

Reviews

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

Dietrich Kebschull und Otto G. Mayer: *Deutsche Investitionen in Indonesien. Eine Untersuchung über Umfang, Motive und Förderungsmöglichkeiten.* (HWA-Studien zur Außenwirtschaft und Entwicklungspolitik.) Hamburg: Verlag Weltarchiv GmbH, 1974. 174 pages, DM 28,—.

Kebschull and Mayer's book has been published as part of a series on foreign investments. The study presented deals with German investments in Indonesia. These investments amounted to 36.5 million DM in July 1973. The first question, whether this sum is to be valued as "small", is answered by means of a structural analysis of German foreign investments in general. The result is that their total amount was not more than 30 billion DM and that German investors showed a marked preference for industrial countries and for developing countries with relatively high levels of development as well as stable political and economic conditions. Due to the low GNP of (1970) US-\$ 80 per capita, and due to the fact that German investment activities in Indonesia were not started before 1967 when the Indonesian policy changed vis-à-vis foreign investments, the low amount of German investments cannot come as a surprise.

In the second part of the study, the authors analyse the investment climate from the perspective of German enterprises. They regard the present and future political and economic situation as stable and they concede that Indonesia offers good prospects for foreign investments in the long run. They show, however, that at the moment investment possibilities have been considerably restricted by special regulations designed to protect the country's domestic industry. The Indonesian government's measures to promote foreign investments prove to be no more attractive than the corresponding regulations in neighbouring countries. Moreover, because of their great number of laws and regulations, they are too complicated for the average entrepreneur to get an overview.

Consequently, the authors recommend as promotional measures on the part of the Federal Republic the improvement of information on the investment climate, on special investment prospects, as well as on statutory and administrative regulations and procedures; besides, they recommend supporting the firms more effectively when applying for investment licences as well as in the phase of construction and current production. As for Indonesia, they enumerate a whole series of impediments which would have to be removed in order to initiate a steady increase of foreign investments.

Kebschull and Mayer have presented a careful empirical investigation. It includes useful information for potential investors as well as many recommendations for the improvement of promotional policies.

Hans-Gert Braun

Paul Kevenhörster, *Wirtschaft und Politik in Japan. Interessengruppen, politische Meinungsbildung und wirtschaftspolitische Entscheidungen.* (Schriften des Instituts für Asienkunde, Bd. 35). Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1973, 218 pages, DM 64.—

In this book — following his thorough and detailed study of the same subject, *Das politische System Japans*, published in 1969 — Kevenhörster presents two only loosely connected analyses. In the first part, entitled "Political determinants of economic decisions", he gives a detailed description of the power structure, emphasizing the pressure economic interests

bring to bear on political decision-making processes. The second part, entitled "Economic development and political behaviour", is devoted to election returns, public opinion polls and interviews with politicians.

In the first part, K. graphically describes how special interest groups, parties, ministries, advisory bodies, etc., are organized and operate. The wealth of sources used — including the author's own interviews with experts in the field — testifies to K.'s detailed knowledge. Two leitmotifs run through this first part. On the one hand, K. attempts to show that what he calls the "overrepresentation of manifest interests" poses a greater threat to political equilibrium in Japan than in other industrial societies. On the other hand, and in contrast to Hermann Kahn's notion of "Japan, Inc.", K. stresses the frictions in the political process caused, for example, by conflicting interests on the part of the various associations representing business and industry, factionalism in the political parties, ministerial rivalries, as well as by the general circumstantiality of the process itself.

In part two, K. draws on public opinion and election trend analyses in maintaining that the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party will face a growing loss of voter support if it fails to curb the influence of business interests on the formation of policy. The best insurance for keeping the present government in power is, to his mind, the major opposition party's inability to take an adequate stand on the issues that arouse public protest. This section of the book is weaker than the one preceding it: the material is not as well presented, and the author's argumentation is not as plausible.

In conclusion, K. predicts that after two decades of stability in both foreign and domestic affairs, an internally unstable Japan is about to face a reorientation in foreign policy.

The English "Summary" at the end of the book is misleading; it contains not a resumé of the more important aspects of K.'s analysis, but rather only a few concluding remarks which, moreover — in contrast to the "Conclusions" (in German) — shift the emphasis into matters dealing with the governing party's internal reform. This "Summary" detracts from the book's actual strength: its convincing analysis of the political process in Japan.

Ulrich Teichler

Dietrich Krusche: *Japan — konkrete Fremde. Eine Kritik der Modalitäten europäischer Erfahrung von Fremde.* München: Meta-Verlag Peter Lang, 1973. 159 S., DM 18,80.

Dietrich Krusche tries to show, through his own experience, how unfamiliar Japan is to a European and that this unfamiliarity is deeply rooted in the different cultural and historical developments. Thus about half of this book covers the history of Japan, in particular its relations with foreign countries. In this way the author convincingly proves his theory of strangeness ("Fremdheit"). These parts of the book are well worth reading and could be recommended to all those who meet Japan for the first time, although nothing new is reported here. The interesting chapter on the activities of missionaries deserves special recommendation.

The problematic chapters, however, are those where the author tries to combine his own experience in present day Japan with his notion of strangeness. It seems highly doubtful whether it is correct to generalize from one's own experience of Japanese to a "typically Japanese" pattern of behaviour. Japanese behaviour towards foreigners differs widely from that towards their own countrymen. The very image-oriented Japanese often tries to convey to the foreigner the most sympathetic impressions of his country.

One would, thus, have to observe Japanese within their environment and judge them according to the rules of their society. Unfortunately Dieter Krusche did not do so. This is the decisive weakness of this well written and partially even stimulating book.

To mention only a few examples of the many misleading statements: It is simply wrong to say that there are almost no unmarried men in Japan and that being unmarried for a man is "exceptional and anti-social" (p. 95). According to the *Statistic Yearbook of Japan* there were in 1970 about 12.3 million unmarried men, i. e. almost 30 per cent of all male adults!

It may fit into the society of Japan as Dieter Krusche sees it that functions are more important than the individual — the example used, however, to prove this is again wrong: It is very