

reforms and the “Agony of Socialism” (1977–89). Each section concludes with a chapter on Chinese foreign relations during the period, and individual chapters break these broad periods into shorter trends.

The underlying assumptions of the study should be familiar to anyone acquainted with Domes’ previous works. Chinese politics revolves around leadership conflicts sometimes in the form of factions, sometimes as opinion groups. Domes and Nāth identify three such opinion groups during the 1981–87 period, for example: the revisionists under Deng Xiaoping, Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang; a neo-Stalinist group led by Chen Yun and Peng Zhen; and an old-style Stalinist group led by Ye Jianying and Li Xiannian. The conclusion to which Domes and Nāth finally point is simple: the leaders of the dysfunctional socialist system in China will not reform socialism, and therefore it is doomed. The authors conclude that “from the perspective of early 1992 . . . we are sure, that the greater part of the history of the ‘People’s Republic of China’ is already behind us” (p. 121).

Two minor criticisms must be mentioned. First, the book enumerates facts and figures, and Party meetings, with such detail that the broader scope of the trends may become lost for the average reader. Secondly, there is virtually no theoretical “leavening” in the book to make it connect effectively with a political science curriculum, should it be used as a text (though it would make a fine supplementary text).

This book nevertheless fills a large void in the German-language literature on modern China at a particularly important period in the history of both countries.

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*Internationale Reaktionen auf den 4 Juni 1989 in der VR China. Zwischen Solidarisierung, Schweigen und Sanktionen.* By ANJA FEEGE. [Hamburg: Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, No. 207, 1992. 283 pp. DM28.00. ISBN 3 88910 102 X.]

*China auf dem Weg zur Wiedervereinigung? Die Politik der Guomindang auf Taiwan gegenüber der Volksrepublik China seit 1987.* By TIM TRAMPEDACH. [Hamburg: Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, No. 209, 1992. 160 pp. DM28.00. ISBN 3 88910 104 6.]

*Regionalkonflikte in China: Süd gegen Nord.* By OSKAR WEGGEL. [Hamburg: Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, No. 210, 1992. 179 pp. DM28.00. ISBN 3 88910 105 4.]

These three books are all published by the renowned Institute of Asian Affairs in Hamburg. All cover major issues of present Chinese domestic and foreign politics.

China’s international situation after June 1989 is the major topic of Anja Feege’s analysis (*International Reactions Towards 4 June 1989 in the PRC*) in her attempt to offer documentation and analysis of international reactions to the Tiananmen massacre. She is especially interested in reactions by the United States and the USSR, and, to a lesser extent, also includes reactions by Japan, the EEC and the UN Human Rights Committee.

Feege chooses an approach which is both formal and selective. By characterizing reactions to the Tiananmen events as either (strong, medium or weak) support or (strong, medium or weak) condemnation, she develops

a typological survey of reactions which basically consists of three major groups: “countries that kept silent on the military repression, countries that explicitly declared their solidarity with the Chinese leadership or in any other form expressed support for Beijing’s violent intervention, and countries that imposed sanctions on China” (p. 278).

The book is mainly descriptive, but offers a useful basis for necessary systematic analysis of why and with what results and consequences different countries reacted to the Tiananmen massacre. Feege’s discussion of long-term consequences, however, remains too general to be analytically fully satisfactory: she concludes “that last but not least it depends on the internal political developments in the PRC how long the impact of 4 June will endure. Although the present Chinese leadership undoubtedly constitutes a transitional regime one cannot take for granted that under a future reform-oriented leadership China will manage to step out of the shadow of the 4 June events” (p. 278).

Another aspect of China’s domestic development is covered by Oskar Weggel (*Regional Conflicts in China: South against North*). On a very broad basis of facts and observations covering both the historical and cultural dimensions of economic development and trends for regionalization, Weggel argues that the cliché of a centrally administered and economically regionalized China always was a myth and official propaganda at best. Instead, he argues, South China always had a history of its own, which he describes as a “blue,” sea-oriented history, and in consequence is much more oriented towards Hong Kong and Taiwan than towards the “yellow,” imperial north.

