

other aspects, the author appears heavily biased in favor of the present regime in South Korea. Useful for the German reader is the publication of most of the relevant documents on the division and unification of Korea in the first of the two volumes, and some of the articles on the 19th century history of Korea. An independent, academic evaluation and analysis of modern Korea in the German language is still missing.

Gerhard Breidenstein

Ulrich Planck, Iranische Dörfer nach der Bodenreform. Sozialorganisation und Sozioökonomik. (Schriften des Deutschen Orient-Instituts) Opladen, Leske-Verlag, 1974. 182 pages, DM 25.-

At the very outset it should be mentioned that Ulrich Planck's study covers much more than the actual field of land reforms. The subtitle "Social Organization and Socio-economics" is the real key to the contents of the book.

Ulrich Planck describes the situation of eight Iranian villages which underwent the process of "White Revolution". Land reforms are, as we know from the widely propagated Royal proclamations of the Shah of Persia, the hard core of his "White Revolution". In its broader implications it means the complete reorganization of the socio-economic life of the villages. This is amply demonstrated by the findings of Ulrich Planck's research.

Land reforms necessarily implied the restructuring of village life when the most important figure of the traditional Persian village - the landlord - lost his key position as a result of these reforms. The landlord was not only a rent receiver but at the same time very often a farmer-entrepreneur, a banker, a village-mayor, a judge, etc. All these functions, formerly concentrated in one person, have now become functions of different agencies. The biggest share has been taken over by the newly created cooperative societies.

The eight villages selected by Ulrich Planck as a representative sample provide the necessary data and information for the book. The study is therefore fairly "down to earth" and prefers to look into the practical effects rather than into the ideological background of the reform measures. Some of the results sound familiar to the student of land reforms in other parts of the world, others are specific to the Iranian situation. In any case, due to the pragmatic approach of the author, the book is an inter-

esting piece of literature and recommendable not only to experts in Middle Eastern affairs but to all those engaged in the field of rural development in Asia.

Franz-Josef Vollmer

Heinrich Schweizer, Sozialistische Agrartheorie und Landwirtschaftspolitik in China und der Sowjetunion: ein Modell für Entwicklungsländer? (Reihe Ost-Kontexte, Bd.3) Bern und Frankfurt a.M., Verlag und Buchhandlung Herbert Lang & Cie AG, 1972. 266 S., SFr. 38.-

Heinrich Schweizer's work shows great scholarly abilities, and is an excellent contribution both to the field of development theory and policy.

The author concentrates on three main questions: what have been the basic theoretical ideas and concepts of the prominent socialist thinkers in respect to agricultural development; which of these ideas have been put into practice in the two socialist economies of China and the Soviet Union, and how; and, finally, what implications do these socialist agrarian theories and policies have for the developing countries of today, and to what extent and in which sense could they be called a "model"?

The method used in the book may be described as an historical-theoretical approach. This involves a study of the historical experience of development in two countries to discern their differences and similarities, and the use of theoretical books and concepts to order and analyse the empirical historical evidence. From the beginning Schweizer leaves the question open as to whether history really can "prove" anything; he contents himself with the experience that man, in thinking about the future, always holds on to the past.

In a relatively long chapter, various socialist theories and concepts are discussed (Early Socialists, Marx, Engels, Kautsky, David, Lenin, Mao), while those of the "Agrarsozialisten" and the "Agrarreformer" are deliberately left out. This is because the impact of these theories on the policies of the countries analyzed is thought to have been stronger than any other economic theory in the West, and because of the weak image Western scholars are thought to have of Marx and Engels as agrarian theoreticians.

In the empirical chapter of the book, first the actual agricultural policies of the Soviet Union in the period 1928 - 1953 (the "take-off" period) are investigated. As far as China is concerned, the author tries to cover the