

CHRISTOPH JENTSCH/RAINER LOOSE: *Zur Geographie der ländlichen Siedlungen in Afghanistan*. (Mannheimer Geographische Arbeiten, Bd. 6). Mannheim: Selbstverlag des Geographischen Instituts der Universität, 1980. 119 pp.

Although publications on Afghan geography in the last 15 years have gone a long way in filling our gaps of knowledge in this area, geographers will nonetheless welcome the latest publication of the University of Mannheim's Geographic Institute, *Zur Geographie der ländlichen Siedlungen in Afghanistan*. In addition to providing information on the still-neglected area of rural settlements, this publication lends itself to comparisons with similar studies done in other Oriental countries.

The slim volume, containing two articles on rural settlements by Christoph Jentsch and Rainer Loose, is based on research carried out by both authors in 1975; further studies were prevented by the outbreak of the Saur Revolution in 1978.

In his article Jentsch surveys the distribution of rural settlements, as well as their size and layouts. Using this information as a basis, he attempts to establish a classification system for rural houses and their building materials.

Loose attempts in his article to explain the contradictory division of fields into regularly formed stripes and irregularly shaped amorph allotments. Loose maintains stripe allotments coincide with several waves of advancement of Pashtun tribes from the south and southeast and their final settlement. These waves, often encouraged by Afghan rulers, represent a direct takeover of agricultural land and constitute a process of inner colonisation.

Of special value are the many photos that support the contents of each article. In addition, English summaries are provided at the end of each contribution. Finally, enclosed maps show the physical geography, size of settlements, forms of rural settlement elements and altitudes of permanent settlements.

Linda Feldman

DIETRICH KÜHNE: *Malaysia. Tropenland im Widerspiel von Mensch und Natur*. (Klett Länderprofile). Stuttgart: Ernst Klett-Verlag, 1980. 187 pp., DM 25.-

In recent years regional geography has regained favour in the Federal Republic. Accordingly, Klett-Verlag has started a new series, "Länderprofile" - country profiles. Thus far, eight volumes have appeared, three of which deal with Asian countries: Indonesia, the People's Republic of China and Malaysia. Dietrich