

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

the articles in part two. Even if intra-regional trade will not have a great impact on national economic development, cooperation in all the areas mentioned can play a substantive role in confidence building within the region. Europe's path towards integration can certainly not be regarded as a model for regional groupings in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, it demonstrates that forms of collaboration in non-political sectors can contribute to a better understanding between the countries involved. Especially conflict ridden regions like South Asia should therefore follow this approach as a first step towards an enduring regional cooperation. That these opportunities for collaboration are not grasped despite the possibilities and common problems, like the high levels of poverty in all states, seems to be the real tragedy of South Asia's present approach towards regional cooperation. An annex with the Charter of SAARC and the SAPTA Agreement is included at the end.

Christian Wagner

CARSTEN WIELAND, *Nationalstaat wider Willen. Politisierung von Ethnien und Ethnisierung der Politik: Bosnien, Indien, Pakistan*. (Campus Forschung, 814). Frankfurt/Main, New York: Campus, 2000. 372 pages, € 45,-. ISBN 3-593-36506-5

Today, wars and civil wars are shaped by the media. The media tend to simplify conflicts by labelling participants as "ethnic" or "religious" groups, all the more so since ideological divisions seem to have diminished. Academics are sometimes involved in this discourse as "experts" for "background" analysis, but mostly their opinions are just ignored. Carsten Wieland is a rare exception: He is an academic with considerable journalist experience, or a journalist with excellent academic training. In his dissertation, he analyses the beginnings and developments of "ethnic" national movements in Bosnia and India that claimed to represent "Muslim" minorities and turned later into state-building parties. Wieland criticises the fact that "among academics and particularly among journalists a confusion of ideas and a lack of distance towards concepts that originate from the political field, prevails" (p. 37) He summarises results of theoretical discussions in history, political science, cultural anthropology, and sociology in a very precise and clear language. He rejects both the primordial and constructivist definition of "ethnic group" ("ethnicity"), "nation" and "nation state". Wieland highlights the fact that "ethnic groups" are constructed by use of *one* primary peculiarity that is alone not enough to create a group. Therefore the "ethnic group" is constructed by *secondary peculiarities* which are added to the primary to make differentiation of the group more plausible. The secondary characteristics of an "ethnic group" are "modified, overemphasised or constructed *ex post* for this purpose". Wieland calls this primary peculiarity the *Ethnizentrum*, around which the secondary categories of the "ethnic" group are organised in order to distinguish his own approach from that of Donald L. Horowitz. The author deals with a huge amount of reference books, but sometimes his study of secondary sources leads him to mistakes. On p. 58 he quotes Stalin's definition of "nation" as: "a historically evolved stable community of language, territory, economic life and *psychological make-up* manifested in a community of