

(*HKTKP*, 18 July 1980), both of which have allegedly been richly fed by the higher authorities. Besides, Xiyang reveals extravagant waste, in addition to substantive agricultural diseconomies external to the project area. From Nickum's models, however, we learn nothing about the possible cost implications amidst the impressive claims on output increases. This is of course typical of the Cultural Revolution, but not today.

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*Contemporary Republic of China: The Taiwan Experience 1950–1980.*  
 Edited by JAMES C. HSIUNG and others. [New York: Praeger, 1981,  
 518 pp.]

The political leaders in both Beijing and Taipei consider the liberation of each other's territory as a *sine qua non*. Of late, the PRC has been more vocal than the GMD on this issue. Whether it is discussed openly or kept under wraps, it will not disappear. Thus, the student of China and the balance of power in the western Pacific cannot but take an interest in the Taiwan experience.

James Hsiung of New York University has gathered an impressive group of authors who have had some Taiwan experience of their own. In eight sections comments are given on subjects ranging from cultural values, education and law to economic, social, defence as well as domestic and foreign policy issues. In each instance, an introductory comment is followed by extracts from a wide variety of sources – almost 100 in all. Some cover a mere page or two whilst others, notably those in Yuan-li Wu's section on income distribution and John Copper's resumé of domestic matters, extend over a dozen pages or so. The extracts have been selected with loving care by Professor Hsiung and his collaborators. A closer look reveals that most of them come from the pens of Chinese expatriates and their western friends. The views of the indigenous inhabitants of Taiwan are reflected by inference rather than by direct representation.

The 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of China (in 1911) provided the justification for the publication of this volume. James Hsiung is quite outspoken in his foreword about the China-card-players, the human-rights pursuits, the pro-Beijingers and the Taiwan "independists" – all rather hideous terms for a clearly heinous gang of four – no argument about this. In his introduction, Professor Chalmers Johnson is a good deal less committed, and this applies also to some other contributors.

To be sure, the economic record of Taiwan amounts to a near-miracle, but it is worth remembering that 50 years of Japanese colonial rule, a decade of American aid providing the equivalent of one year's gross national product in Taiwan's most crucial period of development and the large influx of skilled personnel in 1949 made possible reforms and development which the GMD could never seriously have hoped to carry out on the Mainland. The political record is not quite so convincing. "The system is neither representative nor democratic" (p. 341), says

John Copper. How could it be otherwise, one may ask, when martial law has not been lifted in three decades? In spite of common education in mandarin and of some inter-marriage, Sheldon Appleton comments on "the extent of social division between Taiwanese and Mainlanders" (p. 105).

The uncommitted reader may well wonder why – in spite of a good many successes to their credit – the GMD leadership seems to feel insecure. After all, Taiwan's defence capability does not appear to be in doubt. Of course, domestically a greater involvement of the indigenous population might have helped to create a state of affairs which would have made martial law a disposable anomaly of the past. At the end of the volume, John Copper may have the answer when he speculates about Taiwan's options. He does not rule out desperate solutions, such as a Soviet connection. May China and the world be spared that alternative.

W. KLATT

*China: The Post-Mao View.* Edited by V. P. DUTT. [New Delhi: Allied Publishers, 1981. 196 pp. Rs 50.00.]

This provocative volume contains 11 papers, all by Indian scholars, presented to a national seminar on China organized by the University of Delhi in March 1979. Four of the contributors have written on foreign policy: V. P. Dutt on the major contours of China's foreign relations in the post-Mao era; V. Kumar on the triangular relationship among China, the U.S.S.R., and the U.S.A.; Gargi Dutt on Sino-Indian relations; and P. R. Chari on the modernization of China's national defence. The seven remaining chapters include several analyses of political and economic developments (by Manoranjan Mohanty, Kashiram Sharma, Naranarayan Das, K. M. Ramachandran and Krishna Prakash Gupta), and essays on contemporary Chinese literature (by Chitra Sharma) and Chinese youth (by Govindi Joshi).

Readers of this journal should take special note of two characteristics of the book. First, the papers were written as much for the informed Indian public and for Indian students as for other China Scholars. Consequently, they are interpretative essays rather than research articles, and have more to offer in the way of analytical insight than new information. Even more important, although not published until 1981, the book was sent to press in the spring of 1979. The authors were forced, therefore, to try to assess economic and political trends in mid-course, as China was undergoing the major transition from the "new leap forward" of 1977–78 to the "Beijing spring" of 1979. As a result, the book has a dated quality which might have been avoided if it had appeared more quickly, or if the authors had been able to revise their essays before publication.

Yet some of the essays are still fresh. P. R. Chari's review of Chinese military policy, for example, offers a concise summary of the weaknesses of the PLA and a useful forecast of the military equipment and technology that Peking is likely to seek abroad. And Gargi Dutt's survey of the obstacles to an improvement of Sino-Indian relations provides