

character. It is shown how each of these different programs was marred by specific inner tensions and problems. As far as the results go, there are certain positive aspects, for example, the development of educational and health organizations in the countryside. For the most, however, the official goals - above all the drastic modernization and mechanization in the area of agriculture - were not achieved.

As a result of S.'s study, the "Maoist" vision (or what was made out of it) of the conquest of the city as a one-sided center of economic and social development vanishes. Even in the socialist developing country China, a self-declared model for the third world, the cities represent the natural point of attraction for the flow of immigration. Here the problems multiply. The most important one is the growing unemployment among the youth. From here come important impulses on the restructuring of the countryside. Not one of the large-scale projects has been able to reverse this trend: the goal of most of those sent to the countryside is to return to the city. And the younger generations apparently persist in refusing to leave the cities. S.'s study proves that the solution to the city-country problem is as far away as ever.

Peter M. Kuhfus

THEODOR BERGMANN, BARBARA P. HAZARD, DIETER SENGHAAS (Edts.):
Wiedersehen mit China nach zwei Jahren. (Bielefelder
Studien zur Entwicklungssoziologie, 12). Saarbrücken,
Fort Lauderdale: Breitenbach, 1981. 328 pages, DM 33.-

China-traveling still attracts in a special way. Nevertheless the literature describing these travels indicates many changes in the opinions about the country as well as in the manner looking at it. The views on China have become more poignant, and this book is a very good example of this.

It is a collection of protocols, facts and their analysis as well as of essays and individual reflections. It describes a "Meeting-Again With China After Two Years", in other words, the group, a part of which had travelled in China before, now was in a position to review the changes which had occurred in the meantime. Among the members are specialists and China-experts as well as people whose interests in China are not necessarily professional, so that their report on the whole has a scientific approach whilst always referring to the landscapes behind the focussed topics.

The central topic, the agricultural development, has been probed into in almost all of the visited units: in 7 communes, brigades and state-farms, in 5 industrial units, of which 3 are immediately agriculture-related, and in 5 talks with experts

on environmental protection, agrarian- and forestry-science, water-conser-vancy, with a member of the ministry of agriculture and with the well-known anthropologist and sociologist Fei Xiaotong. In the second half of the book the information is discussed in eleven essays which although mainly concentrating on the agrarian sector and the actual reform strategies, also focus on the conditions of perception etc.

Instead of negating the value of the offered insight as a misrepresentation, the authors comprehend the model-units properly as practical arguments for further development strategies. They demonstrate that the units they saw are nevertheless indicators of existing contradictions, on which they focus their attention: Which is it preferable to resolve? Which ones are suitable for use as dynamical factors? Are there some with insufficiently recognized self-dynamics? The connected problems are considered according to various aspects: the relationships between the state-owned, the collective and the private areas of economy; the treatment of the spatial and social disparities; the problems of technological transfers; the everyday-life between the traditional and the modern society; the market as social synthesis...

The analyses of course have not succeeded in probing as deeply as they would in specialist's monographies. The book is a travel report, yet one written by well-informed travellers who display both expertise and caution.

Christoph Peisert

OSKAR WEGGEL: *Chinesische Rechtsgeschichte*. (Handbuch der Orientalistik, Vierte Abteilung, China, Band 6). Leiden/Köln: E.J. Brill, 1980. 298 pages, 128 Guilders (for subscribers of the hand-book 104 Guilders).

Over a long span of time, those interested in Chinese legal affairs had to chase after tiny bits of information, especially from the "Cultural Revolution" onwards. After 1978 the great excitement. China's leadership set about revitalizing the judicial system and declared a sound socialist legal system as being an unrenounceable part of the country's modernization. Judicial institutions were created, a long overdue codification started, legal education and professional training were officially endorsed, lawyers began to practice again, etc. All of course in a framework staked out by the Communist Party.

It is difficult to follow all the relevant events taking place or triggered off by the revival of China's judicial system. Even more so if this is compared with the former dry season. However, all close observation of current affairs should be accompanied by questions such as: What kind of law? What concept of law is received in China today? How is this to be assessed vis-à-vis the historical