

area of evaluation: firstly, it analyses economic expansionism of Japan in the post-World War II period, including the main features and strategies of Japanese politics in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Secondly, it shows that the states in Southeast Asia (SEA) have become acutely aware of growing Japanese influence. Thirdly, it points out that the configuration of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is very much concerned with building up an integrated economic area and concentrating on the principles of self-reliance and regionalism in order to attain more independence from the Japanese economy.

As far as this three-fold structure is concerned, the author gives a good approximation of the political and structural problems faced by the ASEAN states in their attempt to create their own poles of growth and development and find a regional context of mutually balanced and advantageous cooperation.

In my opinion there are two very important aspects that are insufficiently treated in the evaluation: (1) The "response" of the ASEAN states to these developments is only discussed in the last third of the analysis. That means the major part of the study consists of a descriptive analysis of Japan's industrialisation process. Furthermore, the statistical analysis of Japan's trade and investment policies in SEA does not provide a basis to understanding the systematic and aggressive strategies to increase Japan's influence in key economic sectors in SEA. For example, no consideration is given to the extremely important support policies and means provided by Japanese state authorities. (2) The other point that needs broader evaluation is the diverse structure of ASEAN interests in the region. On the one hand, ASEAN depends on Japanese technical and financial support for bigger industrial projects, on the other hand, the ASEAN private industry tries to build up complementation industries to get rid of Japanese domination.

Nevertheless, the study provides a good introduction to the complexity of economic interests and structural interdependencies between Japan and ASEAN.

Waldemar Duscha

FRANZ R. HERRES: ASEAN. Ein Weg aus der Unterentwicklung? Grenzen und Möglichkeiten regionaler Wirtschaftszusammenarbeit. München: Verlag Simon + Magiera, 1981. 144 pages, DM 16.80

This study by Franz R. Herres provides an overview and introduction to the 'Association of South-East Asian Nations' (ASEAN). The main topic of the

analysis is the question of how integration and cooperation among developing countries can succeed in overcoming the structural and financial problems of development. Therefore, a first chapter is dedicated to general considerations about the main problems of regional cooperation among developing countries, including the analytical framework of the economic prospects and advantages delivered by traditional trade theories. Consideration is also given to socio-economic categories elaborated on by Dieter Senghaas, like self-reliance, autarky and auto-centered development.

The second chapter concentrates on the special historical, structural, economic and political situation these member countries are confronted with in the development of ASEAN. It becomes obvious that the cultural, political, ethnological and economic heterogeneity of the region provides a very small framework for efficient economic cooperation. This means that political developments in the region - the emergence of three communist countries in Indochina since 1975 and dependence on the Japanese economy - do not allow a simple reduction of ASEAN activities, as has been observed in other integration constructs in Africa or South America.

The final chapter considers the possibilities of ASEAN members strengthening their economic ties through the reduction of tariff trade barriers, Package-Deal-Projects, complementation industries etc. It concludes that from 1967 till now none of the instruments of cooperation has been working sufficiently well.

This background study is distinguished by photo illustrations that are designed to appeal to a broad range of readers rather than only ASEAN experts or economic analysts. A main advantage of the book is that it tries to fill the information gap in the Federal Republic of Germany on this association.

Waldemar Duscha

TONI SCHÖNENBERGER: *Der britische Rückzug aus Singapore 1945-1976.* (Beiträge zur Kolonial- und Überseegeschichte, Bd. 20). Zürich und Freiburg: Atlantis, 1981. 230 pages.

The economic development of Singapore, alongside with that of Hongkong, Taiwan and South Korea, has often been propagated as a model for other Third World countries to emulate. This is a lot to ask for, since "economic miracles" cannot be duplicated by the rest of the world and, besides, where is the market (and purchasing power!) to absorb all these exports resulting