

in the critique of the practice of comparing cultures springing from completely different historical backgrounds: Japanese morality is assessed according to whether it lives up to the European ideas of "Wahrheit" and "Nächstenliebe" or not. Here the author is taking the position of positivism supported by religious beliefs. This becomes especially apparent in the author's judgement on the part that Christianity has played in Japan and will play in the future (320 ff.), and also in his "wertphilosophischer Schlußbetrachtung" (409 ff.). Here the European idea of "Allgemeinmenschlichkeit" is regarded as the better option for Japan. Stilistically, this tendency of argumentation leads to a kind of Jargon der Eigentlichkeit, discernible for example in the following passages: "Die Liebe zur Wahrheit als solcher (...) lebt noch nicht voll im Bewußtsein vieler Japaner. (412 f.) (...) Eine echte Konfrontation mit religiösen Problemen könnte dem Japaner wirkliche Tiefe geben (414) (...) Ob Japan jemals einen eigenen echten Beitrag zur Sozialethik (...) hervorbringen wird, läßt sich nur schwer voraussagen. Anzeichen dafür gibt es bis jetzt nicht." (419) And the last sentence of this generally unprejudiced book runs as follows: "Religion und echte Wahrheitssuche liegen einstweilen im argen." (420)

At the end of such a praiseworthy book it is with a light heart that we depart from some of the author's basic assumptions. For it is the picture Erlinghagen has drawn of Japan, and not his philosophical or religious beliefs, that is up for evaluation here.

Dietrich Krusche

Franke, Wolfgang und Staiger, Brunhild (Hrsg.): China Handbuch. Düsseldorf, Bertelsmann Universitätsverlag 1974, 1768 Spalten, Glossar, Indizes, 16 Tafeln, zahlreiche Fotos. DM 152,—.

This voluminous handbook was published by the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ostasienkunde" in connection with the "Institut für Asienkunde" (Hamburg), and backed by the "Stiftung Volkswagenwerk". It was only after a delay of several years that the book was at long last printed at the end of 1974.

To review a book with 1768 columns is no easy task. There is always the danger of overlooking the whole through concentrating on individual articles, and vice versa. Avoiding this danger poses a problem here; thus, this review tries to take both aspects into account.

The book itself contains 324 articles in all, some of which are very short. They are in alphabetical order and are intended to cover the period from the Opium-War of 1840 up to the present. The aim of the book is "to give factual information on modern China. In the first place the book is not aimed at the specialist but at the educated layman, to provide him with basic information... A major concern of the China Handbuch... (is) ... to elucidate the relation between traditional and modern China..." (the editor, p. XII). Biographical articles are, however, not included.

Indeed, taken as a whole the book is unique, and not only in the German speaking world: from "Agrarreform" to "Eisen und Stahl", "Geheimgesellschaften", from "Islam" to "Shantung", "Subjektivisten" to "Verskunst des 20. Jahrhunderts" and "Zweiter Weltkrieg", the reader learns about China in a very comprehensive form. In most cases modern China is presented on the basis of traditional China. At the end of each article a bibliography indicates further reading. Use of the book is simplified by a systematic overview of the articles (p. XXVII—XXXII), indices of persons, geographic names and subjects.

However, the impression made by the book is quite different when the individual articles and authors are reviewed. In the preface the editor states how difficult it was "to find the proper authors for the particular articles" (p. XIII) and there is some truth in this statement — there are some articles which have certainly not been written by the most qualified expert on the respective subject. So there must be some doubts in the editor's statement, as to whether the basis for the selection of authors, at least in individual cases, was indeed "exceptional scholarly qualification and not political or ideological motivation" (p. XIV). It is not possible to check this in the case of foreign authors even though important names are missing (Bettelheim, Brandt, Fairbank, Cohen, Garthoff, Halperin, Oksenberg, Schwartz, Vogel etc.). But this is not the case with the German specialists. It cannot wholly be accepted that the number of specialists in the FRG who were prepared and available to

contribute was not sufficient (p. XIII): on the one hand there are German authors with five, ten and in one case even 15 contributions in this book and on the other hand the names of a number of well-known specialists (Bünger, Kindermann, Kroker, Opitz, Weiss etc.) are missing. This is not a personal or even polemic footnote – the selection of authors is a problem on the solution of which such a project stands or falls.

This becomes evident by reading some of the articles. It is impossible to write an "objective" review of 324 articles; only single aspects can be mentioned. In general, there is an imbalance in the quality of individual subjects: take for example the excellent contributions on the Kuomintang (J. Domes), on Marxism-Leninism (D. W. Y. Kwok), on national minorities (A. Palat, G. Prunner) or on the press (W. Mohr). Unfortunately, however, more than a few articles are of a much lower standard, too low for the requirements of a "China Handbuch". The biggest deficiency of some articles is that they are based on completely outdated sources and data: it is, for example, totally inadequate that the article on "Straßenverkehr" should be based on data ending in 1963; it is equally inadequate that the most recent material on Shanghai should be from 1964, that on the production of cotton yarn from 1959, on the public income from 1957, and on industry's gross production from 1959 etc; this cannot be due simply to editorial problems but is a basic inadequacy. It is true that official data on economic development have not been published since 1960 but there are various evaluations and projections for single spectra. The inavailability of official sources is no justification for neglecting unofficial but generally accepted data.

These criticisms may appear unjust in view of the enormous efforts required to make the publication of this book possible; a "China Handbuch", however, which claims to provide basic source material on China for years if not decades should not simply be impressive in scope and format. Most important of all is that the articles should contain comprehensive and up-to-date information on the individual subjects.

Last but not least: the price of DM 152,- for a book aimed at the educated layman (p. XII) seems prohibitive – where is the real layman who can afford to pay this amount? When a book is printed with financial backing it should surely be possible to fix a price which will guarantee the widest possible distribution.

All in all there is a considerable difference between the book as a whole and the individual articles. The reviewer is full of admiration for the editor's courage in undertaking and completing this project in spite of all these foreseeable difficulties. In this respect it is easy to agree with the editor: the "China Handbuch" does contribute to a better knowledge of China and thus to a better understanding of China and its present problems. It is more than a "beginning" (p. XV) – it is a very good step towards a better mutual understanding between the West and China!

Uwe G. Fabritzek

Christian Kleinert, *Haus- und Siedlungsformen im Nepal-Himalaya unter Berücksichtigung klimatischer Faktoren.* (Hochgebirgsforschung, Heft 4, herausgegeben von der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung). Innsbruck-München: Universitätsverlag Wagner, 1973. 127 pages, DM 40,20.

Some 5,000 kilometers of field-walk, done between 1969 and 1971 over the whole of Nepal, form the empirical background of this study. It compares housing- and settlement-patterns north and south of the main Himalayan Range in Central Nepal. As an architect, Christian Kleinert's main interest was in relating these observations to the local environment, i.e. altitude and slope, climate, vegetation, population and economy. For this purpose he chose the Kali-Gandaki valley as an ideal field for a case-study, since there one has both extremes less than 100 kilometers apart: an arid climate with not more than 11 inches rainfall per year in Jomosom north of the Himalayan Range, and a monsoon climate with 240 inches per year south of it in Pokhara.

The main finding, that architecture correlates highly with differing natural and climatic conditions, may seem rather unimportant to all those who have some knowledge of the area and its infrastructure as the latter makes careful adjustment to whatever local conditions