

The book largely draws on material presented at an international meeting on "Foreign Investment in Asian Developing Countries" held in Hamburg on 8–10 March, 1973, convening representatives of the 9 countries and of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, and mainly German investors. A report on the meeting is given in the Appendix to the book.

Heinz Ahrens

Manfred Turlach (Ed.), *Gesellschaft und Politik in Süd- und Südostasien* (Schriftenreihe des Forschungsinstituts der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Band 93), Bonn-Bad Godesberg: Verlag Neue Gesellschaft GmbH, 1972, 316 pages, DM 32,-.

This volume contains fifteen articles of young, mostly German scientists, which were originally presented to a seminar on 'Social Groups within the Socio-Political Development Process in Asian Countries', which was organized by the Research Institute of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Bad Münstereifel, Germany, in December 1971.

The articles are devoted to five major themes: 1) Religious Groups in Politics and Social Development, 2) Students and their Socio-Political Function, 3) Minorities and Sub-Privileged Groups in Modern Asia, 4) Rural Population Groups in the Development Process, and 5) The Military and Social Policy in Indonesia. Regionally the articles focus on Indonesia and India, to which respectively six and five contributions are devoted. Only two articles — one on Manipulation and Repression of Tribal Minorities in South Asia, the other on Socio-Economic and Managerial Aspects of the Technical Progress in Agriculture in South Asian Countries — deal with regional rather than with national problems. In addition, the volume contains an Interim-Report on the preparation of an inventory of the sources of Asian History, to be made at the direction of the International Council of Archivists.

The themes and articles have been selected very well, indeed. The role of economic power structures has been consciously left out, but with the military, religious groups and the students three major incumbents of political power have been dealt with. The political role of the students and students-organizations has been demonstrated again recently in the coup-d'état in Thailand, for which one would wish an analysis as outlined in the article of J. P. Neelsen on the social and political role of the students in India (pp. 90 ff.).

All based on field research, the individual articles provide valuable and up-to-date material as well as stimulating evaluations of the problems dealt with. The book is at its best, however, where articles focus on single themes. It provides much insight by different approaches to the same problem, as e.g. by the articles on the military in Indonesia, and material of considerable comparative value, as e.g. by the articles on religious groups, and, perhaps somewhat less, on the students.

The book clearly addresses itself to those scientifically interested in socio-political problems, not to the general public.

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