

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

Characteristics of Social Change", is devoted to the Tenno system (Ikutaro Shimizu), the family system (Shimada), and the occupation system (Tominaga). The second section, entitled "Status and Social Mobility", deals with vertical mobility (Kato), the part education plays in modernization (Aso), the bureaucracy, political power and conservatism (Takana), and the ideology of management (Hirschmeier). The third section, "Groups and Movements", is devoted to the new religions (Murakami), the student movement (Hayao Shimizu), and the labor unions (Okochi), whereas the fourth and last section is composed of three articles on the relationship between the government and the economy (Tamanoi, Masamura, and Ishida). It is regrettable that not even in the introduction is a reason given for choosing these topics and not others - such as political parties or marginal groups in society, to name only two obviously important topics missing here.

Apart from a few markedly conservative contributions, the majority of the articles give a well-rounded picture of individual aspects of Japanese society, especially since all these descriptions are placed in a historical context. Concern with 'modern' Japan means dealing with the development of that country since the Meiji Restoration in 1868. 'Modernization' problems - traceable as they are to the repeatedly emphasized peculiarities of Japan - are clearly outlined in all the articles, whether about the changes that have come about in the family system, or about the development of management. Thus, for example, we find good descriptions of the social transformation of the merchant from the lowest class in the Tokugawa era to his elite status today, as well as of the continuity of Tennoism.

A good over-all view of the development of the labor movement is given, with attention paid to such peculiarities as the fact that Japanese unions are company unions. Equally informative is the description of newer religions in Japan, particularly the Soka Gakkai, as well as the analysis of the problems of post-war social policy. On the other hand, the treatment of the Japanese student movement cannot be considered satisfactory, for although it presents some useful data on the students' social situation, it fails to give an adequate picture of the phenomenon of student protest in Japan. The analysis of Japan's occupation structure draws attention to important aspects of change which can equally well apply in other societies.

This book fails to meet the objective stated in its introduction - to deal with peculiarities in a systematic fashion; to succeed, the authors would have had to adopt a more comparative approach. In conclusion, despite Ikutaro Shimizu's somewhat confused introduction, this volume gives a good over-all view of many social phenomena in Japan and can be considered a standard work, inasmuch as no similarly compact treatment is available in German.