

It be held that the fact that this plan has been in the meantime more or less put in jeopardy adduces proof of the author's proposition that in a modern economy unbalanced structures are, in principle, irreversible?
Udo Ernst Simonis

Theodor Bergmann, *Die Genossenschaftsbewegung in Indien. Geschichte, Leistungen, Aufgaben.* (Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Genossenschaftskasse, Bd. 10). Frankfurt/Main: Fritz Knapp Verlag, 1971. 194 pages, DM 59,80.

Theodor Bergmann's study of the history, achievements and further perspectives of cooperative societies in India gives in chapter (1) a survey of the economic, social and historical conditions any cooperative society has to cope with in India. In the following three chapters the various forms of cooperative societies in the rural, urban and industrial sectors are analyzed. Chapter (5) then deals with the institutional framework, and chapter (6) attempts to evaluate the achievements and problems encountered within the cooperative sector in India so far. In this main analytical part of his book Theodor Bergmann carefully scrutinizes the numerous Indian Government Reports which come to the conclusion that Indian farmers are not cooperative-minded enough. Against this over-simple, individualistic interpretation of socio-economic facts, four factors mainly are taken into consideration to explain the failure of the cooperative movement: (a) most of India's tiny economic units are still in a pre-cooperative stage of production; (b) the traditional social structure is too rigid to allow an egalitarian cooperative system to function effectively; (c) social reforms as necessary collateral measures have been avoided or are not implemented properly; (d) Indian cooperative planning concentrated its efforts too much to preserve out-dated technologies and economic sectors without sufficient growth-potential and recruitment-power. The author argues therefore for a fresh approach in cooperative thinking which will have to free itself both from a misinterpretation of Gandhian principles and the models that have been highly successful in Western Europe during a certain period of its development. This message may not be very new to the younger generation of development specialists, yet it still carries some truth to the ranks of established experts.

Detlef Kantowsky

Wolf Donner, *Nepal. Raum, Mensch, Wirtschaft.* (Schriften des Instituts für Asienkunde, Bd. 32.) Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1972. 506 pages, DM 128,—.

Wolf Donner, who gained his Ph. D. in geography, worked as an economic adviser to His Majesty's Government in Nepal from 1966 to 1969. During his appointment he trekked through almost every part of the country and thereby gained first-hand knowledge of the region. This is especially important because reliable statistics still figure among the rarities in the Kingdom of Nepal.

The main part of the book (pp. 45—411) deals, in eleven chapters, with (1) the physical geography and geographic structure of the country; (2) climate and vegetation; (3) social geography; i.e. population, settlement patterns, public education, health, and inner and outer migration of the labour force; (4) communication; (5) hydro-geography; (6) land utilization and erosion; (7) irrigation; (8) agricultural geography; (9) forestry; (10) industrial geography; i.e. industrial estates, energy, and mining; (11) trade and commerce. This descriptive-analytic section of the book is supplemented by five socio-geographic sketches in which the dominant features of the main geographical areas of Nepal are illustrated, i.e. the Valley of Kathmandu, the Terai, the Middle-Mountain-Chain, the High-Mountain-Chain, and the North-Himalayan Arid Zone.

What makes Donner's book so valuable, besides the vast amount of data he collected and tried, as much as possible, to confirm, are 32 charts and 122 maps which illustrate and locate the socio-geographical problems discussed. This discussion is always realistic and fact-oriented; Donner knows the region and its problems to well to be charmed by the scenic beauty of a country which, according to official statistics, has to be classified among the five least-developed countries of the world. I therefore have no doubt that his book will remain a cornerstone of information about Nepal for a long time to come.

Detlef Kantowsky