

## *Book Notes\**

Sankar Kumar Bhaumik. *Tenancy Relations and Agrarian Development: A Study of West Bengal*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 204 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 235.00.

The book attempts to provide concrete empirical answers to a number of agrarian questions. It addresses the issue of tenancy in Bengal from a broad historical perspective.

The author builds a historical profile of the events which were responsible for the spread of share-tenancy in colonial Bengal and led to the stringent and exploitative terms and conditions of this system. As for the post-independence period, the author examines tenancy reform measures initiated at different points in time and analyses both the National Sample Survey and field data to obtain an understanding of the changes in the tenancy structure and tenurial relations in the state.

The book provides empirical verification for some of the issues emanating from the theoretical debate on the institution of share-tenancy and its implications for agrarian development. It discusses the impact of the latest tenancy reforms on tenurial relations in the state of Bengal and in the end addresses those states of India where tenancy reforms have not made much progress so far.

S. D. Muni. *Pangs of Proximity: India and Sri Lanka's Ethnic Crisis*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 259 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 250.00.

India's peace-keeping role in Sri Lanka has come under considerable public and press criticism both within and outside India. It eventually ended without resolving the island's ethnic conflict. India had to terminate the mission in the midst of this process, withdrawing its peace-keeping forces under intense political controversy raised by the Sri Lankan President which exposed India to political embarrassment and humiliation.

This volume examines India's response to the developments in Sri Lanka in the broad framework of India's approach to its neighbours' internal problems since 1947. The author analyses and compares India's attitude towards Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict under the governments of Indira Gandhi (1980-84) and Rajiv Gandhi (1985-90). He believes that while undertaking the role of mediation in Sri Lanka, India was not an uninterested or unaffected party, a condition that many third-party mediators are expected to fulfil. India's stakes were clearly defined and articulated. The driving force behind India's third-party mediation in Sri Lanka was the leverage that India's capabilities, its geo-strategic location, and its ethnic identity gave it in relation to the nature and area of the conflict.

The author concludes that the most desirable way for India to approach the question of internal conflicts in the neighbouring countries is to work politically to pre-empt them, and then deal with them if necessary. The temptation to get militarily involved must be resisted, notwithstanding the nature of pressures and compulsions. It can also use its economic and administrative resources to make its policy responses effective and to avoid the pitfalls that it suffered in Sri Lanka.

Kanta Ahuja, Huub Coppens, and Herman van der Wusten (eds). *Regime Transformations and Global Re-alignments: Indo-European Dialogues on the Post-*

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*Cold War World*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 418 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 375.00

This volume, the eleventh in the Indo-Dutch Studies on Development Alternatives, brings together thought-provoking essays exploring the consequences of the transformations in the political and economic map of Europe for the world at large, the South in general, and Asia and India in particular.

The book is divided into six parts. Part I focuses on the nature of regime transformations in the former communist world and their international and regional consequences. Part II outlines the trends in the distribution of power, both within and among the core areas of the world. Part III analyses the possible reorientations in the South and East prompted by the changes in Europe. Part IV is specifically concerned with India and some of its external relations. Part V gives a more policy-oriented and normative view of the possible transformation of policy regimes in the post-Cold-War world. There is an epilogue discussing modernity and democracy.

Kuldeep Mathur and Niraja G. Jayal. *Drought, Policy, and Politics: The Need for a Long-term Perspective*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 139 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 195.00.

While post-independence India has not suffered a famine, a large part of the country continues to confront a condition of scarcity and drought. These regions have been largely neglected by the development planners. This study, adopting an ecological perspective on drought management, argues that the planning process has been short-sightedly concerned with drought-mitigation through relief, rather than with initiating long-term measures related to drought-proofing.

To analyse the government's policy on drought management, the authors first trace the historical evolution of the state policy on drought, followed by an examination of policy on agriculture in independent India. They discuss the financing of relief expenditure and related administrative procedures, and highlight the politics of policy-making and political motivations behind the allocation of relief funds. It has been argued that drought is not only a natural calamity but also, to a considerable extent, a man-made phenomenon. It is, therefore, possible to take steps, in a long-term perspective, towards drought-proofing.

Jodhpur District, in the western part of Rajasthan, is given as a case-study to evaluate the efficiency of the drought-management policy and to create an awareness of the problem among people. There is little awareness about ecological issues even as they affect the quality of life in this region. Politicians, too, have made no attempt to educate the electorate, finding it easier to satisfy their constituents with abstract promises. An analysis of parliamentary debates suggest that very few members take an active interest in drought-related issues.

