment in the Philippines. Positively, the book shows what is desperately needed, namely a study about the Philippine side: how and why was the Philippine population – with only a few exceptions – so accommodating to American rule, why and how did they become so 'Americanised' as they are today? Glaser-Schmidt has indeed set a high standard in her approach to this problem.

Frank Hirtz

Michael Klein: Zur Rechtsentwicklung in der Volksrepublik China. Eine Studie zu ausgewählten Grundsatzfragen des Strafrechts und der Strafrechtspflege 1979-1983. (Studien zum Chinesischen Recht, 4). Bochum: Studienverlag Brockmeyer, 1985. 273 pages.

Monika Ishar, Heidrun Schulz, Konrad Wegmann: Materialien zum besonderen Teil des Strafrechts in der VR China 1979-1984 – eine Dokumentation aus chinesischen Quellen. (Studien zum Chinesischen Recht, 5). Bochum: Studienverlag Brockmeyer, 1986. 423, XXVII pages.

At about the same time as the legal system in the People's Republic of China was enjoying a largely unexpected rebirth, a group at the Ruhr University Bochum was formed to study Chinese law. Initiator was Professor Dr. Konrad Wegmann and he has been the driving force of this remarkable enterprise ever since. He has motivated