

the Emperor's rule could be really political, and secondly because the Japanese people, and in particular its leading classes, lacked the consciousness of "social freedom", such as there was in Christian humanism.

In spite of this longing for a Christian monarchy the book offers a worthwhile introduction to the world of ideas in Germany and in Japan, which was fashioned by the politics of the Meiji era and the constitution of 1889.

Ulrich Teichler

Heide u. Udo Simonis: Japan. Wirtschaftswachstum und Soziale Wohlfahrt. Studien zur sozioökonomischen Entwicklung, Herder & Herder, Frankfurt/Main 1974.

As the title indicates, Japan is not the only subject of this collection of studies. For the careful reader the book becomes almost a manual of critical analysis of the social disequilibrium, induced by economic growth in many industrial societies. It is left to the curiosity of the reader to confront other social systems, such as France, the U.S.A. or Western Germany, with those questions which the Japanese example proved to be crucial. But apart from that, what really are the findings of the researchers, mostly Germans, in the Japanese field?

Japan has changed fundamentally in the last two decades because of the spectacular economic growth of her industry. Growth was promoted by the import of technological know-how (Ruprecht VONDRAN). But its price was an increasing disequilibrium within Japanese society itself, as well as with regard to its international relations. This collection of studies shows this clearly by analysing the different effects of the process of economic growth: a) a deadlocked powerstructure, which does not allow any kind of participation at all and which is subservient to a nationalistic growth ideology (Tschongnae SONG); b) growing economic concentration - Mitsubishi and Mitsui as examples of a specific type of trust which has gained key functions in the Japanese economy as a whole (Max ELI); c) a growing imbalance in foreign trade relations (U.E. SIMONIS); d) a gradual decrease in the quality of the education system (Ulrich TEICHLER).

However, the most important negative aspect of this forced growth-process is also the least known; it is the general decline in the quality of life for the great majority of the population. This decline is particularly striking if one regards the deficit of capital for social purposes in relation to the standard of living of the people, and

especially when compared internationally (U.E.SIMONIS). And it reaches cynicism with respect to the utilization of women as an industrial reserve army (Yoko TEICHLER-URATA). Is there no hope of change? Siegfried LÖRCHER seems to think there is at least with respect to the further development of the Japanese infrastructure. But if one takes into consideration the recent effects of the world-wide economic crisis, one has to assume that this hope will turn out to be in vain.

Finally, the collection includes an analysis of the Japanese socio-anthropological structure which tries to avoid the usual predominantly eurocentered point of view of similar studies (Chie NIKANE); the book finishes with a selected bibliography of Japanese socioeconomic development (Heide SIMONIS).

A double appeal has to be launched at the end of the collection - despite the fact that one profits considerably from reading it: an appeal to the editors, not to shy away next time from the presentation of some kind of theoretical framework; and an appeal to the reader, because of the lack of an analytical infrastructure within the book, to try to connect those phenomenal presented individually here, to gain some appreciation of their real explosive nature.

Barbara Mettler