

ernst. Außerdem weist Osterhammel darauf hin, daß Verelendung kein logisch notwendiger Bestandteil für die Erklärung der von den Kommunisten losgetretenen Bauernrevolution ist. Tatsächlich erhoben sich die Bauern auch keineswegs spontan für die kommunistische Sache, sondern mußten von den Anfängen in den 20er Jahren bis zur Landrevolution nach 1946 immer wieder von den Parteikadern mobilisiert werden. Diese zumeist städtischen Intellektuellen - ein Umstand, der eine ausführlichere Diskussion verdient hätte - lernten, sich an den Erwartungshorizont der Bauern anzupassen und maßvolle Forderungen mit Gegenleistungen zu vergelten. Hierin waren sie erfolgreicher als die Guomindang, die dieses Grundgesetz der „moralischen Ökonomie“ nie berücksichtigte. Andererseits erzeugten die Kommunisten in der Zeit der ökonomisch wenig sinnvollen Landrevolution den Klassenkampf künstlich unter Zugrundelegung völlig willkürlicher sozialer Kategorien.

Erst am Ende kommt Osterhammel noch einmal kurz auf die nationalistischen Forderungen des 30. Mai 1925 zurück, die er durch den schrittweisen Abbau der ausländischen Privilegien und die Kapitulation des imperialistischen Japan als weitgehend erfüllt ansieht. Tatsächlich aber liegt der Hauptakzent des Buches auf der inneren Entwicklung Chinas und nicht auf seinen Außenbeziehungen, die relativ wenig zur Sprache kommen. Außerdem ist es bedauerlich, daß Osterhammel die verschiedenen von ihm verfolgten Stränge nicht in einer abschließenden Bewertung der chinesischen Revolution zusammenfaßt. Die positiven Aspekte des Buches überwiegen aber bei weitem: Osterhammel ist stets auf der Höhe des Forschungsstandes, macht dabei auf Forschungslücken aufmerksam und urteilt abgewogen und vorsichtig, hat ein Auge auf regionale Besonderheiten im Riesenland China, ohne das Gesamte der Entwicklung aus dem Blick zu verlieren, und liefert schließlich eine ebenso präzise wie flüssige Darstellung. Im deutschsprachigen Raum wird dieses Buch auf absehbare Zeit das Standardwerk zur chinesischen Revolution sein.

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WINFRIED FLÜCHTER (ed.), *Japan and Central Europe Restructuring. Geographical Aspects of Socio-economic, Urban and Regional Development*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1995. 271 pages, DM 178,-. ISBN 3-447-03531-5

This volume reproduces the contributions made to the 7th Japanese-German Geographical Conference held in Duisburg and Heidelberg in 1992. The 20 articles cover a wide and disparate field: They range from the editor's notes

on why Japan has been economically successful to trends in the international car industry, Japanese mortality patterns, job distribution in Austria and Hungary, the reconstruction of Berlin's inner city and, finally to restructuring mandarin orange production in Saga Prefecture in Northern Kyushu.

This potpourri of contributions, which are mostly very interesting in themselves, is loosely held together by the *leitmotiv* of modernisation and contemporary change in industry, urbanism, migration, regional organisation and agriculture. In a generous definition one could term this as "restructuring" in its widest sense. The "Central Europe" mentioned in the title generally means "West Germany", as most data end with 1990.

For the various themes and problem areas raised Winfried Flüchter proposed the hypothesis of Japanese centralised vs. German decentralised solutions as a subject worthy of consideration. However, only a few authors heeded this advice and bothered to introduce any such comparative perspective.

Flüchter introduces the volume with a lengthy article on some 40 factors or variables explaining Japan's economic development. They cover historical and cultural circumstances, quality mass education, social and regional mobility, ethnic homogeneity, low defence and welfare spending, political stability, a professional bureaucracy, high savings and investments, positive demographic developments (until 1980), R&D efforts, tough but sensible corporate personnel policies, etc. It is certainly useful to have such an exhaustive, but not very original listing.

