

addicted to welfarism, (ethnic) communalism and individualism. Outside Singapore the threat of communist insurgencies has been replaced by potentially militant Islamist fundamentalism (p. 195).

As civic participation is discouraged, and the young PAP cadres are untrained in communication and lack leadership qualities, the party itself faces the costs of its inarticulate depoliticization. More generally, George considers that this depoliticization has discouraged civic minded social behaviour and tended to reward individualist egoism. No amount of social engineering and exhortation will be able to undo these attitudinal changes (p. 116).

Obviously the U.S. inspired Western human rights agitation against Singapore's residual authoritarianism has backfired (p. 49). Through good governance and economic success the government was able to demonstrate that its emphasis on economic and social rights and its professed "Asian values" focussing on family self-reliance, educational achievement and public morality were in fact genuine – an undoubtedly rare occurrence in the region.

Having been a political reporter with *Straits Times* throughout the entire decade of Goh Chok Tong's prime ministership with its hesitant liberalization, George knows what he is writing about. He does so with great clarity, which makes the book useful also for those readers not well versed in the arcane technicalities of the politics and administration of the island state. His style is polite and well-balanced throughout, yet he is also firm in expressing his disagreement with a lengthy range of policy issues pursued by the government.

He has thereby obviously escaped the censorship and its favourite tool of defamation suits. With this successful publication George proves himself an eloquent advocate of a more meaningful public debate in Singapore.

*Albrecht Rothacher*

R.J. MAY, *State and Society in Papua New Guinea. The First Twenty-Five Years*. Adelaide: Crawford House, 2001. xi, 445 pages, A\$ 49.95. ISBN 1-86333-204-9

In September 2000 Papua New Guinea (PNG) celebrated its silver jubilee as an independent state. The volume has been put together to mark this occasion. It comprises 17 papers written – or published – between 1971 and 1998 to address issues of central political concern. The author Ron James May, an economist by profession, is a senior fellow at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Moreover, he is the nestor of political research on PNG in Papua New Guinea itself and in Australia.

After a foreword by the first PNG Prime Minister (and senior minister in subsequent governments) Sir Michael Somare, May presents a brief overview of PNG's development since 1975 and examines some of the key issues facing the country at the beginning of the twenty-first century. In his view PNG performed well in its first decade. It achieved a smooth transition and enjoyed a high degree of economic and political progress. Since the mid-1980s several adverse developments have

become increasingly evident, such as the poor economic development and declining government capability, the deteriorating social services and social indicators, the increasing urban and rural lawlessness, nepotism and corruption, the pressure on land and environmental degradation associated with mining and forestry, and since 1988 a rebellion on the island Bougainville. He concludes that the development of the country has been "disappointing". What is needed in his view is "less institutional reform than a fundamental shift in patterns of political behaviour." (p. 15f)

The following chapters of the volume address a broad range of topics such as PNG's foreign relations with Indonesia, a PNG-Philippines comparison with regard to the legitimacy of both states, the Bougainville crisis, the Sandline Affair, the emergence of chiefs in contemporary politics, the changing role of PNG's Defence Force as well as analyses of class, ethnicity, regionalism and political parties, decentralization and provincial government reform, and the political economy (in the reviewer's opinion the most impressive of all recent studies). Further historical studies look at the role of the Reserve Bank of Australia in introducing a new currency, the emergence of nationalist literature in the early 1970s, the period of decolonization and the first decade's performance as well as political education and micronationalist movements. Even if most of the articles presented are known to PNG specialists, the book provides a broader audience with an excellent compendium of important development trends in independent Papua New Guinea.

Roland Seib

SHELLEY RIGGER, *Politics in Taiwan*. London, New York: Routledge, 1999. 229 pages, € 30,-. ISBN 0-415-17209-8

Professor Rigger covers a fascinating subject matter: The gradual liberalization of an autocratic one-party state towards a fully fledged pluralist democracy in less than two decades (1972-1989). Authoritarian "Asian values" notwithstanding, this successful democratization – the first ever of a Chinese people – preceded the wave of democratic reforms which swept the world following the implosion of the Soviet empire in 1989 and 1991.

Local elections had been held ever since the 1930s under the Japanese (1895-1945), who in their model colony successfully attempted to co-opt the rural elite of landowners. It was during the pre-war period that the Japanese system of multiple member constituencies was also introduced in Taiwan, which to date characterises grassroots electioneering in both countries: Candidates of a similar ideological persuasion campaign against each other amongst the same electorate. This appears as the main cause of money politics, factionalism and clientelism both in Japan and in Taiwan since democratization. The Japanese left Taiwan in September 1945, with its economic development and infrastructure (roads, railways, electrification) and public education up to university level at a much higher standard than the mainland.

Initially greeted as liberators in September 1945 the ragtag troops of Chiang Kai-Chek soon turned out to be corrupt plunderers, who shipped the resources of Taiwan to the mainland for their own gains and to sustain the war effort. Native