

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

unsettled, debates on this complex and ambiguous concept by simply pointing to various, in their turn also controversial, constitutional norms.

The second central term, "occupational diversification", remains as vague as the first. It refers to all sorts of changes in occupational roles and relations which may occur inside or outside a village: — the emergence of new occupations and the disappearance of old ones, the loosening of the traditionally close ties between caste and occupation.

Having empirically tested — in no clearly specified way — the proposition of a positive correlation between the thus defined occupational diversification (independent variable) and leadership modernization (dependent variable), and having found hardly any empirical evidence for it, the author comes to realize that he has misunderstood the conclusions which T. S. Epstein drew from her study. Her emphasis was, among other things, on problems of leadership change, the replacement of the old dominant social groups by new ones and not, as the author had believed, on processes of leadership modernization.

Apart from giving this example of an embarrassing confusion, the study has nothing to contribute, neither of the problem of occupational diversification, nor to the problem of leadership modernization, not to mention the interrelationship of these two variables.

Inge Kaul

Heide and Udo Ernst Simonis (eds.), *Japan. Economic and Social Studies in Development*. (A Publication of the Institute of Asian Affairs in Hamburg). Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1974. V, 339 pages, DM 38,—.

This reader, written for the most part by Japanese scholars, contains 16 articles in English on various economic problems. The editor, U. E. Simonis, Professor at the Technische Universität in Berlin, is well-known for his studies on infrastructure policy and on international economic policy; his wife is also an economist. The purpose of this book as presented in the preface is, first, to help compensate for the lack of European, and particularly German, research on Japanese politics and economy and, second, to give a survey of contemporary economic and social studies related to the general theme of development.

Although the concept "development" is not further defined, and — as is often the case with readers — the contributions are rather heterogeneous, a certain emphasis is evident in the selection. The emphasis has been placed on those economic and political problems to which attention has been drawn as confidence in the "economy-first" policy has wavered in Japan: the relationship between economic growth and social change, international economic relations, and economic and social planning. Post-war developments are analyzed and attention is drawn to current or anticipated changes in most of the articles which, on the whole, are clearly structured, informative and of considerable interest to the reader with some background in economics.

Shigeto Tsuru, President of Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, touches on the concept underlying the reader in his article, "In Place of Gross National Product": "The age of calculators is gone; that of humanists is succeeding". The end of a purely growth-oriented economy — which had created social wealth at the cost of worsening social problems, environmental disruption and growing international tensions — is described together with cautious signs of a new political orientation. This emphasis is particularly evident in those articles which deal with economic growth and structural change, infrastructure policy and measurement of welfare. As can be seen in the lack of concern shown here for the public's reaction to the problem, the unnamed addressee of these considerations is the planner in government and in business management who is to be won over to the concept of balanced planning. A number of contributors have unfortunately confined themselves to a description of developments without making this underlying intention explicit.

This volume gives the best insight yet available in English into the way problems have come to be perceived in Japan, and it points out approaches to economic and social planning which have been developed further in Japan than in other capitalist countries as a result of that nation's specific problems. The secret hope for an enlightened economic policy which could reconcile economic growth and social welfare should inspire not only readers who are interested in the development of Japan, but also those who are concerned about the development of their own countries.

Ulrich Teichler