

if these are the conditions in university politics at the moment the book was written. In many cases they are not. Finally, the book could have used a strong editorial hand, not just to rid it of its organizational confusion, but also to eradicate its grammatical errors. For this, the editor bears responsibility.

SUZANNE OGDEN

Tiananmen Aftermath: Human Rights in the People's Republic of China, 1990. By JOHN F. COPPER and TA-LING LEE. [Baltimore: University of Maryland, School of Law Occasional Papers/Reprint Series, No. 4, 1992. 133 pp. \$15.00. ISSN 0730 0107, ISBN 0 925153 22 2.]

Since 1987, Copper and Lee have been producing an annual update on human rights in the PRC. This short volume covers the year following the suppression of the democracy movement in 1989.

More has been said and written about human rights abuse in China since June 1989 than during the previous 40 years. As a result of new and more accurate sources of information, we are now better informed about the repressive aspects of the Chinese regime than before. With this greater knowledge has come greater sophistication in the gathering of information and in the levelling of accusations. Sadly, this little book is disappointing in that context.

The book seeks to examine the level of human rights observance or abuse in 1990 under seven chapter headings. The first two chapters deal with politics and human rights, and chiefly chart the political events of the year. The third discusses the economy; it is not entirely clear where this survey of economic developments fits with human rights issues. Chapter 4 looks at the repression of students after Tiananmen. Perhaps the best chapter is that on freedom of speech, with an interesting section on the banning of books written by People's Liberation Army soldiers. The chapter on criminal justice and executions primarily records events with very little analysis of the legal background or implications. A final, short chapter covers the major areas of forced abortions, minorities, women and religious persecution.

Perhaps the greatest weakness of the book is that it relies almost entirely on journalistic sources, chiefly from outside China. These include the *New York Times*, the *Asian Bulletin*, the New York-based *Shi-jie Ji-pao*, and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. The book gives the impression of being compiled from a folder of 1990 press clippings. Frequently, allegations of human rights abuse have only one, journalistic source without any clear attempt to confirm the allegation. Bodies investigating human rights abuse, such as the various rapporteurs and working groups of the UN system, have very sensibly rejected allegations based exclusively on journalist sources.

This book might have been a useful tool if it had appeared soon after the end of 1990 and served as an *aide-mémoire* to events of that year. Appearing in 1992, well after the events documented, reduces its value. During the interim period, several major and well-researched reports have appeared from AsiaWatch or Amnesty International – only two of these are included in the bibliography.

Since the authors seem to have relied primarily on journalist sources,

they have missed events which were not covered by the newspapers they consulted. In the section dealing with foreign relations, for example, they have missed the important criticisms and defence of China in the UN Human Rights Commission, the major international forum for examination of a country's human rights record.

If this book is to appear again in future years, it would be helpful if one of two courses were followed. Either it retains its present format but appears as soon as possible after the end of the year in question (after all, the U.S. State Department's human rights report appears within two months of the end of each year). Alternatively, the booklet focuses on one particular aspect of human rights abuse, and presents a more detailed, better researched analysis of that aspect.

PHILIP BAKER

L'Empire et son milieu: La criminalité en Chine populaire. By JEAN-LOUIS ROCCA. [Paris: Plon, 1991. 331 pp. ISBN 2 259 02239 8.]

The title of Jean-Louis Rocca's 1991 survey of criminality in the People's Republic of China is equally apt in French and English. The book is a broad sociological study of the criminal "milieu" that Rocca demonstrates has arisen in China since "capitalist exploitation" and deviance – social and political – were officially overcome in 1949. Most importantly, Rocca frames his description and analysis with a keen understanding of the many causes of deviant behaviour in modern China and the true function (and gross failures) of its legal institutions in responding to the same. This then is a volume which will prove useful not only to modern historians and sociologists, but also to the many lawyers and legal academics – Chinese and foreign – who sometimes neglect the actual function of Chinese laws and nascent legal institutions in daily life in China.

Rocca's argument is structured around two questions. First, how has this criminal "milieu" arisen? Secondly, how are crime and deviant behaviour defined in a society which so loudly proclaims its unity and stability, and its hard-won triumph over "enemy" forces (harmful foreign influences and class enemies)? His answer to the first question is relatively uncontroversial. He believes that after the Cultural Revolution and the Party's complete loss of credibility, attention to the maintenance of consensus-based values and stability was sacrificed in the struggle between an established political power (the Party) and proliferating groups of divergent interests rooted in different strata of society, geographical regions and ideologies. The notion of this ongoing political struggle provides the answer to Rocca's second question, and the basis for broader insights into the failures of the criminal justice system, the rule of law and the police in China. In Rocca's view, the political struggle has overshadowed every aspect of the legal system and definitions of criminality, such that criminal activity has become the target of "crackdowns" that bear all the hallmarks of Maoist-era political movements. (The converse, that political dissidents are treated as common criminals, has long been the case in China, notwithstanding China's denial that there are "political crimes" in China.)

Thus, Rocca asserts that all the energy and arbitrariness formerly