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political context within which economic development takes place. Social dynamics are not given adequate consideration and the reader is left without any of the background information which might explain the potential conflicts in Ceylonese politics since independence. Thus one reads, for example, next to nothing about the symptoms and implications of Sri Lanka's welfare state politics or the dysfunctionality of its schooling system which has led to an alarmingly high degree of unemployment amongst educated people, resulting indirectly in political instability. Apart from that the author does not consider the existence of newspapers (in a highly literate society!), trade unions (in a highly politicized society!) or foreign aid - just to give a few examples - though all of these are important enough to warrant treatment as part of Ceylon's socio-political and economic development. This is all the more surprising since there are six pages on 'winds in Ceylon' and three pages on frost (!) on this tropical island. This allows the conclusion that these omissions are not due to lack of space but rather to the selective approach.

Despite these shortcomings the book is highly competent in the areas the author covers. In addition, the comprehensive bibliography will be a very valuable guide to students of Ceylon.

Eckehard Kulke

Ulrich Teichler, *Hochschule und Gesellschaft in Japan*. Vol. I: Geschichte und Struktur des japanischen Hochschulwesens. 385 pages. Vol. II: Das Dilemma der modernen Bildungsgesellschaft - Japans Hochschulen unter den Zwängen der Statuszuteilung. 438 pages. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett, 1975/76. DM 49. - each.

The author, a staff member of the Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung in West-Berlin, is a recognised specialist in the field of Japanese education. In two instructive volumes which provide numerous valuable data he presents a thorough and extensive study of Japanese higher education and society. Based on a two-year research stay in Japan (1970-72), it shows Teichler's reading of a wide range of relevant materials. Looking at the Japanese education system from a sociologist's point of view, Teichler regards Japan almost as a prototype of industrialised "educative society" with equalized educational opportunities and wider access to higher education. He believes that Japan is ahead of other nations in modernity and can exhibit trends which will also appear in Western countries in the future. At the same time he does not ignore the shortcomings of the Japanese system and carefully inquires into the seamy side of *kogakureki shakai* (i.e. modern education society). Contrary to widespread fears in West-Germany that any considerable expansion of higher education would inevitably create "overqualification" and frictions on the labor market, Teichler cites Japan's experience as a case in point. He argues that Japanese reality produces evidence of the employment system's ability to accommodate

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an expansion of higher education, especially by "vertical substitution". This concept is, however, not sufficiently discussed. (The term itself does not even appear in the index.) Teichler points out that the prospects of education humanizing society are largely undermined by the process of social selection which it is expected to perform. Focussing on this dilemma, he goes into detail about the shiken jigoku (i. e. examination hell) of Japanese university admission (which determines future positions in society) and elaborates the effects on curricula, learning processes, and business recruitment. The extension of educational opportunities seems to have created a "prestige hierarchy" of educational institutions and relentless competition among applicants. There is also a tendency towards "irrelevance in the curriculum." While qualification loses importance, status distribution becomes the central question. These topics are treated mainly in volume two, which makes a timely and valuable contribution to the current international debate about higher education. The first volume presents a readable survey of the historical development of Japanese universities and provides a clear background for the subsequent discussion of current problems. The author mainly avoids explicit comparisons with other modern societies. Thus the actual relevance and prognostic significance of his observations is not definitely clarified. The cultural relativity of Teichler's findings should have been considered more systematically. What the books do not provide, because they are based on a more economy- and policy-centered survey, than on a man-oriented one, is a presentation of the cultural value system underlying Japanese higher education. The question remains as to what extent the Japanese education system may be viewed as a model for modern industrial society. The attempt to single out particular structures has nevertheless produced thought provoking results. This comprehensive, informative and rewarding work will be interesting not only for those committed to the sociological, economic and political problems of higher education but also to everybody studying modern Japanese society. A substantial summary in English has been added to both volumes, which makes them recommendable to non-German readers, too.

Wolfgang Wilhelm

Sigrid Westphal/Hellbusch/Heinz Westphal, Hinduistische Viehzüchter im nord-westlichen Indien. II. Die Bharvad und die Charan. Forschungen zur Ethnologie und Sozialpsychologie, Bd. 9. Berlin: Duncker u. Humblot, 1976. 262 pages, 32 photos. DM 84. -

This volume completes the studies of the authors on the cattle-breeding groups in the North-West of the Indian Subcontinent. We published already a review of the volume in which the material concerning the Rabari was analyzed (IASF VI (1975), 545/46). This volume on the Bharvad and Charan follows the same pattern, i. e. a detailed cultural and ethnographic description for each of the two communities is given. A final sequence to each part deals with the problems of adjustment that each community faces in a changing and modernizing environment.