

PETER HANSER: *Krieg und Recht. Wesen und Ursachen kollektiver Gewaltanwendung in den Stammesgesellschaften Neuguineas*. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1985. 430 pp., DM 58.-

The author analyses the violent disputes and fierce struggles within the acephalous societies of New Guinea, aiming at a hypothesis which could explain the causes of wars in this area. Appropriately his concept is a holistic one ("wars are total social phenomena", p.5) and therefore he examines war on different levels, the religious and ideological as well as the political, social and economic level. At the same time wars are historical processes and in analysing them they require the diachronous level, not only a functionalistic one. The author is close to the 'extended-case method' without mentioning it explicitly, nor does he make full use of the instruments of this method developed in connection with the 'conflict theory' in British Social Anthropology.

In Part I the author presents a careful recapitulation of the scientific occupation with 'primitive war' until now ('history of ideas', including the view of war held by missionaries or colonial people) and deals with method and source criticism. In Part II he analyses the morphology of wars in New Guinea societies: origin, rise and causes of wars (struggle for prestige or for women, acts of vengeance after murder, manslaughter or theft and in consequence of boundary litigations), process of wars (types of conduct of war, warfare, tactics such as sudden attack and ambush), results and consequences of wars (e.g. migrations), and methods of peace making. The sources are based almost exclusively on New Guinea highland societies. In Part III the author discusses different theories on the causes of war. He argues that in the case of the pre-colonial acephalous societies of New Guinea, the causes and motives of war are to be found in the absence of functioning instruments for conflict management and dispute settlement; therefore the main means to enforce 'right' is self-help, thus triggering off chains of conflict. This conclusion is acceptable. - In the appendix one finds several useful lists, tables, registers, and maps.

This Ph.D.thesis (Freiburg University) can be recommended as being an interesting and comprehensive study.

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AKTIONSGRUPPE PHILIPPINEN (ed.), *Philippinen - wenn der Bambus bricht*. (rororo aktuell 5739). Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1986. 219 pp., DM 10.80

This book is written with an intention. The intention of showing the evil of the Marcos Government and the need to put an end to the wretched state of affairs.