The other articles are much shorter. Notable contributions cover the following:

Koji Matsuhashi deals with the development of Japan's car industry which, after having established overcapacities at home, started to promote exports. Only emerging import barriers motivated producers to set up production facilities overseas, typically in the industrial periphery of its export markets (N. England, Wales, the U.S. South).

Wolf Gaebe concludes that Japan's success in car production led US and European producers to alter their "Fordist" approach of integrated mass production in favour of the Japanese practice of increased outsourcing and sub-contracting.

Kenji Yamamoto treats the heavy government spending on the public infrastructure of Tokyo and Osaka, which favours the concentration of economic activities in these metropolitan areas. Due to the intensification and concentration of foreign business activities in Tokyo since the mid-80s the unipolar trend towards Tokyo, which follows a world city concept similar to New York and London, further increased.

Hitoshi Tamura reviews the effects of the closure of most of the huge Yawata steel works on the town of Kitakyushu (population: 1 million). The decisions taken by the Tokyo headquarters of Nippon Steel resulted in some 50,000 job losses and a corresponding decline of population. As there is little local light industry, Kitakyushu - previously one of Japan's centres of industrial development, now part of its troubled periphery - struggles to attract high tech investments and services.

Shigeaki Oba analyses the regional shifts in economic management. Between 1930 and 1960 Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya superseded other regional centres like Sapporo, Fukuoka and Kyoto. Tokyo's increasingly monopolistic role is currently becoming even more consolidated.

Hiroshi Matsubara supplies evidence for the commercial decline of Osaka and the near exclusive focus of international exchanges and foreign businesses on Tokyo. In response to the expansion and high costs of the Central Business Area in downtown Tokyo new multi-core international business centres developed in the greater Tokyo area from Yokohama to Northern Chiba.

Toshio Mizuuchi reviews the development of urban planning since Meiji Japan. Not surprisingly this rarely consisted of more than providing proper street networks. After some ambitions could be satisfied in the design of garden suburbs - like Denen-chofu - after the Kanto earthquake of 1923, post-war reconstruction reverted to the old *laissez-faire*.

Tatsuya Chiba looks at international migration to Japan, which, half-tolerated by the authorities, increased since 1987 to levels of between 500,000 and 800,000 foreign residents in 1992 (half of whom are illegal immigrants). They are mostly Thai, Iranian, Malaysian, Korean (the latter living in Kansai), Filipino and Chinese (moving to Kanto). While the women work in the sex and entertainment "industry", the men do hard, menial and poorly paid work for subcontractors on construction sites and in the sweat shops of small metal working and plastic processing plants. The economic and social fate of the 200,000 Nissei from Brazil and Peru is not much better. As ethnic Japanese, however, their residence status is assured.

Franz-Josef Kemper reviews migratory trends to Germany which, with an annual influx of between 200,000 (1987) and 1 million migrants (1990), far exceed the Japanese level. While he observes that Romanian Germans integrate better than other ethnic German immigrants (from Upper Silesia or Russia) into German society, he fails to spell out how the millions of Turks and economically motivated asylum seekers could ultimately be assimilated or, alternatively, be repatriated. In Japan this potential social and ethnic time bomb is not allowed to develop to a similar dimension.

Kenji Tsutsumi covers regional identity in Japan, which is based on the strong regional traditions of the Edo period (1603-1868). Different natural environments between Hokkaido and Okinawa continue to shape different life styles, social attitudes, tastes and dialects. Hence, in Japan's contemporary centralism regional identities persist, although less pronounced than in Germany.

Many of these articles are interesting in their own right. But why should they be published together? We learn that German and Japanese approaches to urbanism, immigration, economic restructuring and regionalism are different. This could be interesting for those who did not already know this. Hence one remains a bit perplexed about the purpose of this publication.

There is, however, one curious involuntary revelation in the twenty different texts about the differences in contemporary German and Japanese academic cultures. German professors typically begin (their text) with a grand "theoretical" discourse in pompous verbiage (which sounds particularly awkward in a sober language like English) until they reach their relatively harmless conclusions. Japanese texts in contrast are typically very brief, low-key and short on analysis. An overdose of excessively detailed tables and maps is presented, even when it is unclear how they support the argument. Often their conclusions cannot be described as such, but contain subjective assertions not substantiated by the article.

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