

MAX ELI: Wirtschaftliche Entwicklungsperspektiven der Republik Korea. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, Nr. 108). Hamburg: Selbstverlag, 1979, 180 pages, DM 19. 50.

For some time now demonstrations among students as well as workers in Korea have been increasing. The interim government of Premier Hyunhak Shin, who is known as a "good" technocrat - a reputation he acquired through his services to the Park regime -, has been warning both groups against any escalation of the situation. According to the government, it is precisely this situation which is making the lifting of the present state of emergency (strictly speaking, it should have occurred in April) impossible. However, entrepreneurs have been complaining that the present poor state of the economy is due, among other things, to the uncertain political situation and are ardently hoping for the end of the transition period. Seen in this context, the title of the book, *Wirtschaftliche Entwicklungsperspektiven (Perspectives of Economic Development)*, with a forward written in December 1979, arouses great expectations. Closer observation reveals that the book deals instead with a "quantitative" inventory of economic development under Park, since the data mostly extend only to 1976-77 and the developments and problems of the economy after 1979, and especially after the death of President Park, are scarcely considered. The book closely sticks to the customary analytical model of overall and sectoral economic development, and distribution and appropriation of the national income and afterwards treats several problem areas, among them, population development, technology, etc., as "supporting conditions for future growth". It is regrettable that the analysis of macroeconomic and sectoral economic development, especially with regard to the incessantly emerging economic and related social problems - and despite the title of the book - did not go into the hoped-for perspective evaluation of Korea's economic situation. The whole tenor of the book is that Korea, a land of "total material poverty" (p. 158), has, due to Park's successful industrialisation policy, enjoyed not only a higher rate of growth but has even emerged as a world leader in some lines. Korea is thus now considered a newly industrialized country. But precisely in this growth lurk a large number of economic and social problems which are treated only sketchily. By way of example: external dependency, the different regional stages of development, educational economics, middle-class politics, social security, distribution of income, etc., etc.

With regard to Korea's extremely important and hard-to-solve problems, especially given the current economic situation, the author should have gone beyond his inclusion of Korea in the category of newly industrialized countries and discussed numerous problems 'specific to Korea' which are different from those in Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico, etc.

A further problem is the indiscriminate use of Korean statistics and qualitative data about Korea. As far as the Korean figures are concerned, it would have

been advisable to point out that in many cases we are probably dealing with "padded figures". What fortunately makes the quantitative background transparent, however, are the research and figures gathered by several German journalists based in Japan. Here the author must be given credit for having been able to embed this information effectively. In addition, we can positively point to several listings of joint ventures, concerns, banks and numerous tabulations of macroeconomic and sectoral economic trends, although a somewhat more detailed interpretation of the data would have been appropriate.

In several places it becomes clear that the author has not sufficiently grasped the economic and political background. Thus, for example, the achievement of the Economic Planning Board and of the Korea Development Institute are stressed several times; however, scarcely any mention is made of the conflict in functions which existed between these two organs, and between these two bodies, the Korea International Economic Institute - whose concern is external economic policy - and the planning economists of the "Blue House". It would certainly be misplaced to ascribe the task of making prognoses only to the KDI and the task of planning only to the Economic Planning Board (one time the author says Economic Planning Bureau). Under the Park regime and after his death there was no sharp separation of tasks among those bodies concerned with planning and the analysis of economic and social development. Instead, the point of departure was to turn to that government office which at the moment was dominant in the decision-making process.

Taking the political and social background into special consideration, we see that the Yulsan case, too, cannot simply be disposed of as a business scandal. Korea's economy under Park was full of political complexities! As far as Korea's theoretical and strategic frame of reference is concerned, Eli is of the opinion that the country is following an import-substitution model. It may well be that in the area of the consumer goods industry a form of import substitution strategy has been implemented. But there can be no mention of such a model in the area of heavy industry. Rather, the theory that a mixture of import substitution and export orientation is present in both areas, seems to apply: to adhere to import substitution, a larger domestic market would be required and the present Korean offensive of ships, vehicles, and steel commodities could not be observed on the international market. Finally there are some misunderstandings, of which it will suffice to name a few:

1. On page 144 read Sae Maum Gatki Undong.
2. Those Korean workers engaged in the Middle East are not simply construction workers, but skilled labourers (not construction workers!) and "technicians" (p. 79).
3. Eli speaks of "500 steel manufacturers" (p. 50). What does "steel manufacturer" mean in this context?

4. Eli is being very optimistic when he says that a better mobilization of the "high yield of savings" (p. 132) would free Korea of "foreign creditors". Eli doesn't even explain why and how money is saved in Korea, nor where the money saved is channelled to.

All in all, this work is thoroughly readable literature for all those who would like to get an idea of the Korean economy since 1962-63. However, in no case can it be considered a successful analysis of the Korean economy, since there are too many deficiencies, inexactitudes, and scarcely any formulation of questions.

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PARK YOUNG-KI: *Labour and Industrial Relations in Korea: System and Practice*. Seoul: Institute for Labour and Management, 1979. 189 pages, \$ 6.00.
(To be ordered from: Institute for Labour and Management, Segang University, G. P. O. Box 1142, Seoul, Korea)

The Republic of Korea has become well-known for its remarkable growth rates, but equally renowned for its notorious violations of human rights, particularly the basic rights of workers. Long working hours, bad working conditions and wages at the bare subsistence minimum have guaranteed the inflow of foreign capital and rapidly expanding exports. Even extreme examples of 19th century Manchester type capitalism have become known, such as the case of the Dong-il Company, which last year hired a gang of thugs who threw human excrement at trade union members, rubbing it into the hair, ears and mouths of women workers and injuring 70 of them. So what actually is the labour scene in such a country?

Park Young-ki, a Korean professor of labour management at the Catholic Sogang University in Seoul, recently published a book in English which analyses legal aspects and the practice of labour and industrial relations in the country. Park is a well-known expert in the field. He has been training trade union and business leaders alike for years, and at present serves as a member of the Korean Central Labour Committee, which settles disputes between labour and management and is the ultimate decision-making body in the absence of collective bargaining.

The first part of the monograph presents background information on the political, social and economic setting. The second part explains the relevant