G. Thimmaiah. *Power Politics and Social Justice: Backward Castes in Karnataka*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 203 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 225.00.

The reservation policy which was legitimised to achieve social justice in India has been a source of controversy, particularly since 1990. In the initial years, the movement for the reservation of jobs in government service and admission to educational institutions received wide public support. However, the distorted operation of diverse reservation policies in some states created a backlash in 1978. In 1990, when the centre announced the implementation of a new set of recommendations, there was a wave of protests, agitations, and self-immolations.

This book is a study of the power politics of the backward castes in Karnataka. The theme has a national relevance as the reservation policy has become a controversial issue in Indian politics. After presenting a detailed analysis of the backward castes movement in Karnataka, the book shows how this

movement has become a pawn in the hands of power-brokers, vested interests, and pressure groups. The author discusses the reports by committees constituted from time to time to formulate a policy, and analyses the distortions which have emerged in the formulation and implementation of the policy. In conclusion, he suggests an alternative policy, taking both caste and class into consideration, to ensure that the benefits of reservations reach only those who need them most.

Ponna Wignaraja (ed). *New Social Movements in the South: Empowering the People*. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications. 1993. 276 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 275.00.

Since the social movements in Eastern Europe brought about a drastic political change of the socialist regimes of the region, "social movement" has become a key phrase used by political analysts and social scientists around the world. This book helps make a distinction between these new movements and older social movements such as the trade union and peasant movements.

The essays in this volume present at least three viewpoints that third-world researchers adopt when studying social movements. First, that people's movements are in effect new social movements and are manifesting the true nature of the contemporary world crisis. A second viewpoint takes the social movements as new actors performing multiple functions, political, economic, social, and cultural. A third viewpoint sees in these social movements social experiments preparing a future desirable society.

Amitabh Kundu. *In the Name of the Urban Poor: Access to Basic Amenities*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 299 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 285.00.

This volume studies the access of the urban poor to five basic amenities: shelter, water supply, sewerage and sanitation, health care, and public distribution of foodgrains. Using secondary source data from the population censuses and the national sample survey, and primary data from field surveys, the book analyses spatial variations in the level of these amenities and their accessibility to the poor in relation to the level of economic development.

WHO. *Evaluation of Recent Changes in the Financing of Health Services*. Technical Report Series, No. 829. Geneva: World Health Organisation. 1993. v+74 pp. SFr. 10.00.

This report presents the correlations and recommendations of a WHO study group on the financing of health services that met in Geneva in December, 1991. The objective was "to examine techniques for obtaining and analysing information related to all sources of finance in the health field and identifying major categories of the health expenditure".

To pursue these objectives, the issues addressed were: (1) Changes in source of finance for the health sector; (2) payment mechanisms; (3) changing roles in health financing for consumers, government, and purchasers; (4) conclusions and recommendations.

The study group stresses the need for the governments to increase their efficiency and responsibilities in policy-making, regulation, and information-gathering.

Jan Peter Wogart, Aasha Kapur Mehta, and Arun Mehta. *Technology and Competitiveness: The Case of Brazilian and Indian Machine Tools*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 175 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 225.00.

The basic theme of this study is industrial and technological development with a special refer-

ence to the Brazilian and Indian Machine Tool Industry. The authors have analysed the impact of the electronics revolution and the role of the government in targeting and supporting this high-tech sector. The role that import-substitution and export-diversification have played has also been discussed. The chapter on the supply-side examines changes of the market structure, with an evaluation of the degree of concentration emerging in the two markets. Finally, an evaluation of the developments in the machine tool industry in Taiwan and Korea is also carried out.

The authors conclude that the government has played a limited role in expanding this important industry. They suggest a less protective and more stable macro-economic framework for its further development. Changes in the technology policy and tariffs, on a definite long-term plan and in collaboration with manufacturers and users, are also recommended.

Sanjiv Misra. *India's Textile Sector: A Policy Analysis*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. vi+278 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 275.00.

The main task this book sets itself is the analysis of the growth, structure, and technological evolution of and government policy about the textile sector.

The author examines in detail the evolution of India's textile policy; its impact; the demand conditions facing the textile sector—in particular the important question whether the demand for textiles has been stagnant, and if so, why; the structure and growth of the different sectors; the 'sick mill problem'; technological upgradation of the industry; past trends and future prospects of India's exports in textile and clothing in terms of a constrained world trade environment; and, finally, the pros and cons of the various policy options before the government.

