

REVIEWS

ULRICH MENZEL: *Theorie und Praxis des chinesischen Entwicklungsmodells.* (Studien zur Sozialwissenschaft, Band 38). Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1978. 788 pages, DM 64.-

This study which was completed in August 1977 follows the history of development in China from colonial times to the present day almost. At the same time, this major empirical study can be considered as a contribution to the theory of self-centred or rather autonomous development ("autozentrierte Entwicklung").

The analysis can, basically, be divided into three sections. Firstly, one tries to discover the reason why the society's political community, which up until then had been very advanced, suddenly began to stagnate in the 19th Century, something which later led to under-development. The second section analyses the development strategies which have been in operation since Chinese independence in 1949, whereby those ideologies which are examined, e.g. Maoism and Liuism, are regarded against a background of pre-revolutionary development problems. The last section deals with the actual development of the People's Republic of China until 1977, both in view of pre-revolutionary ideological battles.

The author's thesis is that the structure of peripheral, dependent social formations has, not only been influenced by capitalist penetration since the mid-nineteenth Century, but also by the traditional agricultural production and bureaucracy, which although extremely stable, has come to a virtual standstill and has ceased to develop in the last few hundred years. "The question as to whether or not the penetrated land has its own advanced culture and political system is not unimportant for the structure of underdevelopment" (p. 23). This is of vital importance for all development strategies, as one must be prepared to take into account both the possibilities and problems of traditional development as well as the problems and contradictions of peripherally capitalism.

The post-1949 development theories and those which followed the rejection of the Soviet development model for heavy industry both favoured the traditional (Maoist) and the modern (Liuist) sector. Which of these two was in fact favoured depended upon economic and social pressure. Both include equally important aspects of the "Chinese model" which is characterised by the fact that the country is dependent only on its own resources without meaning that it seeks autarky. The point of departure of this model, i.e. it rejects the production of a monoculture for the export market, is what makes it differ from that of other developing countries. Furthermore, the fact that it is an experiment means that it can respond quickly to changes in society. Precisely because it is in an ever-changing state it cannot be applied automatically to the situation in other countries.

The importance of Menzel's research lies in the care with which empirical data which are available are structured theoretically. This means that Menzel does not fall into the trap associated with dogmatic theories of peripherally capitalism. He lets himself be guided by the facts, meaning that in historical China, at least, a dual concept, i.e. a parallel development of both the modern and the traditional sector must emerge.

Menzel drew upon a large amount of literature and facts and was thus able to construct a comprehensive picture of Chinese development. Everyone who has at some stage come up against a lack of Chinese statistics in vital areas will appreciate this attempt. It is even more remarkable in so far as the author was unfortunately unable to use original material in Chinese as his source.

Bernhard Glaeser

WOLFGANG KLENNER: *Ordnungsprinzipien im Industrialisierungsprozeß der VR China. Planung - Organisation - Unternehmenskonzept.* (Veröffentlichungen des HWWA-Instituts für Wirtschaftsforschung, Hamburg). Hamburg: Verlag Weltarchiv, 1979. 360 pages, DM 42.50

This study was presented by the author as a dissertation at the University of Bochum and was financed by the Volkswagen Foundation as part of its program of modern East Asian studies. The fruits of this program are apparent in this work. The author, an Economics graduate with a thorough training in development from the German Development Institute (Berlin), has sufficient command of Chinese to study source material himself and to conduct interviews in China. Since receiving his doctorate, Klenner has directed the China Group at the HWWA (Hamburg).

As for the dissertation, it must be said that the title "Ordnungsprinzipien" - roughly translated as structural principles - is somewhat misleading, in spite of the subtitle 'Planning, Organisation, Company Structure'. This is due to the fact that the study is concerned not only with these structural principles, but especially with their emergence, and how these have subsequently been deprived of their normative aspects in practice. The author assumes, furthermore, that an understanding of "the economic order" may be taken for granted in China; this term is frequently used in conjunction with the concept of "process politics" (Prozeßpolitik), which has not been defined in this context.

The book claims to further our "understanding of Chinese development policies by establishing and analysing the structural principles in the process of industrialization" (p. 15). This is not quite correct, for the study is essentially one of "economic administration" or "business organisation in the industrial sector"