

this, however, may help to find it.

Dietmar Herbon

MALCOM DUNN: Kampf um Malakka. Eine wirtschaftsgeschichtliche Studie über den portugiesischen und niederländischen Kolonialismus in Südostasien. (Beiträge zur Südasienforschung, Bd.91). Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1984. 275 pages, DM 52.-

This book presents an economical analysis of Malaya under Malayan (1400-1511), Portuguese (1511-1641) and Dutch (1641-1799) dominion.

In the first section of the historical part the author describes the dominant features of Malayan feudal society and the system of trade, in the second part the coming of the Portuguese and the nature of "Estado da India", and in the third part the characteristics of the Dutch V.O.C. trading empire. In order to obtain the most relevant facts and to work out the changes that occurred within the three successive stages the author has only used literary material. That is why the reader who is familiar with the works of C.R.Boxer, K.Glammann, N.Steensgaard and P.Wheatley won't find many new aspects in M.Dunn's book. But this is not meant as a criticism for it is something the author himself admits (Introduction p.XIII).

New is the theoretical approach. The question is how one should analyze economic systems, how one can understand the protagonists and where and who are the driving forces or principles.

One answer to these questions is offered by the "neoclassical theory of economics", a theory that - as the author explains - tends to reduce human beings to rationally acting economical types who aim at maximization of profit and whose economical attitude must be quantified as far as possible.

M.Dunn understands man as an ensemble of his psychic, social and cultural context, so he has to criticize the approach of the neoclassical school. He opts for the following: an adequate analysis of economic systems must ask about the motivation of the acting groups (i.e. the interests and aims), the competence (i.e. the capacity to realize the interests and aims) and the property rights (i.e. the all-embracing complex of social rights and norms of a society).

Following this scheme one does not view history according to principles and types but gets closer to the acting groups and their historical conditions, i.e. in this case the development and changes of the Malayan peninsula under precolonial and colonial control.

Besides some minor points which I have to criticize - the author underestimates the nautical knowledge of the Portuguese (p.130) and he does not mention C.H.H.Wake's article on the European import of pepper (Journal of European Economic Transport, Vol.8, No.2, 1979) - the most problematical aspect of the book lies in its theoretical approach.

Although one can hardly criticize the value of the theoretical pattern, it un-

fortunately does not lead to any new insights. The explanation is simple enough, because the authors who have most treated the economic history of Asia between 1400 and 1800 - like M. A. P. Meilink-Roelofs and N. Steensgaard - are not members of the "neoclassical" school. That is why all the arguments and explanations which M. Dunn incorporates in his three categorical systems are already to be found in older works.

Uwe Granzow

WERNER PFENNIG / MARK M. B. SUH (eds.): *Aspects of ASEAN*. (Schriftenreihe Internationales Asienforum, Band 2). München, Köln, London: Weltforum-Verlag, 1984. 395 pages, DM 59.-

The previous years witnessed a rapidly increasing academic interest in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was formed by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in 1967 and extended to a community of six by the admission of Brunei in 1984. The growing attention given to ASEAN is no accident as the ASEAN economies have expanded rapidly and gained political stature in conflicts affecting the region. The latter was made evident by the prominent role the Association plays in the search for a solution to the Kampuchean problem, Southeast Asia's security threat number one, and skilful negotiating when major interests of the Association as a whole or one or several of its member countries were at stake.

Despite these, at a first glance, impressive performances, the picture of ASEAN drawn in the literature is a rather controversial one. While for some observers, ASEAN is a successful model of late development and regional integration, a manifestation of dynamic growth, others point to the political and social costs of ASEAN development: authoritarianism, widening social and spatial inequalities and a loss of indigenous cultural identities and traditions.

It is one of the major merits of this reader that it does not discuss ASEAN merely along such polarized lines which are often clouded by ideological stereotypes. Instead, the editors and their contributors, all of whom are well-known scholars from different disciplines with a long working experience in ASEAN affairs, have provided a well-balanced assessment of the way and the extent to which the creation of ASEAN has enhanced regional cooperation and thereby promoted the national goals and interests of the member countries.

The reader can be subdivided into three major themes: political and security-related aspects of ASEAN, social and economic aspects and, thirdly, ASEAN-Japanese and ASEAN-EEC relations. While the political and security-related articles (by Mark B. M. Suh, Estrella D. Solidum and Thakur Phanit)