

the research of the Chinese overseas (*huaqiao*), Wang points out that conceptualizing the phenomenon of Greater China is a difficult task. He finds it is no easy matter to include the diaspora of Southeast Asia, the ethnic Chinese communities in Europe and North America, or even the state of Singapore as members of Greater China. Harding explores the concept of "Greater China" by examining it historically. His introductory essay is focused on the origins, usages, variations, difficulties and realities of this concept. Harding points out that Greater China is largely an informal phenomenon, lacking institutionalization. He argues that in addition to the generally recognized integrative aspects of the Greater China phenomenon, there also exist disintegrative factors that inhibit convergence. He also notes the many reservations felt – largely within Chinese and Asian communities – about both the term and concept of Greater China. Harding's opinion is in accord with the research findings of Brian Hook who pays more attention to the political changes in Hong Kong. He believes that the shock of the 1989 killings in Beijing will still remain a reminder for the people in Hong Kong, having a negative impact on the integration between mainland China and Hong Kong.

Several contributors try to avoid answering the question about the future of Greater China directly. They focus their studies on some special aspects of the developments in mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. In their contribution Shao-chuan Leng and Cheng-yi Lin describe and document a dramatic liberalization of domestic politics on Taiwan. They offer a careful examination of the process of political pluralization and maturation on the island. Also Hugh D.R. Backer examines the changing lifestyles of the Hong Kong citizenry without going into the question about the superpower status of Greater China directly.

This is a book full of new ideas and stimulus. Both those with a fear of a "Greater China" and those wanting to create a Chinese superpower in the future should read it. This volume will also be useful reading for all concerned with the impact of the world's next potential superpower.

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THOMAS SCHARPING, SUN HUAIYANG (eds.), *Migration in China's Guangdong Province. Major Results of a 1993 Sample Survey on Migrants and Floating Population in Shenzhen and Foshan*. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 273). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1997. 163 pages, DM 28,-. ISBN 3-88910-179-8

THOMAS SCHARPING (ed.), *Floating Population and Migration in China. The Impact of Economic Reforms*. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 284). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1997. 376 pages, DM 48,-. ISBN 3-88910-190-9

The phenomenon of internal migration in China, first appearing in the early eighties, led to population movements to an extent never seen before in the world's most populous nation. As a result of the widespread effects of economic reforms, a flow of surplus rural labourers has started from the hinterland towards the prosperous coastal areas. An estimated number of 100 million people, the so-called floating population (*liudong renkou*), is on the move, most of them in search of a job and better income. The younger age groups predominate and generally there are more

male than female migrants. However, the gender role varies and depends on origin and destination. There is a prevalence of rural-urban migration with Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen as preferred destinations. Data and information on internal migration is still limited in China. Though recently some books on migration in China have been published, detailed surveys on migration structures are still lacking. Therefore, the research project on migrants in Shenzhen and Foshan in Guangdong province, which serves as the basis for these two books, can be seen as an important step towards narrowing this information gap.

The project was conducted in 1993 as a cooperative effort between Modern China Studies/University of Cologne, and the State Statistical Bureau of China. While "Migration in China's Guangdong Province" presents the results of this research project, "Floating Population and Migration in China" provides a collection of papers read at an international conference on migration and floating population in Cologne in May 1996 following the end of the research project.

The focus of the project was the examination of income and employment patterns of migrants and the resident population in Shenzhen and Foshan. The book by Thomas Scharping and Sun Huaiyang gives a detailed account of the findings illustrated by clear tables and an accompanying discussion of the data, as well as background information concerning the methodology of the survey and basic facts on the cities of Shenzhen and Foshan. The various chapters include demographic information on migrants, main reasons for migration, working conditions, aspects of social life, and personal evaluation by the migrants themselves of their working and living conditions. The appendix – almost half of the book – consists of a collection of the data in the form of 65 tables.

The sample covers 2500 respondents – including migrants and non-migrants – from both Shenzhen and Foshan. The main results bear out the picture that emerges from other research projects on internal migration in China, also presented in the other book edited by Thomas Scharping: Migration as a consequence of economic reforms has positive and negative effects for the migrants and also for the sending and destination areas. The most obvious effects can be seen in the living conditions, distribution of income and the employment structure. The migrants form a very important factor for further economic development, but also represent a threat, especially to the labour market and social stability in the cities.

Because Thomas Scharping and Sun Huaiyang focus on economic aspects it is difficult to project the data into a broader picture of the social life of the migrants and consequently place it within the context of social change. Amongst other topics, the problem of household registration and the complicated administrative system for migrants in China, which is important for the examination of migrants, is neglected. Therefore, it is difficult for the reader to use the data provided for a more in-depth analysis.

At this point the volume *Floating Population and Migration in China*, edited by Thomas Scharping, becomes helpful. It gives a very broad and detailed analysis of different aspects of migration and population mobility in China. The book is particularly useful after reading the research results of Thomas Scharping and Sun Huaiyang, because it is a collection of essays by Western and Chinese scientists, all well-known in the field of social studies and migration in China. It contains trends

in Chinese internal migration and case studies of different regions in China as well as Taiwan.

Thomas Scharping starts with an introductory part (pp. 9-55) focussing on theories, methods and sources for the study of migration. This essay presents a useful summary of the problems arising when dealing with migration topics, especially with the problem of interpreting Chinese data.

The following chapters proceed from general to specific subjects. Ma Xia and Judith Banister focus on overall trends and typical aspects of internal migration in China past and present, so providing a broad view of structural patterns. The following part discusses basic economic, social and administrative changes caused by population movements. Dorothy Solinger deals with migrant petty entrepreneurs and their situation in the urban labour market. Jutta Hebel and Günter Schucher present a rich overview of the developments and changes of the labour system. Wang Feng gives a detailed description of the household registration system in China and the problems arising from emerging market forces. The next section contains six case studies and migration surveys: Thomas Scharping and Walter Schulze provide a summary of their survey of migrants in Shenzhen and Foshan (detailed in the book edited by Thomas Scharping and Sun Huaiyang). The structure of migrants in Shanghai is presented by Sun Changmin. Cai Fang focuses on migration and population mobility in Shandong province. Wolfgang Taubmann examines migration trends and rural urbanization in seven rural towns in various provinces. Xu Gailing describes the problem of migration in Sichuan province. Hein Mallee concludes the regional studies with a household survey in different villages, stressing that migration must be considered on the level of household strategies and in a circulatory context. The chapter written by Delia Davin reverts to more general aspects by discussing the gender issue, focussing especially on marriage migration. This is a very interesting aspect of internal migration in China, often missing in studies. The essay by Lutz Bieg presents a useful analysis of rural and urban values in Chinese literature. Finally, two papers focus on migration on Taiwan. Chen Chaonan gives an overview of migration in Taipei metropolitan area, stressing the importance of modernisation. Finally, Karsten Giese takes a look at the sensitive question of migration across the Taiwan Strait.

*Floating Population and Migration in China* is a rich compilation of the most important aspects of migration and population mobility in China. The book can be highly recommended to students and scholars interested in general trends of migration and social change in China. "Migration in China's Guangdong Province" on the other hand is a highly specialized work, dealing with selected economic questions in a particular region. Because it is always very difficult to carry out a data sample in China, assessment of the data poses particular problems.

Both books are an important contribution to the study of migration in China and in a broader sense – especially the collection of conference papers – to the study of social change and economic development in that vast country.

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