

## Reviews

The reviews in Internationales Asienforum try to give a brief evaluation of recent German publications

Lily Abegg, *Japans Traum vom Musterland. Der neue Nipponismus*, Verlag Kurt Desch, München 1973. 258 pages, DM 28,—.

When confronted with things scaring him man normally tends to react in one of two ways: he either represses his feelings or discusses them again and again. Looking at the great number of books published in Western countries on Japan, one may conclude that this country actually is frightening Westerners enormously. This is confirmed especially by the titles German publishers prefer to choose for their books, thus illustrating Japan as a country where "giantism", "economism", "militarism", and other "isms" prevail. Unfortunately, the title of the book in hand is no exception to this rule.

Mrs. Abegg's book spans a wide range of problems, dealing with such questions as Nipponism as an ideology, "Land of discussion", "Japan's youth", "Tanaka's plan to remodel the Japanese archipelago", "Japanese thinking and Western logic", "Women's liberation", "Main branches of Nipponism: buddhism, capitalism, marxism, humanism and others", just to name a few.

At first glance these manifold subjects confuse the reader although the author tries to structuralize them in four main chapters, headed "What is Nipponism", "Japan changes — Nipponism remains", "Fundamental problems", "Final remarks". I refrain from discussing whether or not the subtitles chosen are in fact a contradiction in themselves but concentrate instead on the contents of the book.

The reader interested in modern Japan will buy this book partly because Mrs. Abegg is a wellknown writer on Asian affairs and partly because the blurb implies that the book provides the answers to such questions as how Japan could, after its crushing defeat in World War II succeed, in becoming the third biggest industrial nation, or how it is able to maintain traditional patterns in cultural, social, economic, and political behaviour while at the same time applying the most modern technology in most sectors of the economy, how, and to what extent, it was able to get rid of its militaristic heritage, the role Japanese youth plays in shaking off the old, and whether or not the emancipation of Japanese women has been achieved.

Though (or because) Mrs. Abegg confronts the reader with a great number of interesting facts and figures, with opinions and quotations, the book hardly offers the answers the reader expects, especially because one misses the "compass" guiding through that abundance of information. Whenever the reader needs a thorough explanation of a particular social process he is left with the impression that no comprehensive explanation of "Things Japanese" can be provided. As an example we may cite the description of the Japanese youth, its ideals, hopes and activities. Here one gets the feeling, that everything and nothing is explained: take "German" or "American" instead of "Japanese", replace Soka Gakkai by Jehova's Witnesses, name the soft Japanese youth "Hippies" and the hard ones "Braunhemden" and the futility of such explanations becomes obvious.

It can often be observed that some one who loves a foreign country tries in vain to depict it to others who do not know the country: words can hardly be a substitute for the real picture. Mrs. Abegg obviously loves Japan, her detailed description proves this, but still the reader cannot see that Japan which she has before her inner eye.

The most serious shortcoming of the book in hand, however, is that only rather vague hints as to what Nipponism really is, or will be, can be found. Since no sensible definition in



terms of sociological, political or historical sciences is given, this concept oscillates from nationalism to militarism, and to revolution. No theory of the differences between "Germanism", "Americanism", "Africanism" or the like underlies the statements, so that one sometimes wonders whether it is really Japan the author is talking about.

This is a pity, because the book — written by a Western author who lived in Japan for a long time — could well have filled the gap of authentic knowledge on a country many outsiders talk of but only a few know.

Heide Simonis

Dagmar Bernstorff, ed., *Wahlkampf in Indien. Untersuchung der allgemeinen Wahlen 1967 und 1971 in Andhra Pradesh*. (Freiburger Studien zu Politik und Gesellschaft überseeischer Länder, Bd. 11.) Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Universitätsverlag, 1971. 380 pages, DM 36,—.

This book, to which six authors contributed, is mainly an analysis of the general elections of 1967 in Andhra Pradesh, or, to be more precise, in the constituencies of Hyderabad and Nalgonda in A. P. Insofar, the title "Election Campaign in India" could be misleading as a heading for the following five chapters: (1) "Politics in Andhra Pradesh" by Hugh Gray; (2) "The Parties Prepare for the Election" by Dagmar Bernstorff, Eckehard Kulke, and Alam Khundmiri; (3) "Electoral Legislation in India" by Rafiuddin A. Khan; (4) "Electoral Legislation in India" by Rafiuddin A. Khan; (4) "Election Campaign in Hyderabad, i.e. "Economic and Social Structure of the Capital of Andhra Pradesh" by Rafiuddin A. Khan, "Secularization and Communalism in Muslim-Constituencies" by Alam Khundmiri, "Maharajganj, the Economic Centre of Hyderabad" by Rafiuddin A. Khan, and "From Traditional to Modern Loyalties: The Industrial Area of Musheerabad" by Dagmar Bernstorff; (5) "A Rural Constituency: Nalgonda, the Centre of Communist Rebellion" by Eckehard Kulke. This main analytical section of the volume is supplemented by three shorter chapters (pp. 275—339) in which (6) Dagmar Bernstorff and Hugh Gray try to link the results of the investigation to recent developments: "Andhra Pradesh from the General Election in 1967 to the Mid-Term Election in 1971"; (7) Eckehard Kulke gives an All-India view of the 1967 and 1971 results: "The General Elections in India in 1967 and 1971", and (8) Dagmar Bernstorff summarizes "The Main Results of the Investigation."

By far the most valuable analysis, which reveals deep insight into, and knowledge of, the area is Eckehard Kulke's study of Nalgonda District (pp. 187—274). To me this chapter, when compared with the other parts of the book, proves again that an analysis of Indian election results in general might give us at best some general trends and hints. But these general trends cover such a diversity of different patterns of modern brokerage and traditional bondage at the local level, where party names are only labels to be used in the factional quarrels of dominant groups, that study of electoral performance is meaningful only at the local level. In her analysis of the industrial complex of Musheerabad, Dagmar Bernstorff hints at this problem when she attempts to show that under the impact of modern industrial modes of production traditional dependency-patterns along caste-lines have been broken up and are merging into a new class-oriented behavior.

This may be so in a relatively isolated industrial settlement. Yet taken for the country as a whole "Voting Behavior" is still an amorphous mass of contradictory data which I would not dare to analyze as such. All that we might gain from it is a general impression of dissatisfaction with The Raj in power, as in 1971 when the old Congress was turned down, a fact that to most of the authors of this book must have come as a surprise.

Detlef Kantowsky

Ernst E. Boesch, *Zwispältige Eliten. Eine sozialpsychologische Untersuchung über administrative Eliten in Thailand*. Bern und Stuttgart: Hans Huber, 1970. 333 pages, DM 28,—.

"Schismatic Elites, a socio-psychological study of administrative elites in Thailand" is the substantial by-product of a research project financed by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and dealing with the impact of two German vocational training institutes. In the course of the evaluation of these schools some 330 members of the