

PHILIPPE REGNIER: *Singapore. City-State in South-East Asia*. Translated from the French by Christopher Hurst. London: Hurst & Company, 1991. XV, 301 pages, 4 maps, £ 27,50. ISBN 1-85065-053-5

The successful development of the Southeast Asian city-state of Singapore is subject of this monograph. Already published in French in 1987 and translated into English in 1991 the book gives an excellent insight into Singapore's past and present development from a colonial entrepôt under British rule to an independent city-state and one of the region's main centres of economic growth. The author outlines Singapore's unique strengths - from its prominent geographic position which, even in the 14th century, made it a major trading post linking India and China with the rich Javanese empire to its birth as a nation in 1965. So the book starts with a brief discussion of Singapore's history from commercial emporium in pre-colonial times to its development as a new trading centre in the colonial period with the rise of Britain's South-East Asian empire at the beginning of the 19th century. The contrast between a predominantly maritime and commercial Singapore and the surrounding, primarily agricultural region has a long history, as the author shows.

Régnier's central theme is that Singapore's economic and political role in the region can not be rightly understood without taking into account the particular relations between the city-state and its immediate neighbours, Malaysia to the north and Indonesia to the south. The relations between these states are characterized by conflicts as well as by cooperation, and this is not limited to the years of independence but may be traced back to the past. "A reading of precolonial and colonial history strongly suggests that there has long been an unstable combination of conflict and cooperation between sea-based emporia (of which Singapore is the direct inheritor) and vast agrarian state formations occupying the hinterland (the Malay peninsula, Sumatra and Java)." (p. 263) The coexistence of close economic cooperation between Singapore and its neighbours on the one hand and a latent conflict situation underlying the relations with its big neighbouring states on the other is important for a proper understanding of the international role Singapore is playing in the region and within the *Association of South-East Asian Nations* (ASEAN).

After a brief discussion of the historical roots of current developments the author outlines the regional function of the Singapore economy at the junction of South-East Asian trade routes. He describes the city-state's relations with its most privileged trading partners, Malaysia and Indonesia, placing Singapore's development strategies in their international and regional context. By the late 1970s, the government had wiped out unemployment, making Singapore an important industrial export centre for trans-

national corporations. With its early development strategy of export-oriented industrialization, the city-state's economy was at the heart of the regional division of labour right from the early days of independence. When local labour costs forced the city-state out of the low-cost labour category, the government began a radical upstream restructuring of the workforce, and by the 1980s the city-state had become a major regional financier in its own right with much of its overseas investment directed to Malaysia and Indonesia: a development, often cited as Singapore's second industrial revolution, that also stands - even today - for a new phase in the regional integration of Singapore's economy. This development was accompanied by a restructuring of Singapore's role as a regional service hub, its advanced transport and communications services as well as a wide array of specialized financial services making Singapore a major provider of infrastructure and services for the whole region. The former central colonial trading emporium has been replaced by a 'world city' linking the economy of the region with that of the rest of the world.

Although Singapore's dominant economic role in the region is beyond question, its regional functions cannot be limited merely to these commercial, industrial and tertiary activities. Régnier sees the city-state's current political role in the region as a result of a long and varied development. Since independence, Singapore's regional policy has gone through three phases which the author describes as following each other in a logical succession. In the first phase it was the trauma of being forced out of the Malay Federation that exerted great influence on intra-regional relations, especially those between the city-state and Malaysia and Indonesia. A transitional period, beginning with the early 1970s, marked the reopening of Singapore towards its neighbours due to geopolitical developments such as the threat of the Vietnam war that affected the stability of South East Asia and made a greater cohesiveness among the ASEAN countries indispensable. The 1980s finally saw a normalisation and an increase in the ties that led to stronger linkages between Singapore's development and that of Malaysia and Indonesia. Based as it was on the strong anti-communism of the participating nations, ASEAN was also a field of regional economic cooperation. A progressive liberalisation of trade, strategies for regional industrial projects and the identification of potential package deals reflecting the complementarity of the national economies have been the three main areas of possible cooperation since the birth of the association in the late 1960s. Even politically, Singapore acts as a kind of middleman for the dynamic development of intra- and extra-ASEAN relations.

While most of the external parameters which affect Singapore's development are beyond the control of the island's authorities, people feel that some kind of structural fragility underlies the city-state's political system. It

is the struggle for survival that has formed the cornerstone of the concept of nation-building since 1965 and determined Singapore's political and economic role in the region. This not only leads to a political philosophy of total mobilisation and the concept of multiracialism underlying that of national cohesion; it also means enormous social costs, unfortunately not discussed by the author.

Rolf Jordan

GEORG CREMER: *Suchverhalten, Stuserwartungen und offene Arbeitslosigkeit in Entwicklungsökonomien mit rasch expandierendem Bildungssystem. Eine Untersuchung am Beispiel Indonesiens.* (Volkswirtschaftliche Schriften 445). Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1995. 256 Seiten, DM 94,-. ISBN 3-428-07899-3

Georg Cremer unternimmt in seiner Abhandlung den Versuch, die offene Arbeitslosigkeit in Indonesien sowohl quantitativ als auch qualitativ zu erfassen und die Chancen einer Beschäftigungspolitik auszuloten. Weiterhin möchte er ein theoretisches Modell zur Bestimmung der offenen Arbeitslosigkeit in wenig industrialisierten Ländern vorstellen, das als Grundlage für arbeitsmarktpolitische Strategien dienen kann.

Die auf Indonesien bezogenen Ausführungen beginnen mit einer Untersuchung der offenen Arbeitslosigkeit. Dies ist insofern überraschend, als die verdeckte Arbeitslosigkeit um ein vielfaches höher ist. Jedoch gelingt es dem Verfasser, die Relevanz der offenen Arbeitslosigkeit zu verdeutlichen. Bei seiner Kalkulation der Gesamtzahl der Beschäftigten, der Unterbeschäftigten, der mithelfenden Familienangehörigen und der offenen Arbeitslosigkeit bezieht er sich auf die gesamte Beschäftigungssituation in Indonesien und geht damit über den begrenzten Bereich der offenen Arbeitslosigkeit hinaus. Besonders drei Komponenten in der Cremerschen Untersuchung sind hervorzuheben: 1. die sehr differenzierte Analyse der offiziellen Arbeitsmarkt- und Bevölkerungsstatistik in Indonesien, 2. die Einbeziehung des informellen Sektors sowie 3. die Bedeutung von Stuserwartungen für den Übergang vom Bildungs- zum Beschäftigungssystem in Indonesien.

Indonesische Statistiken werden in der Regel sowohl im In- als auch im Ausland für wenig verlässlich gehalten. Dies wird fast immer mit Einzelbeispielen begründet. Cremer hingegen analysiert die offiziellen Statistiken detailliert und begründet seine Kritik überzeugend. Er geht noch einen Schritt weiter und entwickelt ein Verfahren zur partiellen Korrektur der Arbeitsmarktstatistik in Indonesien für einen Zeitraum von etwa 15 Jahren. Für Nichtstatistiker ist jedoch seine detaillierte Analyse zum Teil etwas breit, so