

as "more interested in jockeying for power and making money from drug sales than in fighting the Russians".

While writing his biographical account – prior to April 2000 – Carew obviously became aware of the seed of terrorism that had been sown by the activities, in which he had been one of the first participants. Later on, the British involvement was fully taken over by their U.S.-counterparts. Being a soldier's biography, this book also contains lots of jargon and abbreviations, scarcely fifty percent of which are explained in a brief glossary list. There are also lots of personal judgements of the army administration, from the combating soldier's perspective together with various stories of sexual affairs with female intelligence personnel.

For the purpose of this book, the author had to fictionalise names and codewords. Most of the locations, however, seem to be authentic, although certain important ones in Europe have been placed in wrong locations, such as the U.S.-airbase Ramstein, which the author locates in the vicinity of Munich, instead of Frankfurt.

This book gains fresh importance after the fight against terrorism on Afghan territory in October 2001, where more secret operations, including those undertaken by the British SAS, have been reported in several newspapers. The publisher advertises this narrative as an "international best-seller". In sum, this book is neither a historical documentation or analysis, nor an award-demanding literature. However, it provides insight from a different perspective, thus supplementing academic analysis and giving more evidence of the broad Western involvement in the guerrilla war and drug sales in Afghanistan.

Jürgen Clemens

HERMANN KREUTZMANN (ed.), *Sharing Water. Irrigation and Water Management in the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya*. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2000. xxi & 282 pages, PRs 595.-. ISBN: 0-19-579159-2

This compendium on irrigation and water management in the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya is not only a timely contribution to the "International Year of the Mountains, 2002", but also an important addition to a series of international consultations on sustainable water management. The book under review is not a proceedings volume, its objective is to provide a comprehensive presentation of the complex ecological and cultural situation especially of smallholder irrigation systems in mountainous regions. Thus, the focus is purposely diverted from big irrigation projects with government dominance in the lowlands to community-based development approaches, which are often grounded in indigenous knowledge and local traditions of resource management.

The volume starts with a topical paper by H. Kreutzmann, introducing the importance of the "watertowers of mankind" – mountains providing the water supply for adjoining lowlands – as well as the related research and policy approaches throughout the last decades. This is followed by 13 case studies from the huge oases along the Amu Darja in Central Asia to Bhutan in the Eastern Himalayas. Its regional coverage focusses especially on Northern Pakistan (5 papers) as well as on Ladakh and Northwest Nepal (2 papers each). Additional contributions are pre-

sented for Himachal Pradesh as well as for monsoon-influenced parts of Nepal and for Bhutan. The selection reflects the empirical work and contacts of the editor and the initiators of this book.

Common to all papers is the in-depth discussion of historical, socio-economic, political and legal dimensions. These are regarded as equally important for the understanding of the irrigation systems as the region's generally arid climate and steep topography which provide only limited favourable conditions for agriculture. Most papers have been written by social scientists (representing agronomics, social anthropology, cultural and social geography, and history) and even those by a physical geographer and by development practitioners stress social aspects of local and regional irrigation systems.

The editor himself distinguishes four types of papers: 1. papers with a historical perspective (V. Fourniau on Central Asia; R. Vohra on Ladakh); 2. empirical case studies (Israr-ud-Din on local irrigation systems in Chitral, Northern Pakistan; G. Stöber on institutional aspects in Yasin, Northern Pakistan; H. Kreutzmann on the recent development of water management in the Pakistani Karakoram; V. Labal on indigenous water distribution in Ladakh; C. Jest and M.P. de Combret on irrigation in Dolpo, Northern Nepal; M. Fort on the natural setting and hazards of irrigation in Mustang, Northern Nepal; O. Aubriot and J.-L. Sabatier on dryland irrigation in monsoon exposed Central Nepal); 3. strategy papers and project presentations by practitioners (H.W. Khan and I.A. Hunzai on a community development project in Northern Pakistan; A. Manzardo on the introduction of farmers' participation in Himachal Pradesh); and 4. papers on legal aspects related to water use (A. Schmid on minority strategies in Northern Pakistan; C. Jest with an annotated list of land and water laws in Bhutan).

With its regional focus on the Himalaya, this joint publication provides an in-depth insight into diverse ecological and cultural settings, often based on the analysis of scattered sources and oral traditions. Although some papers are based on previous publications and other studies on this topic are currently available, this compendium provides a good documentation of the long tradition of relevant empirical research as well as of successful community-based development activities in this region.

The diversity documented within the region clearly shows that there are no blueprints available, and no sustainable solutions are possible without the direct participation of the local stakeholders. Thus, this book advocates a holistic perspective and stresses bottom-up rather than top-down approaches. Furthermore, broad-based integration of baseline research especially by social scientists is advocated as well as practised by the contributors.

So far, there exists a lack of knowledge transfer from scientific studies to policy making and to grass-roots development activities. Thus, the coincidence of the publication with the "International Year of the Mountains, 2002", the "International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn 2001" and the "Rio+10" consultations provides a basis for lobbying for appropriate development policies for mountain areas as well as for improved irrigation systems.

The compendium is an important contribution to these up-to-date topics for the fields of science, development co-operation and international politics. It is the result of the contributors' and the editor's commitment to in-depth empirical and applied research and to community-based approaches. Since relevant "lessons learnt" and conclusions are identified in the different case studies, this book has the potential to bridge existing information gaps.

Jürgen Clemens

ERIC GONSALVES, NANCY JETLY (eds.), *The Dynamics of South Asia. Regional Cooperation and SAARC*. New Delhi, Thousand Oaks, London: Sage Publications, 1999. 277 pages, £ 27.50. ISBN 0-7619-9315-0

The attention that social scientists give to the development of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) seems to go far beyond its economic and political importance. Since its foundation in 1985, the progress of SAARC has always been hindered by the conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. The title of the present volume, thus seems misleading. South Asia is in many respects a very dynamic region but it is questionable whether this applies to the field of regional cooperation. This was underlined when India cancelled the SAARC summit after the military takeover in Pakistan in October 1999 and boycotted most SAARC activities thereafter.

Besides these general problems the contributions of the volume offer a good overview of the various difficulties affecting regional cooperation in South Asia. The book is divided into two parts. Part one deals with "Perspectives and Prospects of SAARC". Apart from historical overviews (R.M. Hussain) and the structural problems of cooperation in the region (C.D. Maass) the other articles cover security issues (K. Bajpai, P.I. Cheema) and political dimensions of regional cooperation (B. Prasad). The contributions of K. McPherson and S.D. Muni follow a comparative perspective. This comparison with other regional groupings helps to broaden understanding of the specific problems faced by the SAARC. All articles give a good analysis of the various problems and hindrances towards closer cooperation between South Asian countries up to now. Most authors emphasize the close interconnection between national, regional and international problems and the constraints that evolve due to India's dominant position in the region, sometimes called hegemonic, and the security concerns of its smaller neighbours. Hence, overlaps and replications between the articles are inevitable. At least they help to illustrate the divergent perceptions of the authors on these issues.

Part two "Growing Areas of Cooperation" deals with various policy fields for future cooperation. Areas covered include various aspects of information technology (L.L. Mehrotra), science and technology (P.J. Lavakare) as well as the SAARC Preferential Arrangement (SAPTA) (S. Kelegama and C.D. Wadhva) and GATT (A.A. Waqif). R. Sobhan's article broadens the perspective on general problems related to aid and governance in the region. The very informative and detailed contributions reflect unintentionally the real tragedy of SAARC, namely, that great opportunities for cooperation in the region do indeed exist, as is shown by many of