

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