

progress of the country? What are the general conclusions drawn from the special case of Afghanistan that should be observed in the further process of formulating and implementing development plans?

After a brief survey of the main social, institutional, and economic difficulties that development planning in Afghanistan was (and is) faced with, Jensch offers in the second part of his study a comprehensive analysis of the first three Five Years Plans (1956–62, 62–67, 67–72). He first examines the sectoral investment and the financing structure of each plan (i.e. the planned allocation of capital among agriculture, industry, and infrastructure, and the way it should be financed out of public revenues, private capital and foreign assistance) and then contrasts these 'targets' with the projects realized in the different sectors and their actual financing at the end of the plan periods.

His main results drawn from this inquiry are summarized in the third part: (1) Contrary to the initially balanced sectoral approach of the plans the actual development policy of the first two plans at least was characterized by a one-sided promotion of social overhead investment. (2) As more than 70 per cent of the total investment of the three plans was financed by foreign aid, the development of the Afghan economy became extensively dependent on the loan-giving countries, mainly Russia and the United States. (3) As a result of the neglect of short-term productive projects and of accelerated inflation there was neither a considerable rise in real per capita income nor an improvement in equalizing its distribution.

The conclusions for further development planning which Jensch finally derives from the special Afghan case are mainly the following: Countries with a comparatively low state of development such as Afghanistan should (1) concentrate their available resources on promoting direct productive investment and ascribe a merely secondary function to the infrastructure. They should (2) focus their planning activities more on micro-oriented project planning than on macro-oriented aggregate planning. (3) Instead of relying on foreign aid, developing countries should give priority to the mobilization of domestic resources, especially by increasing the effectiveness of their tax administration. Aid donors themselves (4) should give up the practice of project-binding their aid and change over to a system of non-project-bound plan-assistance.

Jensch's study offers the widest ranging basis of information available today to anyone desiring a comprehensive picture of the development of the Afghan economy in the past decades. Besides, it can be recommended to those who want to study basic problems of development planning and the difficulties which have to be overcome in the process of preparing and realizing successful development plans. Jan-Peter Wülbern

Heinrich Seemann, *Nepal 2029, gestern noch verbotenes Land*. Stuttgart: Verlag Bandell AG, 1973. 196 pages, DM 98,50.

Nepal, which, according to its own calendar is 57 years ahead of our time, represents one of the few well preserved socio-cultural systems on the threshold of the Middle Ages and Modernity. It is, therefore, easy to write a picturesque book on the country's so far unspoiled scenery. Yet, even so, Heinrich Seemann's book remains a remarkable souvenir for all those who know the country, and a most fascinating guide for others who are interested in visiting it.

The author served at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kathmandu from 1967 to 1971. In separate chapters he describes the geography, flora and fauna, climate, population and social structure, religion, art and culture, and infrastructure of the country as well as Nepal's early relations with China and the West. Separate chapters and three detailed maps are dedicated to the famous capitals Kathmandu, Patan and Bhatgaon. Emphasis is also laid on the ethnic and religious structure of Indo-Arian Hindus, Buddhist Newaris and other groups of Tibet an origin who live together in an extremely tolerant way. Hints for trekking and mountaineering conclude the text-part of the book.

A well selected bibliography allows for more detailed studies of the various aspects described. Of special value are the 107 photos, 45 of which are coloured. Most of them were taken by the author himself, others by the well-known German artist Hilmar Pabel.

Hans Roschmann