

cial interest of the group is documented by two discussions with members of the Faculties of Geography at two universities. These reports are noteworthy insofar as they are based on observations made by the trained eyes of geographers and are, accordingly, much more precise than many similar texts. But the true value of this book lies in its reflection on the common view of China among its western friends, and in its opening up of field of research: the systematic evaluation and analysis of the available and growing number of reports of China tourists with a scientific interest.

Ulrich Menzel

PETER J. OPITZ (ed.): *China zwischen Weltrevolution und Realpolitik. Ursachen und internationale Konsequenzen der amerikanisch-chinesischen Annäherung.* (Reihe: Politik und politische Bildung). München: Ernst Vögel, 1979. 323 pages.

Chinese and American political leadership share a long, complex and often frustrating history of mutual efforts at establishing close ties between these two great Pacific countries. Despite long periods of uncertainty, hostility and sometimes vitriolic rhetoric, the common vision of peaceful coexistence, enhanced by a flourishing and mutually beneficial cooperation, has never completely vanished from the hopes of the peoples and the long-range planning of the governments involved. During the late '60s and early '70s, Beijing and Washington managed to lay the basic groundwork for realising their distant goals. The visits of Kissinger and Nixon and the famous "Shanghai Communiqué" of 1971/72 opened a long road toward the establishment of official relations in 1979. It goes without saying that the very event of political, economic and cultural rapprochement between China and the USA stimulated a proliferation of English-language analyses and essays covering all relevant aspects of the process concerned. German-language studies, illuminating "causes and international consequences" of the rapprochement, are still comparatively few, and the title under review, "China zwischen Weltrevolution und Realpolitik", unquestioningly represents one of the most important publications in this field. This anthology, carefully edited by P. J. Opitz, contains altogether fourteen highly instructive articles on various topics related to and influenced by the development of Sino-American politics and policies. The contributors include reputed German-speaking specialists on Far Eastern and international affairs as well as aspiring younger researchers. The historical and chronological background has been written by the editor himself. In both an introductory and a concluding article he outlines his view

of the course of Chinese foreign policies since the end of World War II, and explains the motivating forces behind the drive for mutual and lasting accommodation. Most of the other articles concentrate on evaluating the impact of the newly formed Sino-American friendship. The effect (or non-effect) of this major shift in international relations on Soviet politics and strategies and the prospects for Japanese security and business interests are discussed in detail. Also dealt with are, in succession, the specific consequences for certain clearly defined regional areas, e.g. Western Europe, Southeast Asia, Korea, the Near and Middle East, Taiwan, etc. Naturally, due to this type of regional approach the complex issues of security interests, business policies and the world-wide (Sino-Soviet) rivalry on revolutionary tactics and strategic goals have not been subjected to an overall systematic treatment, but are dealt with specifically in each of the regional assessments offered. The actual text is supplemented by biographical abstracts introducing the individual contributors, an appendix of selected documents of international relations in official translations and an index of important names. The "inner dimensions" of Sino-American politics would undoubtedly have profited from more extensive treatment - for instance, the driving force of the West's unending dream of the "China market", or, on the other hand, the broad spectrum of Chinese perspectives on economic reconstruction and modernization. Moreover, China's options between the pursuit of world-revolution and the pragmatic implementation of "Realpolitik" may have to be explored more deeply. Altogether, this book is definitely worth reading for the non-specialist as well as the specialist.

Peter M. Kuhfus