

The reviews in Internationales Asienforum try to give a brief evaluation of recent German publications.

CHRISTEL BERGMANN und HELGE E. GRUNDMANN: Interdependenz zwischen Industrie- und Entwicklungsländern. (Wissenschaftliche Schriftenreihe des Bundesministeriums für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit, Bd. 34) Baden-Baden: Nomos, 1980. 185 pages, DM 29.-

Ever since there have been economic relations between countries, the role and effects of these relations have been the subject of controversy. In recent times, discussion has centred on the economic relations between the developed and the developing countries in particular, one side stressing the fact that the developing countries suffer from international economic relations and should delink to overcome their dependence upon the developed world. The other side emphasizes the mutual benefits of international economic cooperation and pleads for further integration of the developing countries into the world economy.

In the present study attention is given to the interdependence in the economic relations between the developed and the developing countries. Two aspects of this interdependence are distinguished: the external connections between North and South (vertical interdependence) and the respective internal effects caused by and itself influencing these connections (horizontal interdependence). In accordance with this distinction, the flows in trade, capital and labour between North and South are described first. Concerning the trade flows it is argued that the South is dependent on food and on manufactured goods, while the North is dependent on fuels, and both, North and South, are dependent on the other's raw materials. The capital flows are judged to be more important for the South than for the North, whereas the flows of labour are considered to have lost importance since the mid-seventies. Then the effects of these flows on certain economic variables (e.g. production, exports, imports, employment, inflation) are described for the developed and the developing countries. Some of the main conclusions are: the economic situation in the North exerts an important influence on economic development in the South; the limiting determinant for growth in the developing countries is their import capacity; the net employment effect of foreign trade between North and South is positive for both regions. The study concludes with a brief discussion of some proposals for accelerating economic development in the North and the South by utilizing the effects of the trade and capital flows. Although in the previous sections the trade flows in raw materials between the developing and the developed countries were analysed and both, North and South, were said to be interdependent in terms of trade in raw materials (except food and fuels), proposals concerning these trade flows are not discussed in this section.

In general, the study gives a thorough description of the flows of trade, capital and labour between the developed and the developing countries and discusses some of the effects of these flows on the respective economies. But, similar to the literature on dependence, no precise and operational definition of "interdependence" is given which could be applied in the analysis. Therefore, the study remains rather descriptive and does not provide a basis for the evaluation of the proposals concerning the economic relations between North and South. Thus, one misses some of the expected new insights into the controversy of the developing countries' position in the world economy and one has no new appreciation of the mutual benefits North and South can derive from international economic cooperation.

Norbert Wagner

JÜRGEN OESTERREICH: *Elendsquartiere und Wachstumspole. Beiträge zur räumlichen Planung in der Dritten Welt.*  
Köln: Deutscher Gemeindeverlag, Verlag W. Kohlhammer, 1980. 204 pp., DM 19.50

The author is a leading German authority on problems of urban development in developing countries. This volume is in effect a distillation of his years of experience as a scientist and in an advisory capacity. Urban conglomerations in developing countries are growing twice as fast as the population, and slums four times as fast. This is affecting the equilibrium in the immediate living space, i.e. the microsystem, in the community, i.e. the mesosystem, and in the regional environment as a whole, i.e. the macrosystem. Residential areas, cities and whole regions are sinking into poverty.

The author's fundamental question is whether this process of pauperization can be influenced and reversed. Does the spatial organization of society play a role, and if so, at which level? Do prescriptions such as large-scale housing programs, satellite towns, and growth points carry much hope of success? Is their inefficacy thus far revealed due to dispensing, dosage or packaging? Do we require new means or new instruments? What are the obstacles to possible innovation?

The contributions in this book deal with the premises and prerequisites of urban and regional planning methods under the socio-economic conditions obtaining in developing countries. Thus, the study is concerned not with spatial structures as such or paradigms for these but with the decision-making processes which lead to the localization of activities, i.e. to concrete spatial structures. The author is seeking, on the one hand, premises, i.e. pre-