

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 The biggest deficiency of some articles is that they are based on completely outdated sources and data: it is, for example, totally inadequate that the article on "Straßenverkehr" should be based on data ending in 1963; it is equally inadequate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

prevail a must for human settlement. Yet the author himself concedes, that in a one-man-project with the limited resources of a German Academic Exchange Service scholarship it was not possible to aim at a detailed analysis of human geography and all ecological and ethnic factors influencing it. Moreover, one has to admit that so far we have not had a field survey of this kind, the main assets of which are in my opinion the 83 highly instructive photos of settlement-sites and their Himalayan environment together with 37 drawings showing the structure of villages and architectural details.

True, the "Jomosom Trek" is quite "in" nowadays; even McNamara did it with his family in late 1973. But our knowledge about this ancient trade-route between the Indian sub-continent and the Tibetan plains is still scanty. Kleinert's presentation of a vast amount of material has to be seen not only in this context but also with regard to so many development projects, whose experts take no notice whatsoever of the wealth of environmental knowledge accumulated in the traditional architecture of an "underdeveloped" area.

D. Kantowsky

Alfons Lemper (Hrsg.): Japan in der Weltwirtschaft. Die Beziehungen Japans zu den Weltregionen (Deutsches Überseeinstitut, Probleme der Weltwirtschaft, Bd. 17). München: Weltforum Verlag, 1974. XIX + 758 pages, DM 54,—.

The basic intention of this voluminous book is to provide a review of the changing position of Japan in the world economic system, stressing the peculiarities of the relations of such a "dynamic partner" in trade with different regions. The collection of surveys included was sponsored by the German Overseas Institute, an association of research institutes dealing with different overseas areas. Thirteen authors wrote detailed reports on factors determining Japanese trade policy in Japan's relations with nine different regions: North America, Western Europe, Latin America, the Western Pacific area, South Asia, China, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

The general aim, i.e. to give a survey of economic relations between Japan and each of the areas mentioned holds the book together. Even so, there appear to be considerable differences in the planning and presentation of material in the individual reports. Also, the chapters which do not deal with particular regions make it clear that both the conceptual structuring and the cooperation between the authors were only very casual. Chapter 2 by M. Y. Cho on the fundamentals of Japanese foreign policy and chapter 3 by Y. Yawata on the foundations of Japan's international trade policy offer interesting reflections on the specific conditions and background for Japanese policy.

The attempt is made in chapter 4 (authors: C. Conteh, B. Engels, K. Khan, A. Lemper) to discuss the results of the study systematically. In their critique of widely-held explanations, the authors come to the conclusion: "Japanese expansion ... can scarcely be explained with the principles of international division of labour and specialisation but rather with effective use of market opportunities and an offensive marketing and sales strategy."

From such a study one could expect a tighter coordination of procedure and a more systematic evaluation of results. This work also lacks both a bibliography of the literature referred to in the volume as a whole, and an index, which would be especially helpful in a book of this kind. The claim to be practising "research close to practise", in which a wide public is given an up-to-date picture, seems, however, to have been successful.

Ulrich Teichler