

"Part Four: Land Reform and a More Rational Use of Existing Land", dealing with the technical, legal and political problems of land ownership, tenancy, fragmentation, rehabilitation and consolidation of split-up agricultural holdings.

"Part Five: Land Development and Land Colonization", giving a full account of the many types and stages of implementation in connection with individual farming, co-operatives, public estates, youth development schemes, ex-servicemen schemes, Orang Asli Planting Schemes, etc. This part ends with an "Evaluation of Land Development Measures in Malaysia".

All in all, a large spectrum within a relatively limited space, but the book serves its purpose to be a helpful guide through a very complex range of subjects. Of course, there are short-comings, especially in interpretation. We have, e.g., on p.262: "It is one of the curiosities that despite serious unemployment problems, a regional and seasonal shortage of unskilled and semi-skilled labour can be noticed in East and West Malaysia ... Especially young people are very choosy (!) and because of strong family connections, reluctant to go to remote areas under contract labour". One would expect at least a question mark against the "seriousness" of unemployment (and many other gaps between the academic views and practical reality).

But in the main the author's course is accurate description, and his "recommendations for improvement" are kept in limits. This was wisely done, for any lengthy discussion of such topics would have led into the boundless fields of possible strategies and their respective technical ways and means not to mention all the undesirable by-effects that are inevitably tied to each decision. Pitfalls like these were avoided. The result is a book which can be recommended to every reader seeking handy background-information, especially on relevant corporate bodies, their organization, policies, and points of law, with many definitions and a particularly comprehensive bibliography. Really a "Manual" for practical application.

Dietrich Kühne

H. DEQUIN: Indonesien - zehn Jahre danach, Agrarwirtschaft und Industrie in der Regionalentwicklung einer tropischen Inselwelt, Riyadh: King Abdullah Research Centre, 1978, 344 pages, DM 48,-, (Distributor for Europe: Götze u. Co., Hermannstraße 5-7, D-2000 Hamburg 1)

"Ten years afterwards" refers to the period after Sukarno, during which the author, a regional and agricultural planner, had the opportunity to visit and work in Indonesia several times and evaluate the progress the country was making.

The result of these visits is a handbook containing more than 150 tables of statistics as well as chapters dealing with the geography, agriculture and industry of the country. It is similar in format to the author's study of Saudi Arabia, and is abundantly illustrated.

The chapter on agriculture covers nearly all crops and techniques; not surprisingly, certain items, such as cooperatives and higher agricultural training, are only fleetingly treated. Analysis in some subsections tends to be brief, as well. Criticism of the government's land reform policy is muted: presumably the author found it difficult to criticise a government which advocates socialism in its Pancasila principles for not running state plantations along more capitalist lines, especially when the memory of colonialism is so fresh.

The chapter on industry is similarly conventionally handled. The PERTAMINA blunder, which has reaped criticism from all sides, is given adequate coverage in the author's criticism. In contrast to the chapter on agriculture, where the author benefited from government links and thus obtained statistics not generally available, most of the data here are from government publications and not ministerial archives.

The author's own projects in West Sumatra are described in detail in Chapter 4. As a whole, he subscribes to the Indonesian development concept he helped formulate. He found, however, that agricultural development growth was slower than anticipated, whereas industrial growth was faster than expected. One of the central points in the course of his argumentation is his statement that though reclamation of new land is getting more and more expensive, land resources still exist in Indonesia. Thus Dequin does not find it necessary to implement a land reform policy by means of confiscating the large estates and distributing them among the poor and landless people. For him investments in new land reclamations projects would solve the problem.

It is so be hoped that this comprehensive country study will fill a gap in German libraries.

Ria Gondowarsito

FRITZ VAN BRIESEN: Grundzüge der Deutsch-Chinesischen Beziehungen. (Grundzüge, Band 32). Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1977, 206 pages.

After Bodo Wiethoff's two books (reviewed in Vol. 9 (1978), Nos. 3/4, p. 409 f.) this is the third interesting volume of the series "Main Features" dealing with China. There are 33 short chapters, a chronological table, eleven carefully selected documents, a handy and useful bibliography, as well as an index.