From a methodological point of view, the reader finds in this book a mixture of approaches typical of Weggel’s approach to the study of contemporary China: broad historical knowledge is combined with cultural generalizations and several of Weggel’s favourite neologisms (such as transdanwei structures or metaconfucianism) into a medley of stimulating thoughts on Chinese history, political consequences of Centre–province relations and future perspectives of regional integration in South China. The most important of these consequences is in Weggel’s view the model character of Taiwan. Consequently, he concludes that for a “silent majority” in South China’s coastal provinces the alternative of Taiwan’s economic and political development is much more attractive than Beijing’s concept of national reunification under Communist guidelines.

To this aspect of reunification policies, Tim Trampedach (*China on its Way to Reunification?*) offers a valuable contribution by explicitly analysing the Kuomintang’s policy towards the PRC since 1987. In his mainly historical analysis, Trampedach mostly follows chronological order and sketches mutual influences and major changes in the political and economic relationship between Taiwan and the PRC. Framed between a brief and concise summary of the “China conflict” between 1949 and 1987 in part I and a more speculative discussion of the future of Taiwan in part III, the focal point of Trampedach’s analysis lies on the KMT policy of liberalization towards the PRC since 1987 when the 40-year-long state of emergency was lifted under the rule of Taiwan’s former President Chiang Ching-kuo.

In addition to an abundance of Western literature, Trampedach to a considerable extent uses Taiwanese and mainland sources which have not yet been translated into Western languages. He thus offers a concise histor-

ical survey in combination with a series of speculative thoughts and basic insights, which are challenging for a general reader as well as for an expert interested in the specific relationship between Taiwan and the PRC.

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*Hochschulzugang in der Volksrepublik China.* By JÜRGEN HENZE. [Cologne: Studien und Dokumentationen zur vergleichenden Bildungsforschung, Vol. 40, 1991. 429 pp. DM68.00. ISBN 3 412 133188 1.]

*Der Wandel des Lehrer- und Hochschullehrerbildes in der Volksrepublik China.* By ANNETTE WOHLFAHRT. [Hamburg: Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, No. 212, 1992. 255 pp. DM28.00. ISBN 3 88910 107 0.]

In the past, research on the educational system in China was generally conducted within the scope of sinological and sino-historical studies. Not until recently has it become the subject of research in the education sciences. The studies by Henze and Wohlfahrt, dealing with China-related education research or education-related sinological research, are therefore representative of the current state of research in this field. They are empirical-descriptive studies with substantial statistical material – particularly in Henze's book – and comprehensive document collections. Wohlfahrt includes the documents in an appendix comprising almost half the entire work; Henze has integrated excerpts from the sources into the text itself. Chinese sources, especially encyclopaedias and handbooks on the educational system which were written in the 1980s in the course of the reform policy, served as the basis for the evaluation.

Henze deals not only with university admissions but the entire system of higher education in the People's Republic of China, giving particular consideration to problems of admission and the selection process. His purpose is to explore all factors and processes relevant to university entrance, including secondary school education. The book opens with a concise criticism of the present state of research, with a discussion of the meaningfulness of Chinese statistics. After outlining traditional civil service examinations and the higher education system up to 1949, Henze continues with factors influencing university admissions from 1949 to 1965, including treatment of the higher education system, concepts of education policy, and so on. This is followed by discussion of the periods of the Cultural Revolution and the radical elite educational policy from 1969 to 1971. Henze then goes into detail on university admissions in the period of growing orientation toward scientific, technical conceptions of quality in the area of science and education from 1972 to 1976, and the post-Cultural Revolution period from 1977 to 1989. Changes in the educational system after 4 June 1989 are characterized by Henze in closing as lying somewhere "between political rhetoric and institutional resistance." Statements on the socio-political significance of university entrance and selection criteria, assessment of educational policy of the PRC within the context of its economic reform programme, or a comparison with the university system and admission procedures prior to 1949 or with other countries, are mentioned only peripherally.

Wohlfahrt's treatment is more precise. She discusses not only the image