

Due to the fact that the emphasis in the study is laid on the historical development, the process of the agrarian reform is dealt with in less detail. Moreover, it would have been sensible to deal in detail not only with the changes in the agrarian and land tenure constitution but also with essential and complementary components of an agrarian reform such as input supply, agricultural marketing and extension. Be that as it may, this rather politically orientated study is an asset to the literature on agrarian policy in the Third World.

Khosrow Saidi

WERNER RÖLL: Indonesien. Entwicklungsprobleme einer tropischen Inselwelt. Stuttgart: Klett 1979. 206 pages, DM 26.-

The book is extremely informative, but due to the variety of contents and structure not easy to read. It will be profitable mainly for readers who have already acquired a rudimentary knowledge of Indonesian affairs. It is also a rich source of reference for people who want to do research in this field as they will find plenty of statistics, descriptions and short analysis.

The book provides fundamental knowledge concerning the level of development and its characteristic and relevant features and draws a plastic picture of Indonesia. The various data are strewn pragmatically and contribute to the clear and informative lay-out of the book.

Only people who have lived in that country for some time and have tried to understand the problems of culture and population in this country may find that the approach the author has chosen is sometimes a little too rational and excludes one essential characteristic of this country.

Werner Röll himself quotes Alisjahbana saying that in Indonesia feudalism and mysticism of the Middle Ages coexist with the technical age and communal thinking is mixed with the rationalism and communalism of the 20th Century. This phenomenon is essential for an understanding of the process and tendencies in the development of this country and has to be taken into consideration if one wants to do justice to the problems of Indonesia.

The fact that the left hand is still considered to be impure is sometimes more relevant to specific defects or short-comings in this country's development than a rational analysis of the resulting situation can hope to be.

This book is an important step into this direction; it sharpens the reader's awareness of this fundamental problem of all developing countries and it is to be hoped that the author's profound knowledge of Indonesia will contribute to a broader understanding of the needs of a reasonable and productive development policy. - Indonesia has still not found it. -

Eberhard Weller