

which the leading élite went through during the years which followed the Cultural Revolution. In spite of the appearance of new faces, in the final analysis the most marked characteristic of China's leadership is that it is Asia's oldest gerontocracy. Its present problems are the same as they have always been: the controversies between those in favour of mass mobilization and a state of permanent revolution, and those aiming at stability and continuity at home and abroad, have not been resolved.

Whether Professor Domes and his associate, Marie-Luise Naeth, chose wisely in applying to their subject such terms as "Bonapartism", "Directorium" and "Talleyrand Redivivus" might be questioned. As the author himself observes in a rather inconclusive final chapter, the comparison between revolutionary communist movements and the French Revolution does not get us very far (p.339). Similarly, doubts arise when the author ventures into forecasting the future on the basis of a typology which, in the light of the most recent changes in China, seems somewhat off the mark. Only now - after Mao's death - will it become possible to judge whether the final stage of development from charismatic leadership to an institutionalised bureaucratic regime is in fact in the making. As Lucian Pye has persuasively argued, political scientists are ill equipped to deal with any of the problems arising in a "non-electoral context" (Lucian Pye, *Generational Politics in a Gerontocracy: The Chinese Succession Problem. Current Scene, Vol.XIV, No.7. Hong Kong, July 1976*). We may yet see a return to mass mobilization, with all that this entails regarding modes of production, work patterns and foreign relations.

In spite of certain misgivings about some of the analytical tools used in this useful volume, it may be hoped that it will soon be available in a good English edition, preferably updated and with a simplified version of the rather ponderous section on foreign policy. China's political kaleidoscope moves so fast that the student of current affairs must look afresh, at frequent intervals, at its changing reflections. Now that Mao is dead, the need to review Chinese affairs - as a continuing process - has become even more urgent than ever before.

W. Klatt

Hans-Hermann Höhmann, Jiri Kosta, Jan Meyer, China 1974.  
Reiseprotokolle zu Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft der Volks-  
republik. Frankfurt/M. - Köln, Europäische Verlagsanstalt,  
1974, 179 pages, Paperback, DM 15.-

A limited but increasing number of foreigners have the chance to visit China. Their stay, mostly two or three weeks, is arranged by China's Travel Agency "Luexingshe".

"China 74", written by three economists who travelled with a group through China, demonstrates the value of such a visit. A short preface describes the group, the route taken

through China, the atmosphere of visits, interviews and discussions, the availability and the value of information, the role of the official guides and interpreters, etc. All this is meant to help the reader form his own opinion about the value of this kind of travel. In the second section the authors try to evaluate their experience, dealing with subjects like: population, occupations, labour force, agriculture, people's communes, industry, technical development, urbanization, environment, trade, management, planning, remuneration, non-material incentives, education and medical services.

These topics are illustrated by the 25 reports on places visited in China. These 145 pages are the main part of the book. They present a fair and unbiased description, based mainly upon Chinese self-assessment. The volume concludes with a table of prices which gives an overview of expenses the Chinese have to deal with and this is a welcome supplement to the various forms and grades of income mentioned in the reports. The whole book is constructed organically in a very readable and accurate way.

"China 74" is a highly recommendable book, especially for those who may have the chance to visit the country for they would certainly appreciate having read this book. However, it is not limited to the small number of future visitors to China but presents an excellent opportunity to become informed about vital aspects of daily life in China today.

Werner Pfennig

Ikutaro Shimizu und Yoshiro Tamanoi (Eds.), Gesellschaft Japans - Soziale Gruppen und sozialer Prozeß. Band 2 der Schriftenreihe "Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft Ostasiens", herausgegeben von Karl Hax, René König und Willy Kraus. Opladen, Westdeutscher Verlag, 1976, 283 Seiten, DM 48.-

The anthology, "Gesellschaft Japans" is the second in the series "Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft Ostasiens" and was preceded by "Wirtschaft Japans" (reviewed in Internationales Asienforum, Vol.6, No.4, 1975).

One gathers from René König's preface that this publication is meant to serve a three-fold purpose: first, the social structure of modern Japan is to be described; second, the German social scientist is to be shown "the social structure of a country ... which is completely different from his own"; third, the modernization of Japan is to be illustrated by developments in selected sectors of society. With one exception, all the authors are Japanese, which on the one hand contributes to authenticity, but on the other has led to translation difficulties which in turn have resulted in a text that is in part very difficult to read.

These reviewers have not been able to determine what criteria governed the selection of contributions. The anthology is composed of four sections: the first, entitled "Special