

Distelraths Behandlung der Modernisierungstheoretiker bleibt allerdings im Vergleich zu der historisch-kritischen Strenge, die er Marxisten und Weberianern angedeihen ließ, etwas kursorisch, zumal er in dieser Kategorie nahezu alle nichtmarxistischen, angloamerikanischen Japanstudien aus den Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften zu subsumieren scheint. Sollten diese gar zur Schule der weniger naiven „Revisionisten“ zählen, machen sie sich zusätzlich einer Vielzahl „schwerer Irrtümer“ (S. 211) schuldig, da sie die Vision des Autors einer entstaatlichten liberalen Wirtschaft in Japan nicht teilen.

Auch wenn man mit Distelraths zentraler These der fortdauernden Existenz von drei inadäquaten historischen Interpretationsmustern für das Wirtschaftsgeschehen in Japan Schwierigkeiten hat - schließlich haben Tausende westlicher Geschäftsleute, Banker, Diplomaten, Wirtschaftskorrespondenten und Ökonomen empirisch und alltagspraktisch fundiert ihre Haustheorien zur japanischen Wirtschaft auch ohne die Lektüre von Weber, Marx, Parsons und ihrer Adepten deduktiv zusammengestellt und oft genug auch publiziert -, so bleibt trotz einer sperrigen Diktion eine intellektuell spannende Lektüre. Distelrath stellt viele, oft kaum vermutete Querverbindungen zu klassischen Werken japanischer Autoren her. Der esoterisch anmutende Schulenstreit der japanischen Wirtschaftshistoriker wird so z.B. verständlicher. Als Kritiker von Stereotypen hat der Autor einen kühnen Wurf gewagt. Der Ton seiner Beweisführung ist of unnötig apodiktisch. Jedoch in der Substanz ist sie oft bestechend präzise und sorgfältig belegt.

*Albrecht Rothacher*

UWE KOTZEL, *Umwelt und Ökologie im asiatisch-pazifischen Raum: Eine Auswahlbibliographie*. (Dokumentationsdienst Asien und Südpazifik, Reihe A.27). Hamburg: Deutsches Übersee-Institut, 1996. IX, 268 pages, DM 38,-. ISBN 3-922852-66-1

Social progress and economic well-being in East and South East Asia, the most important and obvious consequences of industrial civilization, depend on activities that reduce, and sometimes exhaust, the earth's resources and too often also cause pollution.

Because pollution knows no frontiers, environmental problems and threats are global as well as local. In view of possibly irreversible damage to the environment, ecologic matters are being more and more taken into consideration by researchers on regional affairs.

At the same time, the Asian region is of increasing interest also to ecologists, technicians and natural scientists - whether due to the effects of industrialization especially of the East and South East Asian growth zone, or to the outstanding importance of gigantic projects unique in the world (e.g. the Narmada dam in India and the Sanxia Three Gorges-project in China) or also because of the far-reaching experience and the resulting advantage gained by Japan after her grave ecological crises in the seventies in the field of environmental law and technology.

In order to comply with the more and more cross-border-related research requirements in this region, the book - containing more than 1200 titles on 268 pages - is arranged according to subjects and not according to regions. A large number of the titles refer to particular 'ecotopes' resp. ecosystems which show a certain regional analogy.

The bibliography is subdivided into four main chapters, followed by sections and subsections. Within the individual chapters and sections the titles are yet again arranged according to geographical aspects - from West to East and from larger to smaller regions:

1. General Issues (Environmental and ecology - general issues / Environmental protection and policy / Environmental consciousness and environmental movement)
2. Environment and natural ecosystems (air/water/land/forest - rain forest, tropical wood, forestry)
3. The human factor (Environment as space for living / Environment as industrial site)
4. Environment as subject of research and development (Ecological research: substitution and adapted technologies / Problems related to energy provision - shortage of fuel and alternative energies / Environment and impairment of health)

The merit of a bibliography rests on its clarity and thus on the possibility of easy access to relevant literature, and its quality of compiled titles as well. As for the first point - clarity of compilation -, it was amazing how fast and problem-free - despite the more than 1200 listed titles - access to the researched matter in a given region was possible. In fact, the arrangement of the titles - after three successful "tests" (Waste management in Japan / Environmental law in China / Land degradation in India) - was entirely convincing.

It would have been unrealistic to venture to compile a complete bibliography, especially in the case of a subject matter like environment and ecology, and with respect to a region so vast as the Asia Pacific. This was not the aim of the author. Rather, the goal was to facilitate the procurement of literature by means of a certain number of interesting and outstanding publications which necessarily represent only a selection of all the available literature. Quite intentionally this literature has not been limited by the author to a certain period of time and to particular subject matters in order to make it easier for the researcher to get an overview of the importance of a specific topic in a certain region, thereby showing developments, changes in interests or need of research.

The appendices - printed on yellow paper and thus easy to consult - offer, apart from the index of authors, institutions and utilized journals, a very helpful list of addresses. With the aid of the library catalogue, the researched journal can be easily loaned.

This book is mainly intended for research on natural science, technology and economics. It is most pleasant - especially for legally trained persons - that it contains in addition important titles dealing with environmental law and legal developments in different regions.

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