

Reviews

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