

Of course, the topic "Pakistan in Its Fourth Decade" could have been extended, for example, to current problems of local social and economic change, religious sects and minorities, to further questions of ethnicity and cultural identity, and to the development of tourism, but a conference can scarcely cover all fields of interest. Even if the present volume "does not attempt to give an introduction to Pakistan" (p.IV), it will serve as a valuable survey of the current political, social, and economic situation in the country. The book, which is completed by a select bibliography, notes on authors/editors and an index, is recommended for students of Pakistan Studies, politicians, experts etc.

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CHRISTIAN KLEINERT: *Siedlung und Umwelt im zentralen Himalaya*. (Geological Research, Vol.4). Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1983. 269 pp., DM 98.-

Kleinert gives a descriptive analysis of the settlement patterns and the environment in the Central Himalaya, i.e. the area from the Sutlej river valley in the west to the Arun river valley in the east. During the seventies he travelled widely in Nepal and gathered data on house patterns, settlement and environment in different parts of the country. This study is a final account of his research and is complemented by literature on those areas of the Central Himalaya (Sutlej, Garhwal, Kumaon) where the author did not travel himself.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part gives a regional analysis of house and settlement patterns, the second part gives a typological classification of these patterns and the third part shows the results of man's influence on the natural living conditions in the Central Himalaya.

In part one Kleinert analyses the settlements of Kumaon Himalaya, West, Central, and East Nepal with special respect to the Terai, the Outer Himalayan Range, the Inner Himalayan Range and the most important river valleys and gorges of this area. After this regional survey he proceeds to a typological classification of house and settlement patterns. Criteria for his classification are mode of construction, appearance, use and distribution. There are 11 types of houses: two in the Terai, five in the Outer Himalaya, three in the Inner Himalaya and one in the Tibetan Himalaya.

Three patterns of settlement are to be found in the Terai: the traditional scattered settlement of the plains or a cluster alongside the road; the regularly built colonist settlement and the bazaar settlement alongside the road or at junctions. The Outer Himalaya shows farm settlements, mostly lying at a lower altitude on the southern slopes of the hill ranges. There are more closely built settlements in the middle or on top of the hill ranges, which are

permanently inhabited by farmers, and typical bazar settlements alongside the roads.

The Inner Himalaya shows farm and trader settlements in the high valleys and alongside the rivers, not all of which are permanently inhabited. The third pattern of settlement is the bazar down at the mountain passes leading to Tibet. The Tibetan Himalaya shows only one settlement pattern: a compact, solidly built and permanently inhabited cluster. Exceptions to this classification are Terai towns, Newari settlements of the Kathmandu Valley, sacred compounds, hill stations and recently built administration centres. Two separate tables give a good systematic overview of what is described in great detail in the text.

The third part of the book is dedicated to nature and man. The natural environment is characterized by the topographical relief, climate, vegetation, geology, soils and water. History, the distribution of the population, the impact of the social structure on the settlement pattern, religion, tradition, economy and transport have transformed this natural environment and the rapid development and change in some parts of the region are leading to environmental crises. Kleinert's study is meant to be a documentation of a great cultural diversity that might possibly vanish during the coming decades.

He shows that house and settlement patterns do respond to the natural conditions of the area in which they are to be found. Ethnic variation of these patterns is common but seems secondary after the demands of the environmental conditions are fulfilled. There is one example (p.212) where the pattern of Thakali houses and settlement change completely due to the change of climate within the greater settlement area.

Housing and settling in traditional societies is shown as a process of adaptation to the environment and, as the Himalaya is an area of great diversity of natural conditions, there is a multitude of patterns of houses and settlements which are modified by the ethnic identity of the dwellers of a specific region.

Kleinert gives a good survey of the natural and man-made living conditions and their mutual dependency in the Central Himalaya. Included is a 22 page bibliography. A folding map (scale 1:2 000 000), 91 most interesting b/w pictures and 33 beautiful pencil drawings by the author add considerably to the value of this useful contribution to the knowledge of this area.

Klaus Seeland