

in Afrika und Lateinamerika zu beobachten ist, was zum Teil auf das breite Spektrum kolonialer Erfahrung in dieser Region zurückgeführt wird. Die Beispiele zeigen, dass das Militär bei einem Regimewandel hin zu mehr Demokratie durchaus eine Hauptrolle spielen kann, soweit innenpolitische Stabilität gegeben ist. Weiteren Forschungsbedarf sehen May, Selochan und Lawson besonders in den Aktivitäten des Militärs im Komplex militärisch-ziviler Beziehungen, worunter besonders die Verwaltung und öffentliche wie private Wirtschaftsunternehmen fallen.

Zusammenfassend bleibt festzustellen, dass das Thema des Buches bis heute keineswegs an Relevanz verloren hat. Dies belegt der erneute Putsch in Pakistan vom Oktober 1999 sowie der anhaltende Einfluss der Streitkräfte in Indonesien trotz demokratischer Wahlen. Die thematische Einführung des Sammelbandes wirkt zwar zum Teil (aufgrund von drei Autoren?) konfus und wenig systematisch. Dafür sind die detaillierten Länderstudien ausgezeichnet. Besonders deutlich wird daraus, dass die Übertragung westlicher Demokratiemodelle auf Länder mit völlig differierenden Kultur- und Wertesystemen (exemplarisch Südkorea) zu Widersprüchen führen muss. Zum zweiten wird aber auch deutlich, dass wirtschaftlicher Fortschritt und politische Stabilität sowie externe und interne Sicherheit in mehr Emanzipation und Partizipation bzw. Forderungen nach weitergehender Demokratisierung und politischem Pluralismus breiter Bevölkerungsschichten münden (vgl. Südkorea und Thailand). Gründe zur Rechtfertigung einer Intervention entfallen damit, die Zivilgesellschaft gewinnt mit wachsender gesellschaftlicher Komplexität und Ausdifferenzierung an Bedeutung. Generell ist nachvollziehbar, dass die Transition zu demokratischeren Regierungsformen abhängig ist von gelebten Erfahrungen, die mit zivilen Freiheiten und politischer Beteiligung gemacht wurden. Der Zeitfaktor zwecks Erlangung und Legitimierung ziviler Institutionen spielt daher eine wichtige Rolle. Insofern bleibt auch die Separierung von ziviler Herrschaft und Militär und damit die Institutionalisierung des Demokratisierungsprozesses in nicht wenigen der hier dokumentierten Staaten Asiens fragil. Unverständlich an der Publikation bleibt, warum die Beiträge (mit Ausnahme Pakistans) nicht über den Beginn der 1990er Jahre hinausgehen. Zumindest die Chance einer aktuellen länderspezifischen Bilanz ist damit vertan worden.

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STIG TOFT MADSEN (ed.), *State, Society and the Environment in South Asia*. (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Man and Nature in Asia Series, 3). Richmond: Curzon, 1999. 337 pages, £ 40.00. ISBN 0-7007-0614-3

The book is a compilation of different analyses of the relation between society and its natural environment in India and Pakistan, which focus on various classic issues (forests, water, land degradation, tribal people). The merit of the book is that it shows the broad methodological spectrum available in the social sciences for analysing how people relate to their natural environment and why this relation might lead to degradation of natural resources, ranging from oral history to qualitative case studies and the analysis of historical documents.

With this compilation the editor achieves an important objective, namely to test some basic elements of the Standard Environmental Narrative (SEN), which states that "in the days of yore vibrant local communities lived largely in balance with nature, prudently managing their common property resources to satisfy a variety of needs of the community" (p. 2), the advent of British imperialism constituting the rupture which led to commercial exploitation and undermining of the resource base of local communities. Madsen underlines the positive dimension of the SEN as being anti-colonial and thus constituting a basis for re-formulating public policies after independence – the significance of this aspect increases when one compares the SEN with the dominant view in Latin American countries such as Brazil, where native communities have never been regarded as being particularly able to manage natural resources, only in special cases such as the management of natural parks and reserves.

