

REVIEWS

KARLERNST RINGER, ERNST-ALBRECHT VON RENESSE, CHRISTIAN UHLIG (eds.): *Perspektiven der Entwicklungspolitik.* (Bochumer Schriften zur Entwicklungsforschung und Entwicklungspolitik 21). Tübingen: Horst Erdmann Verlag, 1981. 509 pages, DM 68.-

This collection of essays does not intend to provide a survey of the main features of development during the next few years nor does it intend to provide an analytical framework for the evaluation of strategies, targets or problems of development. Its aim is rather to provide an introduction to the most important problems of both development and development policy at the beginning of the third development decade. One of the major strengths of this study is that it treats complex development problems from a multitude of analytical approaches, that is, from the point of view of economics, sociology, politics, demography, geography and law.

This comprehensive reader is subdivided into five sections:

- Fundamental questions of development (policy)
- Methodological approaches
- Structural aspects of development
- Questions of strategy
- Urgent problems of development policy.

The first section discusses whether it is possible - or indeed desirable - to distinguish different phases of development policy (K.Ringer). Although these phases cannot be exactly defined, it is at least comforting to note that the interpretation of development policy is in the process of moving away from a limited point of view restricted to developing countries only, towards a global approach (P.Meyer-Dohm).

The next article deals mainly with the progress of development and argues that continuous development success depends on a harmonious correlation between the specific requirements of industrial systems and the principles of national and cultural identity (W.Kraus). In other words, active participation of people - i.e. individual and sociological mobilisation - should be regarded as the fundamental problem of successful development (G.Wülker).

The second section concentrates on the problem of improving the methodology of quantitative development analysis - mainly referring to the possibility of constructing socio-economic indicators as in the UNRISD-Study (W.Voss, El-Schagi).

The third section is concerned with structural aspects of development policy. In the case of the Arab Republic of Yemen the determinants of efficient administration are examined (H.Kruse). The importance of cultural values is considered in so far as these are inherent in the different functions of the

family, for example, the institutional, reproductive and social functions (G.Wülker, P.Marschalck). Finally, the structure of state expenditures in 48 developing countries is examined (K.Glaubitt).

The fourth section deals with questions of strategy:

- the relevance of traditional economic theories in explaining economic integration (El-Schagi)
- the discussion of priority conflicts between growth and distribution (W.Arnold)
- problems of technology-transfer with reference to the People's Republic of China (W.Klenner)
- economic cooperation as a means of integrating the developing countries into the world economy (Ch.Uhlig).

The final chapter is concerned with three current problems of development policy:

- conflicts and perspectives of the North-South dialogue (K.Glaubitt, W.Lütkenhorst)
- the importance of the European Monetary System with regard to development assistance (O.Wulff)
- the differences between the political parties of W.Germany with regard to their attitude towards development aid (E.von Renesse).

The evaluations offered in this reader have predominantly derived from practical experience in developing countries and reflect the particular point of view of the individual contributors. The main advantage of this procedure is that the heterogeneity of developing countries is given its due consideration. Secondly, the necessity of a multi-disciplinary analytical approach becomes obvious.

The for the main part pragmatic approach adopted by the contributors, along with the high quality of most of the contributions, together make the compilation a fundamental work of reference for students and all others interested in development policies.

Waldemar Duscha

WILHELM E. MÜHLMANN: *Die Metamorphose der Frau. Weiblicher Schamanismus und Dichtung*. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1981. 253 pages, DM 68.-

The author of this cross-cultural study on female shamanism leaves descriptive and analytical writing behind in order to develop new strategies of understanding. Shamanism is no longer ascribed to particular tribes in Northern Asia like the Chuckchees or Yakuts etc., but is seen to be an ubiquitous phe-