

every reign ..." (Vol.I, p.367-369).

Even more up-to-date sound the writings of Praya Suriyanuwat who wrote lucidly at the turn of the century: "The growth and development of Siam which is principally dependent on farming more than anything else at present, will progress rapidly or slowly depending on the amounts of benefits that the farmers receive. ... The ideas of the science of economics can be applied correctly only if they are first based on an understanding of the real and actual living conditions of the people ..." (Vol.I, p.399). One wishes that these thoughts might find their way into the next 5-Year-Plan.

The obligatory question, namely whether such a political-economy approach is really fitting for this kind of topic can be answered positively in this case. As the knowledgeable introduction proves, such a concept provides not only a useful analytical framework but also creates the linkages that facilitate the understanding of past social and economic events.

Hans U. Luther

JAE-HYEON CHOE: Die Dynamik der Klassenbildung im modernen Korea.
(Bielefelder Studien zur Entwicklungssoziologie, Bd.16).
Saarbrücken, Verlag Breitenbach, 1982. 347 pages, DM 38.-

The present work of Choe, which was his Ph.D.-thesis at the University of Bielefeld, aims at showing that a macro-sociological survey of both internal and external conditions in traditional Korean society (from the middle of the Yi dynasty to the beginning of the colonial period under Japan) can analyse class formation in modern Korea.

His first critique goes back to the theories of the "Asiatic mode of production" for the Yi dynasty in Korea (1832-1910), where, according to Choe, private land ownership prevailed since the 17th century. Although the concept of "Asiatic feudalism" proposed by Choe can say much with reference to Korea, it can not in reality distinguish that concept from the "Asiatic variety of feudalism" which was a sophisticated conclusion from the discussions about the "Asiatic mode of production" held in Leningrad in 1931. If we accept Choe's arguments (the dominant role of private land ownership, the spreading of commodity production, the disintegration within the aristocratic class (Yangban), and the enhanced social mobility), we find ourselves asking the following question: why the "germ of capitalism" in Korea could not transform itself into a capitalistic society as in Japan?

At this point Choe introduces the concept of "strategic groups" from his mentor Hans-Dieter Evers, which means that some social groups in traditional society dissolve their own social status and role for the sake of preserving common revenue, power and privilege.

However, three main "strategic groups" in Korea, the reform-oriented Confucians, the orthodox Confucians, and the utopian peasant rebels, were not able to consolidate their common interests for building a new socio-economic order; they only built coalitions in the partisan war against the Japanese seizure of Korea. In consequence, the internal dynamics of Korean society was absorbed into the external power, the capitalistic world system represented by Japan.

The methodological frame in Choe's work is based on the "social and structural history" which has been refined by some sociologists and historians in Bielefeld.

Furthermore, Choe applies Norbert Elias' theory of "courtly society" to the life-style of the Korean aristocratic class. Choe's work also gives us important information about the present state of discussion among the Korean and Japanese scholars who have participated in debates on the pre-capitalist social formation in Korea.

German-language sources of well-founded analysis of Korean society have hitherto been scarcely available. In this respect the present volume thus offers stimulation and valuable help for Korean studies.

Du-Yul Song

LIEM NGO-HUY: *Ausländische Privatinvestitionen auf den Philippinen. Voraussetzungen und Auswirkungen auf die sozialökonomische Entwicklung - Eine Fallstudie.* (Entwicklung und Frieden: Materialien, Bd. 16). München/Mainz: Kaiser/Grünewald, 1982. VI + 250 pages, DM 29.50

This study by Liem Ngo-Huy provides the reader interested in the economic and social development of the Philippines with a wealth of information and insights. Along with the declaration of martial law in September 1972 went an aggressive, export-oriented development strategy, and the study aims at demonstrating empirically the influence of private investment - welcomed with open arms - on the development of the country. The macro-economic impact, from the point of view of the legal and institutional framework as well as the supportive measures are linked with the micro-economic impact on individual enterprises. To this end detailed source material from forty enterprises, belonging mainly to the manufacturing industry and situated largely in the Bataan Export Processing Zone, was evaluated. The following areas were selected as reference framework: investment motives; impact on employment, income and balance of payments; company social benefits and working conditions; transfer of technology; sectoral and regional effects as well as the market and bargaining powers of industry vis-à-vis the state.