The analyses gathered in the book give detailed pictures of how communities administer their resources, and of the influence of market forces and the state. They emphasize particular narratives and settings and do not provide general models of causal relationship. The one contribution attempting to construct a model of how income distribution and environmental degradation are linked (by Rabindra Nath Chakraborty), goes beyond the theoretical framework of natural resource economics, enlarges it with structural asymmetries between the rich and the poor, presenting a wealth of empirical data on how impact distribution affected the use of forests, grazing lands, groundwater and soils.

Other interesting contributions are all based on extensive fieldwork and illustrate both the attitudes of people toward concrete problems of environmental management in a changing world and their limited options for solving the conflict between economic development and resource preservation. To cite two examples: Ann Gold recorded how villagers from Rajasthan relate the disappearance of forests (and the wild boars living in them which destroyed their harvest) to political change in the first half of this century (the disappearance of the local king who preserved the forests for hunting) and how they relate present-day decreasing rainfall to deforestation. Staffan Lindberg's research on the rise and fall of the farmers' movement in Tamil Nadu, which successfully fought for lower electricity prices in order to run the pumpsets for groundwater irrigation, is an example of the relationship between popular movements and resource depletion: While the number of pumpsets grew, groundwater levels fell dramatically in the dryer areas of Tamil Nadu. But the author does not simply consider the result as proof of the famous dictum of Indira Gandhi that "poverty is the biggest polluter". He goes back to the historical reasons why water scarcity is treated as a monetary problem (farmers have to pay for running the pumpsets which puts them at a disadvantage in comparison to farmers in wetter areas) and not as an environmental one: First, the Green Revolution fostered this attitude, and second, groundwater irrigation had been customary for centuries without scarcity ever appearing. Animal traction used for pumping had been expensive and inefficient, keeping irrigated areas small and thus making common property regulations unnecessary.

Other articles deal with irrigation management in North Pakistan (Tor Aase) and the Punjab (David Gilmartin), the latter focussing on the relation between the British colonial administration and local attempts at self-organisation; the voluntary organisation of waste management in Madras city (Hakan Tropp), pesticide production in Gujarat (Petter Lindstad) and deforestation and private property rights in North-West Pakistan (Are Knudsen).

In sum, this is a good resource book both for activists in search of detailed information about these issues in South Asia and for scholars interested in research methodologies for analysing and documenting the multiple dimensions of the relationship between society, state and the natural environment.

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HANS-GEORG BOHLE, ELVIRA GRANER, MARTINA HEITKÖTTER, MARCUS MAYER (eds.), *Ernährungssicherung in Südasien. 7. Heidelberger Südasiengespräche*. (Beiträge zur Südasienforschung 178). Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 1997. ix, 162 pages. DM 58,-. ISBN 3-515-072071-1

This volume contains the collection of papers presented in 1996, the year of the World Food Summit, at the Seventh Interdisciplinary Roundtable on South Asian Issues at the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg. In his opening lecture H.-G. Bohle (Heidelberg) gives a general overview of the complex problems of food security in South Asia. Five smaller countries on the subcontinent belong to the group of "food-deficit"-countries, and also Pakistan and India still suffer from the disparities of wealth and biased access to food. 40 to 50 percent of the world's malnourished population live in South Asia. Food security is not only a problem of sufficient food production. The occurrence of hunger and malnutrition among vulnerable groups is determined by economic, social, and also geographical factors, i.e. poverty, gender, health, access to markets and by state policies.

The participants at the conference represent a broad range of disciplines and professional background, history, agronomics, nutritional science, public health care, geography, social anthropology and development co-operation. The selection of papers in this volume is a mixture of general state of the art reports, supplemented by topical and regional case studies, and experiences reported by representatives of development organizations.

L. Weingärtner (Rottenburg) introduces the basics of nutritional science with regard to vulnerable groups in developing countries. Her paper focusses in particular on the impact of mal- and undernutrition on women and children, and presents basic indicators for the subcontinent. D. Rothermund (Heidelberg) gives a historical overview of the dimensions of food security and government policies in India, especially for the colonial period and the time since independence. One central point is the impact and efficiency of governmental policies regarding food production and security. H.-G. Bohle (Heidelberg) presents the concept of vulnerability and geographical risk research as one approach to assess the complex socio-economic dimensions of food security, including its adaptation for a case study in Nepal.