

"poisonous weeds" are also of considerable interest: the reader gains some insight into the methods used by oppositional groups to camouflage their attacks on Mao and the group of Jiang Qing. They quoted the sayings of chairman Mao and the official slogans of the party apparently with much devotion, but by putting them into another context the citations assumed quite a different meaning. The peculiarities of the Chinese language provide many opportunities for the use of this method. It is thus very enlightening that the editor gives many examples of how this camouflaged criticism is unveiled.

The three documents edited by Martin Krott can be regarded as an early draft of the policy of Deng Xiaoping in the years after his rehabilitation. In the main the conflict between the "Gang of Four" and Deng focused on the question whether or not it is permissible to modify the policy of the pure communist doctrine according to the needs of the economy.

Peter Greiner

WOLFGANG TAUBMANN, URS WIDMER, THOMAS HEBERER: Chinesische Wirtschaftspolitik in der Nach-Mao-Ära. (Texte zur wissenschaftlichen Weiterbildung). Bremen: Universität Bremen - Zentralstelle für Weiterbildung, 1985. 120 pages, DM 10.-

The book reviewed is based on the manuscript for a seminar which was held last year in the premises of the Chamber of Commerce in Bremen. Wolfgang Taubmann, Urs Widmer and Thomas Heberer have been studying China and Chinese affairs for years already and gathered a large portion of their knowledge during their various trips to China. The study gives a comprehensive and concise description of the past years which saw China's economy in transition and hence it provides an excellent introduction for prospective customers and other interested parties alike. The rapid liberalization of the country's economy makes the business man take a look at the Free Trade Zones (FTZ) and certain industrial branches which are being vigorously promoted. The book is intended to provide the reader with an insight into the basics of China's development policy and gives a brief idea of the various possibilities of commercial cooperation. It comprises three parts contributed by the authors separately but published jointly: modernization of industry, development of the FTZ's, and economic reforms in the post-Mao era.

In the first part Wolfgang Taubmann renders an account of the sectoral and regional aspects of industrial modernization in progress. The reader is presented with an outline of Peking's attempts to restructure its industrial set-up and achieve rising output in production. After the experience of rather slow motion the government is promoting the concept of balanced economic planning. Various tables and charts highlight different important aspects and enable comparisons. The changes in regional industrial structure and the

development of the various sectors of industry are described. The exploration of offshore oil resources, mainly by international consortia, has been omitted. Equally, the characteristically underdeveloped condition of the transport system which has great impact not only on the domestic market but also on China's foreign trade is not adequately taken into account by the author.

Urs Widmer contributes the second part of the book, summing up the development of the FTZ's and portraying their economic and political significance. These enterprise zones are designed to attract foreign investors by offering favourable concessions and relative freedom from constraints. The reader not familiar with the enigma of Chinese legislation is briefed on the regulations for incorporating companies and some operational views. The author's description of the FTZs' characteristics including appropriate tables on further specifications can serve as a basis for first feasibility studies or business appraisal. The detailed table specifying all 14 seaports now open to trade and investment is quite outstanding and enables the reader to compare basic data pertaining to each port. On the other hand some vital topics have been omitted: a number of companies assumed that a joint venture not only provides the advantage of cheaper production and thus higher competitiveness but automatically entitles them to enter into the huge Chinese domestic market with its unsaturated excess demand. It has become evident that under the present circumstances this expectation is not fulfilled. The study should also have emphasized that the management in charge of the joint venture consists largely of Chinese appointed by authorities without any influence of the investor, notwithstanding his share in the venture's capital. In the past many complaints were aired about the Chinese management's lack of experience, qualification and flexibility. There is still a large amount of unspoken subliminal uncertainty in view of unforeseeable changes in policy or economic consistency. For an unbiased and critical approach, use of independent periodicals would have been advisable in a review of developments.

The third and final part compiled by Thomas Heberer elucidates the economic reforms in the post-Mao era providing the prerequisites for China's opening to the West. The necessity for wide ranging and rigorous reforms to reshape the economic system became obvious considering the inability of the preceding system to adjust to the country's needs and ensure a certain living standard for the population. The author gives a structured historic account of the development from complete domination of the economy by ideology until the latest liberalization trend. The introduction of performance and correlative wages, price adjustment for marketed goods and the impact of this economic policy on China's society is well reported. A few explanations on the recently reformed banking system might have completed the survey.

In conclusion, the book can be recommended as an informative introduction to the economic situation in China today, giving a concise briefing in the German language on business-related basics which have to be taken into consideration before starting business with mainland China.

Ralph W. Göhlert