

The other papers are oriented to the south, e.g. Geoff Wade's "Some topoi in southern border historiography during the Ming", Roderich Ptak's paper on maritime borderlands deals with the Paracel and the Spratly Islands on textual evidence from the Song, Yuan and early Ming.

António Graça de Abreu writes in "Macao, Miguel de Arriaga, and the Chinese" about "the failed British occupation of Macao in 1808". Thomas Höllman takes up a border without markings in Taiwan under the title "Ohne Pfosten und Posten: Die Grenze zur Alishan-Region im Taiwan der Qing-Zeit", and Ng Chin-keong deals with the concept of *hai-fang* (coastal defence) in his article on "Maritime frontiers, territorial expansion and *hai-fang* during the Late Ming and High Ch'ing".

This collection of rather diverse contributions to a common topic is stimulating in many respects. It is of special merit that there are papers on different kinds of frontiers. It is left to the reader, however, to find out similarities and differences. To sum up, this is a collection of well-researched papers which will interest a variety of scholars. Those working in the field of frontier studies will all have to refer to it, but it will also be indispensable for those interested in understanding "Greater China" in historical perspective.

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HUA LING FU, RICHARD CULLEN, *Media Law in the PRC*. Hongkong: Asia Law and Practise Publishing Ltd, 1996. 297 pages, US \$ 175.00

Printed publications, radio, television and the new information and communication technologies are essential elements of a modern industrial society. Modern democracies cannot exist without them and neither can totalitarian states using mass media for political reasons. Technologies change as well as the people using them, and emphasis may shift from one medium to another. This is where the power of the mass media lies, and at the same time its danger to the individual and the state. Media law protects the freedom of media and excludes its abuse. *Media Law in the PRC* by Hua Ling Fu and Richard Cullen, Assistant Professor resp. Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Hongkong, is a result of a research project on regulation of expression in the People's Republic of China (PRC) addressed to lawyers, people involved in media and academics. The information and data used cover the period up to mid-1996. The authors not only pay attention to laws, but also to the fact that media regulation in China depends also to a very large extent on political decisions, administrative practices and tentative regulations.

The analysis of the situation of the press is followed by a close look at electronic media like radio and TV broadcasting, cable and satellite TV as the most common media technologies in China and the freedom of expression and information of the growing number of reporters. Then sensitive issues such as state secrets, national security, sedition and subversion are discussed which are topics of major concern to the PRC government.

Before turning to the situation of the media in Hongkong, the book examines some aspects crucial to media worldwide, like the regulation of obscene and indecent material, defamation, advertising and copyright.

The authors focus mainly on the print media which is still the most important source of information in China. Prior to 1996 it underwent the biggest changes with a flood of new regulations appearing, and according to the authors these also apply to electronic media. They distinguish between the established and non-established press for which different control mechanisms apply. The different forms of prior constraint existing in the US, the UK and the PRC are described, before the very pervasive control system of the press in China, including administrative, legal, operational and internal control mechanisms is analyzed. The authors do not fail to describe the challenges economic liberalization is provoking for the prior constraint system, since demand for publications and therefore competition between publishing houses has risen sharply over the last years, testing the tolerance of the system.

The chapter on electronic media deals mainly with television as the fastest growing mass medium. Telecommunication has been excluded from the analysis, because it is considered a person-to-person technology and does not fit into the context of mass media dealt with here. The shift from centralized TV broadcasting to a more decentralized system is taken into consideration while describing the legal framework.

The importance of state secrets, national security, sedition and subversion is stressed in the following two chapters. Since these are the key concerns of the Chinese government and the CCP, media outlets are the primary concern of the relevant laws. Again, as in the previous chapters, the bandwidth and definition of laws on the freedom of information and expression applying in the US and the UK are described, before analyzing the regulations and authorities in the PRC in charge of these highly sensitive issues. In the following, the authors analyze the government's approach over the last decade in dealing with obscene and indecent behaviour, defamation, advertising practices and also copyright which are increasingly becoming a subject of legal concern.



The book ends with a perspective on Hongkong as a major media centre in East Asia and on the shifts in media law at the end of British rule in Hongkong.

The authors' approach takes into account that law in general and media law in particular have to be seen against the cultural and historical background so as to provide a thorough understanding of the environment of freedom of the press and expression. A good example is the discourse on copyright in the PRC.

*Media Law in the PRC* mentions the most relevant laws and regulations, but does not fulfill the wish of readers wanting a complete listing of all regulations concerned, e.g. when describing the legal framework for advertising, the "Law against Unfair Competition" is not mentioned. The book provides a very good overview of the current state of media regulation in China, considering not only the legal framework and history, but also the challenges faced by the Chinese government and society, provoked by the enormous economic boost and the fast technological changes in the mass media. The Internet regulation which is dealt with just briefly would have to be more closely looked at in a future project.

Kerstin Bergmann

JÜRGEN OSTERHAMMEL, *Shanghai, 30. Mai 1925. Die chinesische Revolution*. (20 Tage im 20. Jahrhundert). München: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, 1997. 276 Seiten, 19,90 DM. ISBN 3-423-30604-1

Am 30. Mai 1925 eröffneten in Shanghai Polizisten, die im Dienst der Verwaltung des britisch dominierten International Settlement standen, das Feuer auf einen studentischen, gegen den ausländischen Imperialismus gerichteten Demonstrationenzug. Zwölf Menschen starben im Kugelhagel. Dieses Ereignis löste die größten Massenproteste aus, die China bis dahin erlebt hatte.

Die Symbolkraft des 30. Mai 1925 (chinesisch: *Wu Sa*) wählt Jürgen Osterhammel zum Ausgangspunkt seiner in der Reihe „20 Tage im 20. Jahrhundert“ erschienenen Monographie über die chinesische Revolution. Dabei konzentriert er sich auf die Jahre zwischen 1900 und 1949 als die „eigentliche Epoche des Übergangs“ (S. 26). In seinem Bemühen, einen auf dem derzeitigen Forschungsstand basierenden Gesamtüberblick der Revolutionsgeschichte zu liefern, löst sich Osterhammel jedoch teilweise so stark von den Ereignissen des *Wu Sa*, daß seine wiederholten Rückgriffe auf das Einleitungskapitel bisweilen ein wenig bemüht wirken.