

Reviews

Jürgen H. Wolff, *Planung in Entwicklungsländern - Eine Bilanz aus politik- und verwaltungswissenschaftlicher Sicht. Mit kommentierter Bibliographie.* (Ordo Politicus, Veröffentlichungen des Arnold-Bergstraesser-Instituts, Freiburg i. Br., Band 16). Berlin-München: Duncker + Humblot 1977, 225 pages, DM 64. -

Jürgen H. Wolff presents a critical account of recent and current studies of planning in developing countries. The study could be labeled as well a secondary analysis as a trend report, binding together many different aspects and lines of argument related to this specific field of comparative public policy. It is supplemented by a selected and commentated bibliography of more than two hundred titles.

The discrepancy between the original goals of plans and planning and their effective realization is the core problem: what went wrong with the planning process and why? In a manner which by far exceeds the usual bibliographical essay the author undertakes to synthesize a realistic model of planning. So the evaluative description of institutions and processes of planning is followed by the presentation of a contextual and pluralistic model, an 'ecology of planning'. This approach allows for a more realistic and systematic elaboration of administrative, political, and social constraints on planning and of their interlinkages. The different aspects of the 'planning problem': implementation gaps, rationality versus ritual, consistency versus comprehensiveness, latent versus manifest functions, are dealt with as part of the general development problem and provide thus in Wolff's presentation valuable evidence and insights for a political economy of planning.

The upshot of the argumentation for an environment-oriented 'pluralism model' of planning is a final chapter containing a structured and pragmatic strategy for a reform of and a new constitution for development planning.

This book offers a well documented and highly useful introduction into a relevant field of development policy.

Ernst Wittig