

UWE HOLTZ (ed.): Entwicklung und Rüstung. Öffentliche Anhörung des Ausschusses für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit des Deutschen Bundestages. (Militär, Rüstung, Sicherheit, Vol. 32). Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 1984. 303 pages, DM 47.-

A good 10 years after the German Federal Republic started to become involved in the international arms business a hearing took place organized by the parliamentary commission on economic cooperation. The book here reviewed, edited by Uwe Holtz, chairman of the commission, is the result of this hearing.

Experts, social groups (churches, trade unions) and research institutes had been invited to answer a questionnaire dealing with the problems of statistical assessment of military expenditure, the transfer and development of arms as well as the connection between violent conflicts, militarization and underdevelopment in the Third World.

This procedure was in the interests of rationalization, obliging the participants to be concise, revealing at the same time some not uninteresting nuances.

As was to be expected, the answers differ considerably, both in respect of quantity and quality.

Stimulating and well-founded in fact are, above all, the contributions of D. Senghaas (Bremen University) and M. Brzoska (SIPRI, Stockholm) as of the Joint Conference Church and Development (GKKE). If anything, W. Geisler's polemic is counter-productive, the comments of the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) somewhat beside the point.

Somewhere in between are the contributions of the German Trade Union Congress and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Ebenhausen, whose comments were remarkably colourless.

One may attempt to summarize the conclusions of these heterogeneous contributions roughly as follows:

- 1) The process of militarization, in the broadest sense of the term, continues unabated in the Third World, though it has been slowed down as a result of the debt crisis at the beginning of the 80s.
- 2) The claims of the military to be the avantgarde of modernization proved untenable. The economic successes of military regimes were no greater than those of civilian governments. Military governments do, however, distinguish themselves by even more flagrant violation of human rights.
- 3) The thesis that military expenditure promotes economic growth and social development, is wrong, at any rate one-sided. Figures show that the alternative of investing resources in civilian and development projects produces greater growth and development.
- 4) There is also a qualitative argument: military growth models promote ill-planned industrialization, the import of inappropriate technologies and force recourse to export production.
- 5) Commercial arms imports deprive the countries of the Third World of their scarce foreign reserves, encourage the accumulation of a repressive arms arsenal and intensify politico-social instability. Social conflicts can

not be resolved by force of arms, but only by social reforms.

6) Decisions about arms exports are among the best kept secrets in Bonn. Statistics are either not disclosed at all, or, if they are, they are incomplete. The basis for decisions remains vague and unclear. Questions by members of parliament about arms deals are dismissed by the executive, the excuse being that they are business secrets.

For the insider these conclusions are not necessarily new. Nonetheless, the hearing (and the publication of its conclusions) reveals important information and helps to put the discussion on a factual basis - and in this respect the abundance of empirical data contained in this volume makes it a veritable storehouse.

Unfortunately there is no guarantee that this hearing will not share the same fate as its predecessors - i.e. it will be without effect. At any rate, it is worth noting that the German arms industry did not participate in the hearing.

On 27th Sept. 1985 it was reported in the papers that Great Britain will supply Saudi-Arabia with 72 Tornados - with German participation.

Gerald Braun

BEATRIX PFLEIDERER/WOLFGANG BICHMANN: Krankheit und Kultur: Eine Einführung in die Ethnomedizin. (Ethnologische Paperbacks). Berlin: Dietrich Reimer, 1985. 263 pages, DM 26.-

The authors present the first overview of Medical Anthropology in the German language. This book was overdue, since interest in the field has risen extraordinarily in Germany during the past decade. It is designed to serve as a basic textbook in introductory courses for medical as well as anthropology students, and also as a guide to interdisciplinary discussion and to solving actual problems of medicine in cross-cultural contexts for health practitioners and ethnomedical field-workers.

The preface was written by Thomas W. Maretzki, who relates German ethnomedicine to historical and conceptual contexts.

The first part defines the German term "Ethnomedizin" as a translation of "Medical Anthropology" and links it up with related sciences. A profound knowledge of international medical anthropological literature enables the authors to precisely analyse the field and to place it in its historical context. Exact references are cited for sources of concepts, ideas and the most important publications in the field.

Part two occupies the largest part of the volume. It presents examples mostly from Africa and Asia, which are the continents where the authors gained most of their personal experience.

Chapter one outlines the history of medicine in Africa and South Asia,