

This oversight aside, Kiernan's book not only offers a useful case study for comparative historians of twentieth century revolution, genocide, and nationalism, but also offers an ominous background to the Khmer Rouge, who once again have a clear presence in the new Cambodia.

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CARSTEN HERRMANN-PILLATH (ed.), *Wirtschaftliche Entwicklung in Chinas Provinzen und Regionen, 1978-1992. Ein Statistisches Handbuch.* (Schriftenreihe des BIOS, Köln, Bd. 27). Baden-Baden: Nomos, 1995. CXVI, 367 pp., DM 72,-. ISBN 3-7890-3923-3

This statistical handbook provides an analytic introduction to the problematic of Chinese statistics and presents some preliminary conclusions deriving from the data. Everybody working on China knows about the problems with Chinese statistics, and many scholars doubt that the data published by Chinese authorities provide a reliable basis. Herrmann-Pillath is quite aware of this. It is remarkable and surprising what he figures out from the data of the Chinese Statistical Yearbook.

His main interest is the provincial and regional level. In a systematic way he compiles data on population and employment, production, consumption, investment, productivity, prices and retail sales, foreign trade and investment, transportation, public health, education, research and development as well as regional data ("Greater China"). In two further chapters he presents the data in form of selected figures for provinces, regions and for China as a whole.

In the first part of his introduction the author argues that China is not a homogeneous unit that can be characterized in terms of an entirety. Statements on China as a whole, he suggests, are not very helpful, as they combine quite diverging development processes, e.g. between the provinces. And it is precisely this divergency as well as the reciprocity of such processes which are typical of Chinese development. To understand ongoing processes in China - so Herrmann-Pillath - one has to refer to developments in the provinces and regions, to processes of regionalism and discourses between center and provinces. Data on a national level merely conceal such phenomena.

A data analysis on a provincial level faces various difficulties, e.g. the problems of differentiation (rural-urban, nominal and real quantities), the incompleteness of data, different quality of data at provincial level as well

as discrepancies in data between provincial and national statistical year-books, changing categories or different definitions.

In focussing on growth of productivity and gross national product the author wishes to demonstrate whether a transition from "traditional" to "modern economic growth" has emerged in the provinces and regions, or whether it is a case of "involution", i.e. not a real growth of productivity, but a quantitative increase of factor input.

He refers not only to the domestic growth of provinces and regions but also to foreign economic processes, as the latter, so he believes, are the key to the high growth processes in China. Thus development in the provinces in mainland China is interconnected with the Chinese economic caucus. That is why his data include those from Taiwan and Hongkong, though he is quite aware of the problems in terms of comparability.

In the second part of his introduction Herrmann-Pillath comments on the arrangement of the data and draws some preliminary conclusions. In his opinion a transition to a modern, intensive economic growth is taking place only in the coastal zone and in the three northeast provinces. In the remaining provinces (covering 2/3 of the population) there exist significant difficulties in this respect. He concludes that in future there may emerge a dualism of rapidly developing and economically stagnating provinces. The development of each province depends largely on its basic resources and potentials, although demographic development, employment and the rural sector are crucial economically.

Finally, he discusses the question of regionalism: if it must be considered as a reaction of the provinces to the advantages and benefits of the coastal areas and thus represent a protest mechanism aimed at balancing the disproportionate processes of growth. From this retrospective view regionalism would have generated a converging development, but in future terms would lead to diverging potentials of development.

Without doubt this impressive study is a valuable reference work which provides the reader with an abundance of stimulating arguments and hypotheses. It advocates detailed analysis of provincial and regional processes, thus developing new perceptions and scenarios of China, figuring out regional trends and in this way diversifying our picture of this country. There is still a long way to go. Herrmann-Pillath refers only to the national statistical yearbook, but every province has one of its own. Moreover, every department has separate, more detailed statistical yearbooks. The yearbooks on the private sector e.g. provide not only basic data on this sector which the national statistical yearbook lacks, but also detailed data on quantitative development of enterprises and manpower, investments, productivity, turnover etc.

Personal surveys and field studies reveal the problems of Chinese statistics. Besides the problems of different qualities or changing categories mentioned by Herrmann-Pillath, there are fake "political" data intended to place local leaderships in a favourable light. Field research examination of the balances of enterprises showed that they usually have different balances: one for the authorities with false data and an other for internal use only which contains the real data.

So in the final consequence one may ask whether Chinese data are so unreliable as to render detailed assessment of the present situation and ongoing processes impossible, or if they may even lead the analyser in a wrong direction. Furthermore, it may be highly problematic to condense and analyse economic and social data and to depend on economic factors and resources alone without referring to the political and cultural resources of a province as well. It is not just economic factors that are important, nor do they alone influence provincial developments. Political factors also play a role. And the cultural disposition has to be considered as well. It would therefore be necessary to approach the provincial level from an interdisciplinary point of view, including economics, politics, culture and society. To understand developments on that level makes it necessary to refer to the sub-provincial level, because from the microperspective one is faced with the same problems between the provincial and the sub-provincial level that formed the starting point of Herrmann-Pillath's study. Further analysis will thus have to deal with the diversity and divergence of the sub-provincial level, with its different resources and different reactions to the provincial capital as well.

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INGEBORG GÖTHEL, *Der Untergang des alten Korea*. Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz-Verlag, 1996. 143 pp. + 16 pp. of appendices, 1 map, 13 photographs, DM 68,-. ISBN 3-447-03808-X

The problem with the demise of old Korea is that it has been so inconspicuous. No fierce general trod the peninsula under his feet, and no enthusiastically patriotic youth flocked around their prince to repel the invader, as in the Napoleonic wars in Europe and other campaigns of the kind. The end of monarchical Korea, and this is what Göthel's book is about, is not a matter that lends itself to fabricating heroic tales, as little as the demise of most other countries does which fell victim to 19th and 20th century imperialism. Ignorance of the outside world, if not outright refusal to believe what one