

In general: The book imparts a wealth of knowledge on Singaporean history, politics and society, which is undoubtedly its strength. Beyond that, this book is equally important because of its shortcomings. Writing a book on Singapore and avoiding such is hardly possible because government policy is so overwhelmingly present in everyday life. The authors present many critical remarks about Singaporean politics, but these remarks seem to be presented mostly as a reason to consider policy upgrading instead of discussing seriously the crucial tensions within the inner core of society caused by overwhelming social change in a short time and its consequences. Seen from this perspective this volume is about controlled nation building from above and not about nation building. These critical remarks will not diminish the merits of the book especially as it stimulates considerations such as I have presented above, which point to the "strategic" tensions inherent in Singapore society between "traditional" structures and comprehensive social change.

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STEVEN WEDEMA, *"Ethiek" und Macht. Die niederländisch-indische Kolonialverwaltung und indonesische Emanzipationsbestrebungen 1901-1927.* (Beiträge zur Kolonial- und Überseegegeschichte, 71). Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1998. 353 pages, 3 maps, DM 88,-. ISBN 3-515-07264-0

Based upon a dissertation at the University of Zurich, this colonial history of Indonesia during the first three decades of the twentieth century is not a study of interaction between Dutch and Indonesians. It can rather be considered to be a history of Dutch administrative culture and how it went from a pro-emancipatory ethical principle to the practice of repression of Indonesian nationalism. It makes extensive use of Dutch-language primary and secondary source materials, thereby introducing to the German-reading public a historiography still dominated by Dutch historians.

Starting with an excellent survey of the many meanings "ethical" policy embodied, the ramifications are hardly discussed, since the author concentrates on internal administrative discussions rather than practical outcomes. Pursuing a strict chronological approach, it is shown how benevolent ideas supported by a limited group of politicians and high-ranking colonial officials were gradually undermined, not only by the conservatism of many colonial civil servants but also by the Indonesian emancipatory movement, that step by step became more radical. The final turnaround came with the rebellions in West Java and West Sumatra in 1926-27, after which ethical principles as a guideline for colonial policy were definitively dead.

The names and events that appear in the book are quite well known to any specialist in Indonesian modern history, but for a wider public it offers a useful introduction to the period and, on top of that, the unique flavour of Dutch preoccupations, as they emerge from unpublished archival records. Also, there are some initial steps to engage in debate with major authors such as Locher-Scholten, Takashi Shiraishi and Ruth McVey, but these concern formal matters of detail like certain typologies or periodisations. Due to the focus chosen the book has the same asymmetry as is present in much contemporary Dutch colonial histories: on the Dutch side many details and persons, providing a composite picture, but on the Indonesian side nearly only collectivities and a stress on particular instances of resistance. The

more sophisticated picture emerging from studies by Shiraiishi, Ahmad Adam and Mrazek (the two last-mentioned are absent altogether) is largely lost. All in all a solid dissertation but not a new interpretation of Dutch colonial policy or the Indonesian *pergerakan*.

Vincent Houben

WOLFGANG PAPE (ed.), *East Asia by the Year 2000 and Beyond. Shaping Factors. An European Project*. (English-language Publications of the Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg, 1). Richmond: Curzon Press, 1998. XVI, 268 pages. £ 14,99 (Pb), ISBN 0-7007-1006-X. £ 40.00 (Hb), ISBN 0-7007-1005-1

This book is an ambitious undertaking. It attempts to identify the key political, social and economic trends which are likely to determine the future of the East Asian region. Unlike a large number of conventional analyses carried out in Western countries, which quite often consider Asia as a single region – for example, in the context of the so-called Asian model, this study tries to tackle the different aspects and problems which individual countries are facing. “The term Asia is an over-simplification. [Asian countries] have different cultural traditions and different social, economic and political profiles, even if industrialisation is making some of these differences less marked than in the past.” (p. 235 in appendix II)

This study was originally commissioned by the European Commission and completed in 1996. In order to optimally expand the EU’s business and economic presence and to develop political dialogues with those rapidly growing Asian countries, this future-oriented study aims at enhancing European understandings as well as deepening the knowledge of historical facts and of the current situation in the region. As the most important instruments of the study, a survey was conducted among a group of selected Asian and European experts from a wide range of fields and interests, which was also supplemented by the face-to-face contacts and information exchange in various symposia. The different opinions and judgements of individual experts about the major future determinants of the various Asian countries were compiled and summarised using computer modelling techniques and the results were visually illustrated. Yet, taking into account the nature and purpose of the study, a more extensive examination and description of the relationship between selected future determinants (‘shaping factors’) and decision makers (‘shaping actors’) in the individual countries would have been desirable.

Chapter 1 tries to give a general overview of the economic, social, political and cultural factors which made the Asian miracle possible within a short period of time. Chapter 2 concentrates on the political and economic problems that Japan has recently been facing, for example, slow economic growth, industrial hollowing out, increasing challenges of its political and economic hegemony in Asia, rapidly ageing society, etc. Unification and security issues are extensively treated for Korea in chapter 3, followed in chapter 4 by an account of the new challenges for the policy makers in China, which are caused by the unfavourable demographic development, the widening regional economic imbalances, the privatisation of state-owned firms, etc. Furthermore, the economic and political significance of the so-called Greater China is examined. Following a description of the ASEAN integration process in