

Reviews

The reviews in Internationales Asienforum try to give a brief evaluation of recent German publications

Hans-Bernd Giesler (Ed.), *Die Wirtschaft Japans*. Düsseldorf, Wien: Econ Verlag, 1971. 258 pages, DM 38,—.

Books on the Japanese economy may be roughly separated into two groups: those emphasizing economic growth and admiring its direct productive results, and those challenging traditional values by pointing to the limits to growth, the social costs of private enterprise, especially the deteriorating environmental conditions. Since 1972 may be recorded as the year in which the environmental movement developed from a mainly middle-class concern into a more general issue with increasing relevance to society and the world as a whole, one will readily concede that a book published in 1971 should belong to the first group. This is all the more to be expected as (the theme of the book is the) "Japanese Challenge", i.e. the superiority of an industrious and dynamic system compared to those of the old Western nations e.g. Germany.

In the meantime we have had the Club of Rome's "Limits to Growth", the "Oil Crisis" along with other crises, so that today our attitude towards such things as long-term prognoses is different. No one could as easily agree to the suggestion that the 21st century could be the "Japanese century" (Herman Kahn). It is fascinating to read a book on Japan viewed from the present state of discussion: what are the historical invariables of a particular growth process, the "historische Konstanten" as Arnold Bergstraesser called it?

The point of departure for the 13 contributions to this book was the question of the relation between the Japanese and their economy, the "Japanese mentality" and the way it differs from Western economic mentality. Though many intelligent clues are given, the answers show some points of divergence, but still to a large extent Japanese industriousness and economic motivation (Tüchtigkeit, Fleiß, Leistungsmotivation) are thought to be superior, especially in industry, foreign trade, planning and research. Other contributions, however, dealing more with the social conditions and consequences of growth, come to a more balanced view.

Yet while most of the authors are still followers of the theory of unilinear economic growth which prevailed until recently, some are already more in favour of a social and environment-oriented development. If that "dual approach" is kept in mind, the book may well be suggested for all practitioners and those interested in Japanese development.

Udo Ernst Simonis

Uwe Harms, Mohamed Ta'lam Tachja (et al.), *Perspektiven der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in Indonesien* (The outlook for economic development in Indonesia). Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, 1973. 144 pages, DM 38,—.

This volume is the second in a new series on "The Outlook for Economic Development in Industrialized and Developing Countries", published by the „Institut zur Erforschung technologischer Entwicklungslinien" (ITE) in Hamburg; the first volume was about Japan. The present study attempts to outline the probable development of Indonesia's economy up to 1980. The authors base their projection mainly on official Indonesian statistics and the targets of the current five-year development plan (1969/70-1973/74).

After a description of Indonesia's geography, economic planning system and infra-structure, the study treats extensively the factors of productivity, the components of domestic demand, foreign economic relations, and the wage-price ratio. On the basis of this general stock-taking, the authors propose the following prognoses about Indonesia's economic development up to 1980:

— The factors labor, public/private investment potential and productivity (in capital-intensive domains) will increase considerably

- Overall economic demand will increase much more rapidly than in the sixties, at an average annual rate of six per cent.
- Gross investments will probably increase by fifteen to sixteen per cent, largely due to growing foreign investments.
- In spite of rising import prices and a growing foreign debt, the balance of payments will not deteriorate because of a considerable increase in exports (particularly of petroleum and timber).

These projections, according to the study, are only valid if the following conditions remain constant:

- Indonesia must remain politically stable.
- An efficiency-oriented life-style must continue to spread among the population at large (!).
- Investments from abroad must continue to be attracted and growing foreign economic influence must be accepted.
- Foreign aid, particularly capital, must not diminish.

The authors do not conceal the fact that a major motivation for their study is the recommendation of Indonesia, both as an exporter of raw materials, and as a profitable place for investment and trade for the European, particularly the German, economy. There is nothing wrong with such a promotion of interests but it has evidently prevented the authors from taking a more critical view. Three points will illustrate this:

1. Members of an institute studying the problems of economic development in the Third World should be aware of the frequent discrepancies between government development plans and reality. Nevertheless, recurring phrases like: "The measures envisaged by the Plan will provide for..." are commonplace in this study. That such assumptions can be quite misleading is demonstrated by the large-scale amendment in 1972 of the Plan's rice-production targets — a far-reaching decision that has obviously escaped the authors' attention.
2. Even if foreign investments are considered to be inevitable prerequisites for economic development, the negative implications of extensive foreign commitment should be more widely discussed in such a study, particularly since it aims at encouraging investment in Indonesia. All the more so as in that country, foreign investments have caused a broad spectrum of negative developments, such as their destructive interference in the timber sector or their pushing numerous private local industries to the brink of extinction. This, however, is scarcely mentioned; nor are the preconditions under which the Indonesian economy can be helped through a liaison with foreign industry, such as the training of Indonesian experts, the development of a manufacturing industry, etc.
3. The social component of economic development is not taken into sufficient consideration. For instance, the aggravation of the dichotomy between the capital-intensive and the traditional sectors of the economy is all but omitted. The former is characterized by high growth rates and rising incomes for a minority, the latter by stagnation and, at best, a constant per capita income (accompanied by a rising rate of inflation) for the masses. This contradiction is becoming steadily more obvious in Indonesia and could easily reverse the authors' optimistic prognoses.

Michael Fremerey

Maria Mies, *Indische Frauen zwischen Patriarchat und Chancengleichheit. Rollenkonflikte studierender und berufstätiger Frauen*. Meisenheim am Glan: Verlag Anton Hain, 1973. 266 Seiten, DM 52,—.

According to traditional Hindu ideology concerning the former Western concept of sex roles, it is woman's prime and essential role to be a mother and housewife. The basic pattern of this ideal of womanhood has not yet changed in India, as M. Mies points out in her study. So far, the idea of the equality of the sexes has not extended beyond the educational and occupational system. More and more girls are attending schools, colleges and universities; more and more women — mainly due to the ever worsening economic situation of urban middle-class families — are taking up a job. Yet the role-structure within the family is still basically patriarchal. For this reason, M. Mies's study focuses on the question of the interrole conflicts the growing number of educated and working Indian women have to face