

## Reviews

exploitation and peasant indebtedness was carried on in a highly intensive manner as the British conceded this traditional sector to the old landholding upper-classes. The stagnation of the rural sector was the price that the government was eagerly paying to stabilise a cheap and effective rule.

In this way the political precondition for colonial rule at all times hampered the full realisation of its economic objectives: increased sales of British goods, increased export of raw material and increased chances for lucrative investments.

Jacob Rösel

Oskar Weggel, Wehrverfassung und Volkskriegsdenken in der Volksrepublik China. Boppard am Rhein: Boldt, 1977. 195 pages, DM 36

Although there are quite a number of publications on the Chinese Army and Chinese military affairs in general, the important institution of the Chinese militia has not yet received such treatment. Comprehensive information on this subject is still lacking, which is one good reason for welcoming Oscar Weggel's book.

The author starts with a short introduction to ten periods, in chronological order, in the development of the Chinese militia. A short description of the relationship between the militia and People's War is followed by chapters on geographical and topographical aspects as well as a discussion of the discipline, training and equipment of the Militia. The author further concentrates on the tasks and organization of the Militia, the relationship towards the People's Liberation Army, and the role of the Militia for agricultural and industrial production. We also find some reflections on the Militia and the character of Chinese society. A translation of the Militia's statute of July 1961 is followed by some closing remarks on whether there is a military or a militia dictatorship in China. Here the reader might wonder at the logic of the order of succession. Why is the text interrupted by the document?

In the introduction we find some sweeping statements, such as the assertion that Mao Tse-tung personally organized the Peasant Movement Training Institute within the Kuomintang apparatus (p. 1). The late chairman did not in fact do so: that is not to deny Mao Tse-tung's role in the peasant movement, but the first director of the institute was P'eng P'ai. From May to October 1926 Mao was the institute's last director. On the other hand the author takes care to mention the problems of making generalizations when giving particulars based on a single example (p. 95).

Those who are familiar with Oskar Weggel's work will know his artistic skill in creating new words. In this book again he is not the man to disappoint us. We get acquainted with "Anthropogeographischem Rauminhalt" (anthropogeographic capacity or volume) and the lovely word "Ppropfstelle". But what does he mean by Propfstelle? Sai-tzu ti-fang? On page 78 we get no enlightenment, just some insignificant remarks on organizational principles according to the number of members in the respective bodies. This principle we are told, however, should

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be handled not in a schematic way but in a flexible fashion. So what is the advantage of the word "Pfropfstelle?" If Weggel used it as a translation of a Chinese term or wanted to describe some specifics of the Chinese Militia, he should have made it clear.

One should note particularly that Oskar Weggel uses the footnotes not only for references but also to give short explanations of models, concepts and theories discussed in the social sciences (p. 160 f.), a service which will be appreciated by the reader. The book provides us with a very useful bibliography.

Even though the author could have devoted more space to the discussion of the Chinese concept of defence and People's War, he has certainly given us a comprehensive report covering numerous aspects of the Militia and similar institutions. It is a very useful book about an organization with great significance for Chinese society.

Werner Pfennig

Franz-Josef Vollmer, *Eigentumsbeschränkungen in Indien*.  
Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1975, 147 pages

The Western concept of private property was imported into India by the merchants of the East India Company. Their rule helped to establish, successively, the rule of British law and the regulations of the British administration. It is against this background that we must see the various steps that have been taken in independent India to restrict private property.

The author analyzes five cases, namely (1) the abolition of intermediary rights, (2) the policy of imposing ceilings on landholdings, (3) the abolition of the Privy Purses - the main findings of this case study were published in this quarterly in 1975, pp. 55, (4) the nationalisation of the big Banking Houses, and (5) the restrictions on urban property. He then asks in how far these anti-property measures have been successful in bringing about a socialist pattern of society, that often quoted target of Indian planning. Of course the answer is negative; we all know too well that the lion's share of economic growth has gone to the dominant sections of Indian society and that the Indian planning system has failed to achieve redistribution and growth simultaneously within a mixed economy of socialist slogans and private incentives. Thus Vollmer argues that his results should not be taken as a documentation meant to prove that the restriction of property rights is an ineffective means of planning a more egalitarian society. According to him, the Indian example only shows that legislation is not enough and must be matched by effective implementation since none of the measures described in his study have been implemented fully and exclusively. Thus it is doubtful whether taxation would indeed be a more subtle means of limiting private property as the author suggests. Here again we are confronted with the deficiencies of a weak state.

D. Kantowsky