

cessary. The editor of part B, Mrs. Toyka-Fuong, gives sketches of parts of the figurines. The reproduction of the figurines is of excellent quality so that one can perceive even the smallest detail.

Part A II functions as supplement to A I and gives exact drawings of 19 of the 79 deities described in A I, because they present difficulties in interpretation, thus enabling the student to interpret them correctly. Besides this the Tibetan artist N. G. Ronge gives drawings of all possible positions, gestures and emblems.

For the drawings of the postures he consulted six other Tibetan texts, because the postures have changed considerably over the centuries. He cites the Tibetan description of the six different texts in full length, and gives an English and German summary of them. The postures as well as the gestures and emblems are given with Tibetan and Sanskrit titles and English and German translation.

As it was the aim of the authors to provide a manual suitable even for the amateur, one must praise the detailed analytical indices. It is not the case that one can find a deity only if one knows the Tibetan or Sanskrit name; one can also try to identify it by means of the number of arms, by emblems, gesture, posture, etc. The analytical index follows the 23 criteria. The more criteria one collects the easier it is to identify the deity. The future volumes will retain the same scheme as the three parts published so far.

One can hope and wish that this will become a widespread publication and that it will be continued in the same promising manner.

Dieter Back

MARKUS SPINATSCH: Boda. Ein Dorf am Rande der Welt. Eine Untersuchung zur politischen Ökonomie der Unterentwicklung in einem ostbengalischen Dorf, im Nationalstaat Bangladesh und in der Weltgesellschaft. (Sozialwissenschaftliche Studien zu internationalen Problemen, Vol. 93). Saarbrücken/Fort Lauderdale: Breitenbach, 1984. viii, 292 pages, DM 34.-

"Boda - a village on the fringe of the world. An analysis of the political economy of underdevelopment in an East Bengal village, in the national state of Bangladesh, and in world society" (originally a Ph.D. thesis of Zürich University) studies underdevelopment as a global, a national and a local problem.

A short introductory chapter (1), the author, in part I (chapters 2 and 3), looks at underdevelopment in what he calls "world society", i.e. the historical reality of world society, the "globalization" of modes of production and the current crisis of world society. Then he deals with the basic theoretical features of the structure and dynamics of world society, i.e. the formation

of society, the state of the present international system and the search for the structural dynamics and degrees of freedom of action. He distinguishes between (i) the hegemonial position of the metropolises, (ii) the dominant position of the auto-centric societies, (iii) the semi-peripheral position of the outward-oriented nations and (iv) the peripheral position of most of these with their quasi-feudal pattern of interaction and their highly limited internal and external degrees of freedom (p.32).

"The underdeveloped nation: Bangladesh" serves as a test case for the last category (part II: chapters 4 to 7). The political process towards national independence is seen under the heading of communalism and regionalism, from British colony to Pakistani province. Pakistan's neglect of its Eastern province is summarized briefly; the role of 'development aid' is seen with due scepticism.

Part III deals with "the underdeveloped village: Boda" (chapter 8 to 10): political power, modes of production within the social structure.

The final chapter (11) "summary and prospects: semi-feudal blockages, political entropy and the global crisis of hegemony", unfortunately, brings together only insufficiently the results of the three levels of the study - world, nation, village - to show parallels and how the results fit into a uniform pattern, i.e., how the peripheral position of Bangladesh is reflected on the national and local level. The Northwest of Bangladesh certainly is peripheral as compared to the other regions; within the Northwest, Boda Union Parishad, however, seems to be less peripheral; the national context is not examined. Neither is there an analysis of the regional peripheral position within Boda village; in the village context, 'peripheral' is understood personally and not regionally. The existence of a major landowner, who, being a Hindu (p.152 ff.), is 'peripheral' in the national context, though enjoying a central economic and political position on the local and regional level, was most likely not anticipated when the study was drafted (the data stem from a Bangladesh-Swiss development project, in which the author seems to have been involved). More details might have been interesting.

The book is to be recommended to the student of Bangladesh socio-economic conditions and the village political power structure. The part on Bangladesh in general is weaker ("Arabic" (sic!) rulers, p.45 ff.), but the author does not intend to give an introduction to the country. The first part is quite readable. Little, however, has been done to bring the three parts together. The book certainly is interesting for German readers, since there are only few studies on this country in German. Less jargon would have improved readability; some terms are also specifically Swiss. In view of the small size of the sample, less econometric "sophistication" would have done. There is no mention that pseudonyms have been used either for the places or persons; one may thus well ask whether it is necessary to fully expose persons who are most probably still alive to international readership, especially when the author even mentions their drinking problems and their "illegal practices" (p.152).

The appendices contain information on weight and measure, the admin-

istrative set up, the harvesting calendar, a glossary, a historical chronology, details about the survey, an attempt to introduce to the non-statisticians the statistical tools used in the study, and quite a comprehensive bibliography.

Wolfgang-Peter Zingel

ASOKA BANDARAGE: Colonialism in Sri Lanka: The Political Economy of the Kandyan Highlands, 1833-1886. (Studies in the Social Sciences, Vol. 39). Berlin/New York/Amsterdam: Mouton Publishers, 1983. XIV, 404 pages. DM 56.-

Whether presented as theories of modernisation or underdevelopment, works in the sociology of developing countries preponderate in economic analyses at the cost of social-structural ones, general theoretical and macrosociological studies at the cost of theoretically guided social-historical ones.

The essence of the problem is the question about causes of underdevelopment and conditions of development. In the scholarly discussion the following articulations of this question have been shown to be crucial:

- (1) the matter of the social-historical necessity of bourgeois modes of production and the chances of late capitalistic development;
- (2) that of the specific social structures of the Third World, particularly the relationship between the dominant capitalistic and the subordinate pre-capitalistic modes of production and their effective mechanisms;
- (3) that of the relative importance and interaction of external factors generated by the world market and internal production relations of underdevelopment;
- (4) that of the historical function of European colonialism and its lingering after-effects on contemporary structures and processes of underdevelopment.

Asoka Bandarage's book proposes answers to some of these questions through a theoretically guided case study. In the course of this he also attempts to clarify systematically the ends, means and results of British colonial politics in a developing country, to illustrate the methodological necessity and fruitfulness of a synthetic (holistic) approach, and to contribute to the theoretical analysis of the Third World.

Bandarage treats the period of "classical colonialism" originating in the European industrial revolution and the consequent rise to supremacy of industrial over mercantile capital. It was at this time that an international production and exchange system emerged into which all countries and societies were successively incorporated. This integration necessarily brought with it a revolution of existing social relations. Bandarage's theme is precisely this socio-economic transformation of the feudalistic Kingdom of Kandy into a capitalistic market-economy oriented toward the world market.

In 1833 Kandy was united with the rest of Ceylon under a unified administra-