

enterprise in Southeast Asia in colonies taken over by the British and the Dutch. In the context which enabled them to survive and, indeed, thrive Daus sees the working of a timeless arsenal of attitudes and directions for action which, though first worked out by the Portuguese, have become available to all apparatuses of power, a kind of perverted universal heritage of the colonial enterprise. Daus does not systematically expound a theory of colonialism in this book but from occasional remarks it seems that he favours a view of colonialism which treats it as a contingent rather than a structural phenomenon of capitalist development. This accounts for the curious tone of regret underlying the book. The colonial enterprise is viewed in terms of a lost opportunity in which the possibility of expanding horizons through voyages of discovery was distorted and destroyed by insufficient awareness of the rights or sensitivities of the sphere of other cultures. This position is, of course, consistent with the hermeneutic analysis but it seems to me to rest on some debatable assumptions. Eric Wolf, in "Europe and the People without History" (1982) has reminded us that extensive communicative linkages at the world level existed even prior to colonialism. Colonialism brought about an extensive qualitative change but both colonisers and colonized were part of the same historical trajectory. The view that bounded cultures came into contact, or more strongly, that the coherent sphere of the Other was "penetrated" is probably itself a colonial fiction. Perhaps it would be more accurate to suggest that cultures were constructed in the colonial process and that even now there is a greater differentiation and discontinuity in them than is commonly assumed.

Notwithstanding this, Daus' study is an impressive account and his intention of helping readers overcome prejudices that vitiate relationships not only with other peoples but also within their own country is a matter of common concern.

Anil Bhatti

KARLHEINZ HOTTES/CHRISTIAN UHLIG (eds.): *Joint Ventures in Asien - Eine Form internationaler Produktionskooperation*. (Bochumer Materialien zur Entwicklungsforschung und Entwicklungspolitik, 25). Stuttgart: Edition Erdmann in K. Thienemanns Verlag, 1983. 307 pp., DM 54.-

This volume which presents a collection of seven essays - three in English and one with English summary - aims at empirically analyzing various forms and effects of "Joint Ventures in Asia". Realistically enough and in order to dampen unduly high expectations which might be raised from the title, the restriction of the analysis to selected countries (India, China, Taiwan, South

Korea, ASEAN) is mentioned right on the front cover.

The introductory article by Christian Uhlig gives a broad account of the variety of instruments available to promote industrial cooperation in the field of production between partners from (at least) two countries: after sketching the most frequently quoted motives of the participants some major forms such as licence and consultancy cooperation, subcontracting, coproduction and production sharing as well as joint ventures are described in brief.

The second essay by co-editor Karlheinz Hottes on "Joint Ventures as Incentives for New Industrial Systems in India" conveys two major findings: a high degree of unwanted regional concentration of joint ventures (nearly 80 % located in and around five big cities only) on the one hand, a positively viewed promotion of structural change on the other. In addition, India's growing joint venture activities abroad are used to prove the dynamic role of joint ventures for industrial diversification in a developing country.

Covering almost half the volume, the third essay by Fritz Becker and Klaus Thiel on "Indo-German Joint Ventures in India - An Empirical Study in Development Research" clearly gives the book a somewhat unbalanced structure. However, as to its content, the study convincingly fulfills its claim not only to describe the field data gathered in India, but also to evaluate Indo-German experience with joint ventures along the lines of motives, sizes, types and capacities, patterns of the regional distribution, the repercussions on the respective national economies etc. Special attention is paid to aspects of socio-cultural interactions relating to Indo-German joint ventures and to the role joint ventures could play in development planning, calling for a stronger consideration of regional development issues. Perhaps would-be investors may benefit from the concluding section on (juridical, spatial and organizational) recommendations for joint venture activities in India.

Doo Soon Ahn in his first - not his better - contribution to the volume analyzes "Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Korea and its Economic Effects" in terms of government policy towards FDI, trends and patterns of FDI and its effects on capital formation, the balance of payments, employment and transfer of technology. Ahn slightly exceeds the scope of the volume in that his (FDI-orientated) survey covers foreign majority- and solely foreign-owned enterprises as well.

In his second and much more rewarding contribution Doo Soon Ahn examines "Tendencies of Indignization and Joint Venture practice in the ASEAN Countries". Here both instruments are presented as a promising means of directing foreign private investment in order to balance its potential advantages and its alleged dangers for a Third World country's overall development. After an explicit consideration of the limits of both instruments Ahn abstains from welcoming joint ventures enthusiastically; he rather regards them as "an acceptable form of dependence" (p.303). However, one clarification seems to be missing: describing indignization as Ahn does - fading out of foreign ownership holders, substitution of foreign management executives by natives, increase of local content - would necessitate at least a hint indicating in how far joint ventures

themselves can or even must be seen as one tool of indignization - rather than being treated completely separately.

Due to continuing rapid changes, Wolfgang Klenner's article on "The Cooperation of the People's Republic of China with Foreign Enterprises" cannot be anything but a snapshot. But it is done in a very informative way with regard to various aspects especially of equity joint ventures (choice of technology, protection of property, management, distribution of profits etc.).

Finally, "The Role of Joint Ventures in Taiwan-China" by Peter Lemke and Tzen Ping Su offers some interesting insights into differing entrepreneurial skills of national and "foreign" Chinese, before joint venture experiences with Japan, Europe and the USA are characterized in more detail.

Reviewing a book would be incomplete without mentioning the flaws as well: thus it may be asked here whether partial overlappings - such as between Becker/Thiel and Hottes - or the manifold repetition of joint venture motives (Uhlig, Becker/Thiel, Ahn) could not have been avoided. In addition, the reader will be puzzled by the poor language of one or two of the translated papers. In sum, though not the best in a by and large attractive series, the volume sharpens understanding of the multiplicity of joint venture-forms existing in large parts of Asia.

Jürgen Reinhardt

DORIS THURAU: Gründe der Asylsuche von afghanischen Asylantragstellern in der BRD. Berlin: EXpress Edition, 1984. VI + 160 pp., DM 24.80

Studies of alien cultures in our own country are rare. There are a few accounts of the Turks in Germany, a very good report on the Tibetans in Switzerland, a longish article on the Eritrean refugees and a study in the making of the Vietnamese in the Federal Republic. A large number of lawyers, administrators and social workers are concerned with refugees and persons seeking political asylum. Only a few, however, concern themselves with the cultural background of their clientele. And the few who do often have no access to relevant information about the respective countries. This not infrequently results in wrong legal decisions and mistakes in caring for political refugees.

Doris Thureau's study of Afghan applicants for political asylum contributes to amending this deficit. It is an empirical study of 25 applicants, which may seem a very small number - doubtless many colleagues will express their doubts about the representative nature of such a small group. From my own knowledge of the milieu of Afghan political refugees I myself consider the group to be representative. It consists of members of the upper-middle or of the upper class, of the urban intelligentsia with a tendency to mobility and at