

Policy Conflicts in Post-Mao China: A Documentary Survey with Analysis. Edited by JOHN P. BURNS and STANLEY ROSEN. [Armonk, N.Y. and London: M. E. Sharpe, 1986. 372 pp. Hardcover \$39.95; paperback \$14.95.]

This book contains 86 “documents,” most of which are extracts from the Chinese press and radio broadcasts in the period from 1979 to 1985, with background introductions supplied by the editors. The selection is designed to reflect policies and their impact at the grassroots, rather than elite-level policy formulation. The use of the work of China’s new investigative journalists and of “letters to the editor” exposing abuses and problems gives a sense of the possibility of debate and even, within limits, of dissent which has enlivened the Chinese press in the past decade.

Subject rather than chronology has determined the arrangement of the extracts. This is not a documentary *history* in the style of Mark Selden’s *The People’s Republic of China: A Documentary History of Revolutionary Change* (1979), or Harold Hinton’s, *The P.R.C. 1949–1979: A Documentary Survey* (1980), but rather a point in time survey of the major political concerns of the Chinese public in the first half of the 1980s.

The pieces range over an enormous variety of subjects from education to ethics, from industrial reform to the one-child policy, and from factionalism to the age structure of the leadership. Inevitably this breadth has involved a sacrifice of depth. To read the book at a sitting induces a feeling of disorientation as one is bounced from subject to subject, and the introductions, though component, cannot be more than superficial overviews. In other words this is a compilation for those new to the study of contemporary China rather than for the expert. As a reader for students of Chinese studies or for those interested in comparative politics and development, it will serve a useful purpose.

DELIA DAVIN

Cultural Revolution in China’s Schools. May 1966–April 1969. By JULIA KWONG. [Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1988. 200 pp. \$16.95.]

Professor Kwong’s book is the product of extensive interviews with respondents and contains references throughout to various theories of revolution, but in her own view is neither “a documentary of the politics of the Cultural Revolution nor personal accounts of the participants’ experiences.” She has placed both personal experience and political theory in the context of a very detailed narrative of student factionalism in the Cultural Revolution. This is a comprehensive, satisfying and lucid account of the way in which schools provided an organizational framework for student revolutionary

activities and gives a clear picture of the way these activities got out of hand and created their own dynamic.

According to Professor Kwong, bitter and irrational factionalism was as much a means of survival as an expression of commitment to Maoist ideals and central leadership. In fact the major thesis of the book appears to be that, with the breakdown of very tight structural controls on Chinese students, the Mao cult filled the moral/political vacuum, promoted factionalism and led to the legitimization of violence, regardless of whatever stance might be taken from time to time by the Centre.

It is interesting to compare Julia Kwong's approach with that of Anita Chan in *Children of Mao* (1985) where Chan looks at the role of schools as a breeding ground for activism and factionalism among the Red Guard generation. Further analysis of student experience is needed for an understanding of how much the Cultural Revolution had to do with schools as such and how much it had to do with the *collapse* of schools as the crucial educator of young people.

TREVOR HAY

SCPS Yearbook on PLA Affairs, 1987. Edited by RICHARD H. YANG.
[Kaohsiung, Taiwan: Sun Yat-sen Centre for Policy Studies,
National Sun Yat-sen University, 1988. 196 pp.]

This book is the result of a two-day conference hosted by the Sun Yat-sen Centre for Policy Studies held in the southern Taiwan city of Kaohsiung in March 1988. An impressive array of experts on military affairs in the People's Republic of China have contributed chapters assessing the status of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). June Dreyer summarizes the authors' views and concludes by noting issues on which the participants could not agree—such as whether the volume of arms sales abroad helps or hinders China's defence capabilities.

Harlan Jencks contributes two chapters: one on the PLA air force, and one on China's nuclear and space programmes. He concludes that while the air force is extremely antiquated with very limited capabilities, China does possess a small but credible nuclear deterrent and an impressive satellite launching programme. Ellis Joffe, in his chapter on civil-military relations, concurs with the conventional wisdom that the PLA's political influence has been declining as has the military's share of the national budget. Joffe, however, asserts that there is no evidence to support the conclusion that the military played a "major role" in the January 1987 ouster of Hu Yaobang (pp. 130–31). Yitzhak Shichor, Joffe's colleague at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, documents China's burgeoning involvement in the international arms trade in a particularly interesting and topical final chapter.

While the collection would have benefited from more thorough