

## Reviews

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

Eckehard Kulke, *The Parsees in India. A Minority as Agent of Social Change*. München: Weltforum Verlag, 1974, 300 pages, DM 48,—.

"Which are the decisive factors, endogenous as well as exogenous, which caused this sudden dynamisation and social mobilization among the Parsees and which made the Parsees, more than any other community, the agents of social change in the wider Indian context?" This question from the preface is the central focus throughout Dr. Kulke's study which is arranged in four main sections:

(1) A description of the genesis, structural development and internal organization of the community; (2) a descriptive analysis of the community's internal social and cultural change; (3) an analysis of the Parsees' role in Indian politics on the three different levels of local, national and imperial politics; (4) an analysis of the factors explaining the community's internal social change as well as its impact on the process of social change in the Indian society.

Material was collected from 1966 to 1968 in the archives and libraries of London, Bombay, Delhi and Poona and is classified by the author himself in the following five categories: (1) The community's ethno-centric and self-dipicting publications; (2) contemporary English and Indian literature in which the Parsee community is referred to; (3) reports of the meetings of Parsee associations; (4) Parsee newspapers and periodicals of various Parsee groups; (5) the private papers of English politicians and prominent Parsees.

Compared with so many other academic books this study has, among others, the advantage of really trying to answer the questions posed at the beginning, i. e. in chapter four the following reasons are detailed to explain the emergence of the Parsees as one of the main innovating forces in 19th century India: the community's marginal position in traditional Indian society matched perfectly with British colonial policy so as to propel the Parsees as entrepreneurs into a new system, the rules and standards of which were set from outside. This is also why the Parsees still have some difficulty in defining their role in an independent India. Eckehard Kulke's elaborate study may well be of some help in this respect since it is one of the rare examples of German scholarly work on India that can also be obtained in the country concerned (from Vikas Publications for only Rs 50,—).

D. Kantowsky

Siegfried Schönherr, *Berufliche Diversifikation und Führungsmodernisierung im ländlichen Indien. Follow-up Untersuchung von zwei Dörfern in Süd-Indien, 1954–56 und 1969–70*. (SSIP-Schriften Heft 11). Saarbrücken: Verlag der SSIP-Schriften, 1972. 57 Seiten, DM 14,—.

The present study is primarily concerned with the interrelationship of occupational diversification and leadership modernization in rural India. This subject was taken up for empirical research mainly with the intention of retesting the positive correlation between the above mentioned variables in the same villages in which — as the author maintains — T. S. Epstein had found their covariance in 1954/56. (See: T. S. Epstein, *Economic Development and Social Change in South India*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1962.)

The term "leadership modernization" is, for the purposes of this study, defined as a process in which certain members of a social system succeed in influencing or forcing the others to act in conformity with the directive principles of the Indian Constitution (e. g. the principle of democratization, decentralization of power, social equality of all castes, sexes etc.). In my opinion, quite apart from the logical problems posed by this rather imprecise definition, a study of modernization cannot and should not neglect or try to avoid all the former, still