

SABINE PREUSS (ed.), „*Ohne Toleranz funktioniert nichts.*“ *Indisch-deutsche Technische Zusammenarbeit: Berufsbildung, Hochschule, ländliche Entwicklung (1958–2010). Reportagen, Interviews, Portraits.* Frankfurt / Main: Brandes & Apsel-Verlag, 2013. 192 pages, €17.90. ISBN 978-3-955-58006-3

In the first 50 years of Germany's development cooperation with India, vocational training, cooperation with universities and rural development were key areas of cooperation. The author describes these projects and contextualises them socio-politically in a historical retrospective. Sabine Preuß, herself a long-term staff member of GTZ (today renamed GIZ) in India, has compiled background information interviews with Indian and German staff members as well as beneficiaries in these projects. Historical and current photos taken during project visits illustrate the case studies.

The book showcases a success story of German development cooperation. For five decades, Germany transferred technology and technological know-how to India. Armies of consultants – mostly male, rarely female – were sent for short- and long-term assignments to India to help to establish training schools for master craftsmen (the German “*Meisterschule*”), training institutions, research laboratories and technical universities and provide advisory services to these institutions. Looking back, the author concludes that valuable stimuli had been given for the development of emerging industries. The first public-private-partnerships emerged during that time and subsequently became fashionable in many other countries in the 21st century.

Since its inception, development cooperation has been implemented as industrial and economic promotion by both Germany's federal states and the central government. The need of German companies for qualified Indian workers for their plants in India gave the first impetus for cooperation in the area of vocational training. In agriculture, German agricultural machinery, seeds and fertilizers contributed to the increase in food production in the mountain regions of Himachal Pradesh and the Nilgiri Hills. The establishment of a milk industry through “modern” methods of cattle breeding and the construction of milk processing plants, the so-called “White Revolution”, was supported by German technology and dairy equipment.

The interview partners also highlighted intercultural experiences: Indian respondents were impressed by the discipline, punctuality, focus on quality, and the hands-on approaches of their German counterparts. Instead of merely delegating tasks to lower-level staff, as was the common practice in India, German advisors themselves often rolled up their sleeves. On the other side, Germans learnt to engage with tact, they were impressed by rituals and ceremonies during inaugurations and other festivities, and adapted to the complexities of India's political and bureaucratic systems. Indians and Germans benefited during their cooperation and learned from each other through the exchange of different working cultures and by working through conflicts and jointly developing solutions.

The author observes that rural development projects have contributed to the enhanced roles and positions of female farmers. German development approaches at the time, however, were rooted in a growth model of economic development. Technical advisory services were addressed to landowning farmers, who were thus able to increase their income and welfare; whereas this approach side-lined landless people and small landholders. Some respondents critically reflect in retrospect on some problems of project conception and implementation. However, an overall critical analysis of the contribution of German development projects to poverty reduction in India is missing, and the – potentially negative – impact on resource-poor communities is not taken into account. In spite of all development cooperation efforts, India continues to lag behind on key poverty indicators, such as life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality rates, vaccination rates and years of education.

Overall, the book provides valuable insights into 50 years of development cooperation with India and captures multiple voices, often quoted directly. The learning experiences described are still relevant to the debate on the successes, errors and overall validity of development cooperation. However, a critical discussion of a Eurocentric – or even Germany-centric – perspective on development at the end of the book would have been desirable.

*Hildegard Scheu*

ZOLTÁN BIEDERMANN, *The Portuguese in Sri Lanka and South India. Studies in the History of Diplomacy, Empire and Trade, 1500–1600.* (Maritime Asia, 25). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014. X, 205 pages, €56.00. ISBN 978-3-447-10062-5

The beginnings of the age of globalization – the complex process of increasing economic, political and cultural interaction on a global scale – can be traced back to the 15th century. Despite great geographical distance and a lack of technical innovation (especially in land transport), the colonial expansion of some European empires ushered in political and economic interactions which after a gradual start spread rapidly. When the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama set foot on Indian soil in 1498, he opened up a sea route to India and the neighbouring states for European explorers, traders and missionaries. Over the next few centuries the Estado da Índia, the Portuguese State of India, heavily influenced trade in the Indian Ocean by establishing coastal forts and trading settlements (including Cochin, in India and Colombo, in Sri Lanka). Local politics and religious affairs, especially in the coastal areas, were also affected to some degree by Portuguese or Catholic interests. After the mid-17th century Portuguese dominance in this part of the world was ended by the arrival of Dutch, who were soon followed by English and French, traders and conquerors.