

DIETER NOHLEN/FRANZ NUSCHELER (eds.): Handbuch der Dritten Welt, Bd. 1, Theorien und Indikatoren von Unterentwicklung und Entwicklung. Hamburg: Hoffmann und Campe, 1974, 395 pages, DM 38. -

DIETER NOHLEN/FRANZ NUSCHELER (eds.): Handbuch der Dritten Welt, Bd. 4 (zwei Halbbände), Unterentwicklung und Entwicklung in Asien. Hamburg: Hoffmann und Campe, 1978, 869 pages, DM 68. -

The two half volumes recently published by Hoffmann und Campe entitled "Unterentwicklung und Entwicklung in Asien" (Underdevelopment and Development in Asia), are the last part of a manual of altogether four volumes, which collects and analyzes data showing the actual situation and strategies of development of Third World Countries in Africa, Latinamerica and Asia. As in the other volumes, the authors of the single contributions start from the theoretical framework evolved in volume one "Theorien und Indikatoren von Unterentwicklung und Entwicklung" (Theories and Indicators of Underdevelopment and Development).

The normative premise of the entire manual is the claim for social and political change leading to a greater measure of justice and participation as well as to more humane social conditions. Consequently foreign relations and internal political structures of the countries examined are analysed from the theoretical viewpoint of a metropole-periphery-model. It is on this concept of dependence that the editors base their claim to provide a contribution to the emancipation of the developing countries. In this way they also solve the dilemma of many geographical handbooks which present material and data that are not regarded from the political point of view. Their methodical conception should thus put an end to a bias which is still appallingly widespread in the discussions of development policies, this bias being that underdevelopment is a consequence of endogene factors like traditionalism, subsistence economy and an otherwordly outlook on life. The authors of the present manual, however, try to explain underdevelopment within a socio-economical analysis depicting each country as a deformation of the economy and the society. This deformation was caused by colonialism and still continues due to structural internal and international dependencies, thus perpetuating underdevelopment.

The first introductory volume, published in 1974, attempts a coherent and integrated concept of development and underdevelopment using previous theoretical approaches.

Each of the six chapters dealing with special aspects contains a number of separate articles. In their opening essay on "Theories of Development and the Concept of Development", the editors do not aim at elaborating on a "grand theory" which is supposed to offer all Third World countries an

accurate explanation for their underdevelopment. Their purpose is to formulate a concept of development to serve as a requisite for the catalogue of indicators at the end of the volume. The authors' attempt at conceptualizing the indicators is based on documents from international organizations, so as to avoid being accused of reproducing only the scale of values of their own society in arriving at their concept.

Some international documents on the conditions and strategies for the developmental process of the Third World countries are to be found in the second chapter, among others the "Report of the Social Conditions of the Third World", published in 1970 by the United Nations, and the "Declaration on the Introduction of a New International Economic Order", decided on by the United Nations Raw Material Conference in 1974.

The following chapters contain articles on structures of dependence and methodical problems in assessing underdevelopment and development. The views given in the various articles are not, however, in complete agreement. Hartmut Elsenhans, in his article on overcoming underdevelopment, advocates an autocentralized way of development, whereas Charles Taylor bases his "Indicators of Political Development" on an understanding of "modernity", which equates modernization with "westernization".

Taking as theoretical basis this catalogue of indicators evolved in volume one the analysis of the Asian countries in volume four present data for the following sectors: demography, climate, economical geography, ethnic groups, languages, religion, structure of economy, growth and foreign dependence of economy, investments, development planning and financing, internal revenue, budget, structure of agriculture, agrarian reforms, class-structure and social strata, distribution of income, foreign trade, trade balance, balance of payments, nutrition and health, education, communication, infrastructure, international relations and features of internal political structure.

This catalogue of indicators, however, is not applied in a schematic way. But the indicators are adjusted according to the structural characteristics of the single countries. The discussion of political, organizational and ideological questions of the Chinese model of development, for instance, seems much more relevant to the respective author than the analysis of empirical data and indicators.

The statistics cover a considerable period of time, so the analysis of long-termed developments, structures and forecasts will be rendered possible. The contributors throughout take care to present up to date empirical material. This is an aim which is not without problems and may be the reason it is not achieved in all cases.

At least on the basis of the data given the contributors present a critical assessment of the theory and practice of development as formulated by the



underdeveloped countries themselves. It is a comparison of norm and reality. The main aspect in the assessment of the concepts of development are the living conditions of the bulk of the population.

The single contributions of the two half-volumes consequently offer a critical and up to date analysis of the political, socio-economical and socio-cultural problems of Third World Countries. The complexity of material and variety of data presented render them much more than a mere introduction. Particularly helpful is the bibliography included. It comprises an extensive amount of literature and reviews, compiled for entire Asia, for regions and then for specific countries.

The present series will certainly be able to close the gap existing in German language manuals on Third World Countries. Their only serious disadvantage is: they are too expensive as is the case with most books published by Hoffmann and Campe.

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