

BRITTA LÖHRKE, BERND MULTHAUP, KLAUS PRÄNGER: Die stille Kraft des Bambus - Marginalisierung, Slumbildung in der Dritten Welt und Ansätze zur Selbstorganisation. Das Beispiel Manila. München: Simon und Magiera, 1981. 186 pages, illustr., DM 29.20.

JÜRGEN RÜLAND: Squatter Relocation in the Philippines: The Case of Metro Manila. (Universität Bayreuth, Lehrstühle Geowissenschaften, Forschungsmaterialien 5). Bayreuth: Universität Bayreuth, 1982. 106 pages.

These are two studies, one in German by students of architecture, the other in English by a young political scientist; both are on the same subject, namely: The urbanization of Manila, manifested in squatter areas such as Tondo Foreshore, and the incompetent and inadequate reaction of the government towards it. The studies complement each other and thus are particularly valuable.

"The peaceful force of the bamboo" was originally a report for a scholarship-financing agency, was then extended to become a diploma thesis and finally was edited for publication. One wonders whether the title refers to the bamboo huts of the squatter areas, or are improved bamboo constructions proposed here as a solution? The alternative proposal of building with Coca Cola tins is of course more fascinating and refreshing although probably impractical since the tins have to be unspoiled in hundreds and thousands. (The peaceful force of Coca Cola ...). The thesis is a fictitious squatter relocation project in Manila and is arranged according to the conventions of an appraisal or planning report for some sort of development agency. Like many of its models, part 1, i.e. the problem description (history, setting, economic conditions etc.), carries a bulk of information and arguments the relevance of which for the solution is unclear. On the other hand, part 2 which includes the solution and planning proposal carries elements which are not strictly derived from part 1. In our case, because of the lack of time available, among other reasons, part 2 is not weighted strongly enough to be taken very seriously. The reader should not be misled by the suggestive presentation. Obviously the main part of the study is the problem description. Although like so many other much more ambitious studies it suffers from the mistake of collecting what is at hand and arguing what is already agreed upon, nevertheless, the way in which this is presented is spectacular. The text is fairly short but is supplemented with many photos, cuttings from newspapers and books, cartoons, sketches and technical drawings. This is not only highly enjoyable, in fact it is stimulating, a little piece of art compared to which most of the appraisal and other reports look dull and abstract, or to put it briefly, out of touch with their subject.

That which has been left out by the students, namely figures of relevance and the arguments based on them, is complemented by Jürgen Rüland in his analysis of the Manila policy of trying to get rid of the squatters by relocating them. The cases of bulldozing the settlements, loading the inhabitants on

lorries and dumping them on a far away relocation site have been collected here for the first time. And still the lesson is not understood by all administrators, namely that this type of measure is unsuccessful as far as its objectives are concerned and disastrous for the people affected.

The two studies do not fully complement each other. It is a pity that the authors did not discuss their ideas in Manila, where they could have met in 1979. But this inspires new questions: The threatened community and the finally resettled community, are they the same? What are their responses to the challenges coming from outside? What is their potential? How are they organised and how do they articulate their needs? Under what conditions would they voluntarily accept advice? And so on.

As an introduction to the problems of urbanization on the one hand, and to the problems of Manila on the other, both studies are recommendable.

Jürgen Oestereich

JÜRGEN HOHNHOLZ (ed.): Thailand. Geographie, Geschichte, Kultur, Religion, Staat, Gesellschaft, Bildungswesen, Politik, Wirtschaft. (Ländermonographien, Vol. 13). Tübingen: Erdmann Verlag 1980. 518 pages, illustr., DM 58.-.

Advertisements for the Philippines, Ceylon or Thailand always portray a colourful "tropical paradise" where people live in harmony with nature and with each other. This, however, no longer corresponds to the socio-economic and political reality of these countries. Thailand, that "peaceful, Buddhist country", the topic of this reader, is no exception. The evergreen forests, for example, are being quickly cut down, the fish poisoned by industrial waste and chemical fertilizers. Furthermore, according to the physician Dr. Schelp, "Thailand has become a haven for exotic bacteria and diseases and thus an ideal studying-ground for parasitologists and specialists in tropical diseases" (p. 69).

This collection of essays on Thailand is written in the great tradition and style of country-studies. Unfortunately, it lacks discussion of problems presently facing Thailand and also up-to-date statistics and references to recent Thai literature. Thus, the book is useful as a source of information for the historical and cultural background but an interested reader should also be introduced to the vast amount of detailed studies, particularly those written by Thai scholars themselves. Moreover, the enormous influence which the USA has had on Thailand's recent development, not only in the economic, but also in the political and cultural spheres, was given little attention, and the same holds true for the Japanese influence. This applies also to the topic dealing with the "agents of change" like farmers' associations, the student movement, the professions, as well as the body of technocrats both in politics