Based on concrete policy options with respect to the rapidly changing domestic and international environment, the focus of this study is limited to the woven-cloth sector. It excludes the knitting and hosiery sectors; and it does not take into consideration other fibres such as wool, silk, and jute.

T. S. Saraswathi and Baljit Kaur (eds). *Human Development and Family Studies in India: An Agenda for Research and Policy*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 370 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 325.00.

Child-care and human development research programmes and policies have gained world-wide importance. Based on this concern, a national symposium on 'New Directions in Human Development and Family Studies: Research, Policy, and Programme Interfaces' was organised by the Human Development and Family Studies Department of the M. S. University of Baroda in November 1990. This book is the outcome of the discussions and papers presented at the symposium.

Besides identifying the issues and problems concerning child-care, family, and childhood education, the contributors suggest certain solutions. They stress the need for research in this area, and also suggest dissemination of information amongst the practitioners, policy-makers, and other relevant agencies, as well as the general public.

Pulin K. Garg and Indira J. Parikh. *Young Managers at the Crossroads: The Trishanku Complex*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. vii+198 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 225.00.

The focus of this study is the socio-psychological universe of young Indian managers. The technique for data collection has been based on in-depth and open-ended interviews conducted by the authors from a sample of 125 MBAs graduated from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA), with a minimum of three years' working experience from 1972 to 1976. Besides this, the authors also kept in touch with the interviewees and their families from 1976 to 1985.

This book is based primarily on what has been reported by the respondents in their interviews. These provide an understanding about them at the point of entry of the MBAs into the IIMA, and also the kind of people they were as they graduated after completing the two-year management course. Also discussed are the pressures they face at the workplace and within their families, the problems encountered in their marriages and in their roles as parents, etc. The conclusion of the study belies the general impression that the MBAs are arrogant and pursue only narrow material gains. They are actually people who are sensitive and in search of values that enrich life. There are several references to Indian folk-tales and cultural traditions to explain the MBA phenomenon, but the subtitle of the book is never explained properly.

B. N. Yugandhar and K. Gopal Iyer (eds). *Volume I. Land Reforms in India: Bihar—Institutional Constraints*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. 362 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 350.00.

This is the first volume in the series, "Land Reforms in India", and it is based on the papers presented at the state-level workshop on land reforms in 1991, at the A. N. Sinha Institute Patna, State of Bihar.

Using field-level primary data and secondary sources, such as land records, this volume focuses on: (i) such concepts as productivity and sustained agricultural development; (ii) land-ceiling laws; (iii) the status of tenant-cultivators, highlighting the wide prevalence of share-cropping and informal tenancies, the frequent changes of plots, the exploitative rate of rent, and the eviction of share-croppers; (iv) the allotment of government land to weaker sections.

Vanita Viswanath. *NGOs and Women's Development in Rural South India: A Comparative Analysis*. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications. 1993. xv+179 pp. Paperback. Indian Rupees 125.00.

This study compares the effectiveness of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in women's development by using a set of specific criteria and analysing the work of two NGOs: The India Development Series (IDS) and the Grana Vikas (meaning, village development). Both the NGOs focus on rural women in the poor agricultural communities of Karnataka, a state in south India.

The issues addressed were related to the comparison of the two NGOs effectiveness in pursuing their goals, and the strategies for the betterment of rural women. The points examined are: How far have the clients of these NGOs gained; from this effort? what were the constraints faced by the NGOs?; and are these NGOs helping poor women in improving the quality of their life?

Abdul Aziz. *Decentralised Planning: The Karnataka Experiment*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1993. vi+148 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 195.00.

The study reviews the actual experience of decentralised planning in the state of Karnataka, where this exercise has been successful, and covers the period from 1987 to 1991.

Divided into seven chapters, the book examines the institutional structure for decentralised planning; the finances of the Panchayati Raj institutions; the planning process at the district level and the Mandal plan process; the priority structure with respect to resource allocation; and monitoring and implementation. A critical appraisal concludes the book.

The author's findings are: first, financial autonomy at the local level is not satisfactory due to the dependence on grants-in-aid from the state government; and, second, decentralised planning appears to suggest that local governments have done better at implementation than at plan formulation. These problems may be due to inadequate political and financial autonomy and lack of skilled personnel. Thus, there is a greater need for trained personnel to overcome the shortfalls in formulating programmes.