

Altogether they make up a book that is easy to read and presents the subject in a summarized fashion, at the same time shedding light on numerous important details, such as, for example, the destiny of German Jews in Shanghai. While describing Sino-German relations, the author strives to place them within the larger context of international relations, thus showing correlations and historical perspectives. He mentions foreign arrogance towards China, but also helps to balance sometimes biased assessments of the role of German missionaries, schools, and economic interest in China.

There are a few minor inaccuracies. China's last emperor died in 1967, and not in 1969. Although Otto Braun (alias Li Teh) and Mao were fellow-travellers during the Long March the German communist instructor did not really side with the Chinese Chairman (p. 165).

In his effort to shorten the text for the reader, van Briessen sometimes has not enough space to elaborate. Therefore, the persons actively involved become somewhat blurred and are referred to as "Germany", "China", "Russia", or "the Japanese", etc. But it is certainly more difficult to make a long story short and synoptical than to fill countless pages and dwell lengthily upon a chosen subject. Fritz van Briessen found the adequate compromise and wrote a book that very well meets the needs of the interested general reader.

Werner Pfennig

WILLY KRAUS: *Wirtschaftliche Entwicklung und sozialer Wandel in der Volksrepublik China*. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag, 1979. 738 pages, DM 148. -

This is the first comprehensive survey of China's economic development and social change in the German language since Dr. Bernhard Grossmann, the founder of the Institute of Asian Affairs in Hamburg, published his monograph covering the first decade of the People's Republic of China (*Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung der Volksrepublik China*, Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1960).

Professor Kraus of the Ruhr University in Bochum has left no stone unturned in order to give as full an account of China's achievements as available data permit. He has covered the three decades since the communists came to power. The author lists well over a thousand sources, and his text is supported by almost 4,000 notes and some 126 statistical tables. A good many references are taken from ephemeral accounts in newspapers, where an official Chinese

source could have been found without a great deal of searching. The conscientious reader will find himself turning constantly from the text to the notes, and from there to the bibliographical sources - a physically strenuous business for anybody prepared to handle 3 lbs. of paper over a long period of time.

The author deals with his subject in historical sequence, dividing the period under review into six sections, covering the years of reconstruction (1949-52) and the subsequent era of planning, including the years of the abortive second plan and the periods of consolidation following the setbacks caused by the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

Each chapter reviews, for the period in question, basic political principles, aims, measures and results in the spheres of social, developmental and economic policies. This systematic approach assures a comprehensive treatment of all relevant aspects, but of necessity it causes a certain amount of repetition which a somewhat less rigid syllabus might have avoided.

The author's interest lies primarily in the working of the development process, but he is a little too modest when he claims (p. 3) that ideological issues and the conflicts of personalities are only touched upon where they have a direct bearing on his main theme. In fact, he devotes a good deal of the space at his disposal to doctrinal matters as well as to political factions - though the student of politics will clearly turn to other authors for guidance in these areas.

Whilst the author contributes his own data and assessment on the subject of budgetary policies, to which he has devoted a good deal of thought, in most other areas he relies heavily - too heavily in this reviewer's opinion - on the findings of other Western writers and institutions. A critical assessment of, say, the reports of the U. S. Congressional Committee and of the CIA would have been a welcome addition to an otherwise scholarly piece of work.

Professor Kraus - like others writing in 1979 on China's economic performance - was served badly by the sudden, unexpected publication of official Chinese statistical data in the middle of the year. Though he includes this latest documentation, the author was clearly unable, at that late stage of his project, to review critically the consistency - or the lack thereof - of Chinese claims and Western estimates; e. g. , he fails to square Chinese data on fertilizers, in terms of plant nutrients (note 85, p. 652), with those given in commodity weight (Table A 8, p. 540).

The publishers, known to Anglo-Saxon scholars through the book programme emanating from their American Branch in New York, may well decide to issue an English edition, updated by the author's own on-going work (cf. "Peking raises the statistical veil", *Interconomics*, September/Oktober 1979). In that event, an abridged paperback edition might suitably take the place of

the inordinately expensive bound edition. Also, the translator of the German edition ought to be aware of the author's indiscriminate use of the perfect and imperfect tenses. This peculiarity, occurring in an otherwise admirably well-written book, might only irritate the German reader – but the Anglo-Saxon user of an English edition could be misled.

Werner Klatt

Note:

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