

"This theoretical perspective forms the basis of the method here adopted for defining the role of the Malaysian state in the development process with the help of an empirically orientated (!) country study" (ibid.). The simple fact that no geographical region can possibly wholly resemble another, is hereby overlooked. And this is the cardinal error: if this study is to remain "empirically orientated", then it must restrict itself to merely ascertaining facts and connecting them in a plausible manner, even if reality is embarrassing to theory.

But instead of this we are confronted with a "fiacre", in the words of Max Weber: with a fiacre that one can stop, mount and leave at will for the sake of "proving" one's argument: half and quarter truths, strained interpretations, distortion and tendentious arrangement are presented in such abundance that a volume several times as bulky as the text would be necessary to rectify them - the usual method of rendering all objective criticism well nigh impossible through a spate of assertions. The author conveys the impression of being well-read when it is a matter of finding evidence for "underdevelopment", "class-conflict", "repression" etc. Second - and even third-hand opinions (e.g. Far Eastern Economic Review) are cited en masse wherever it seems expedient. The careful selection of appropriate informants is striking. Still more striking is the obvious lack of real knowledge of the country and of the subject. As a result the genuine problems are, at best, only mentioned in passing (insofar as they are not completely ignored).

This may well be politically effective propaganda. From the point of view of an "empirically orientated" country study it is not only sterile - the author's reputation as a scholar is at stake. All in all: the chance of putting an end to inadmissible generalizations and replacing them with illuminating insights was thrown away. That is regrettable for it was urgently needed.

Dietrich Kühne

ECKART DEGE: Die Entwicklungsdisparitäten der Agrarregionen Südkoreas. (Kielser Geographische Schriften, Vol. 55). Kiel: Geographisches Institut der Universität Kiel, 1982. XXII, 332 pages; 19 maps. DM 49.-. (Obtainable from: Geographisches Institut, Olshausenstr. 40, 2800 Kiel 1, FRG)

In this agrogeographical study of South Korea, Eckart Degé tries to analyze the intersectoral and interregional disparities which have resulted from the rapid world-market oriented industrialization and urbanization for about two decades now. Through analyzing official statistics such as Farm Household Economy Survey, Yearbook of Agricultural and Forestry Statistics etc., he seems to have succeeded in finding out the disparities which have proceeded

in line with diffusing market-oriented agriculture. For the author the extent of market orientation in agricultural production is the sole criterion for classifying farm households into three main categories: 1. market-oriented farms (which make up 5.1 % of all farm households in 1972); 2. subsistence and semi-subsistence farms (72.2 %); 3. submarginal farms (22.2 %). From such categorization the reader can gain the biased impression that subsistence and semi-subsistence production dominate in South Korean agriculture, although most farm households have already submitted to the logic of monetary economy. This classification seems either to be too simplified or those categories not to be adequate to reality. Maybe the insufficient theoretical reflections resulting from such categorization are a weak point of this otherwise well-constructed study.

Eckart Dege tries to find out the disparities in the sense of regionally specified, unequal marketing mechanisms with the help of cluster analysis. Here we see the great advantages of such a geographical analysis; thanks to the relatively simplified mapping, a diagonal axis from the northwestern to the southeastern region is to be seen, including those regions of intensified market economy (active region, as the author calls them). Another axis shows those regions of less developed agriculture from northeast to southwest (passive region). From the contrast of these two axes we can ascertain the cross-fertilization of industrial and rural development. Along the first diagonal axis the industrial plants are concentrated, which in turn gives an impulse to the dissolution of subsistence peasant economy and facilitates the process of monetarization.

In order to explain the reason for different levels of development, the author examines the structural characteristics of geographical relief together with socio-economic conditions for each region and tries to put those factors characterizing different regions into his multiple regression models, so that he can see the functional relations between them in statistical terms. In this combination of detailed description and systematization of factors we find the originality of this habilitation-thesis with its wide perspectives and abundant information.

Especially the data from field research in 8 villages representing various types of farming are noteworthy. These villages are scaled as to the level of socio-economic development, their geographical and socio-economic situations are mutually interwoven in the interpretation. The distance of every village from industrial centers and its location in highway networks are underlined as important elements for explaining different levels of development. In this way the socio-economic variables seem to be more meaningful than natural-geographical ones in forming developmental disparities.

The working process of this study, from statistical analysis to construction of a multiple regression model and examination of this model on the basis of empirical surveys, seems to be adequate and to have achieved its goal. Students of Korean geography and development studies will find abundant facts and materials on Korean agricultural development. The tables and maps enable the reader to get an overall view of the problems tackled. This book may be one of the most

penetrating and perceptive studies on South Korean agriculture published in German.

Jae-Hyeon Choe

DIETER EIKEMEIER: Documents from Changjwa-ri. A Further Approach to the Analysis of Korean Villages. (Veröffentlichungen des Ost-asien-Instituts der Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Vol.25). Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1981. IX, 261 pages. DM 92.-

Various studies on Korean villages have been published recently, most of them based on field research over various lengths of time and employing different socio-economic methods. Dieter Eikemeier has approached the study of one particular Korean village from a new angle, led to do so by the need of the university teacher to limit his field research to several shorter visits, and by his sound philological background.

His study centers around normative sets of rules in which the village population agrees to certain organizational and behavioral standards in connection with questions pertaining to the village as a whole. The outstanding single event is the village festival, the most important other issue is the regulation of land and woods not privately owned, and other common possessions. The village code agreed upon is the written expression of what autonomy there is on the village level, an excellent point of departure for questions relating to local vs. central government.

The village chosen is a small island village off the south coast and, until recently, quite remote. The documents cover the time between 1933 and 1964, when drastic changes in the political arena began incorporating the village into the reorganization of Korean society in the course of development.

It is important to read the subtitle carefully in order to avoid disappointment. The study centers around documents, not the reality of everyday life. Several times the author himself points out that the documents under study are no good source for the latter because they are proclamations, quite often fictitious, and sometimes even repetitions of provisions from government law. Dieter Eikemeier's "Further approach ..." does not attempt a description of village life as such. It is the contents of these regulations which are confronted with actual life, so in this respect aspects of Korean village life are being discussed and explained in *extenso*, but naturally a study focussing on the totality of real village life would be different in scope and stress.

All documents are given in translation (pp.144-189), the original text has been added (pp.192-229), and author and publisher must be given special complements for this.

Background explanations given are mainly in two areas. One is the theoretic-