

BOOK REVIEWS

thought whose foremost concern was China's stance in modern times. For the moment, the reader is left to muse over the meaning of Mrs. Furth's concluding sentences: "Dazzled by the logical irrefutability of seen truth, the intellectual has an illusion of mastery over things and events analyzed. If this is so, in a revolutionary era a rationalist like Ting may indeed be disarmed."

D. W. Y. KWOK

Communist China 1967. [Hong Kong: Union Research Institute, 1969. One Volume: Part I, 270 pp., Part II, 190 pp. H.K. \$60.00, U.S. \$10.00.]

China in the Throes of the Cultural Revolution. By LOUIS BARCATA. [New York: Hart Publishing Company Inc., 1968. 299 pp. U.S. \$8.95.]

THESE two books give the reader an opportunity to look at China in 1967 from different viewpoints. The first, *Communist China 1967*, the thirteenth in the series of annual volumes by the Union Research Institute, is a collection of reports written by outside observers, based on Chinese and foreign sources. The first part considers in separate chapters the Cultural Revolution, Party, Military, Overseas Chinese and foreign affairs; the second part has chapters on industry, communications and transportation (one chapter), agriculture and rural work, foreign trade, commerce, cultural affairs and education. There is a mass of information here, obviously of use to both generalist and specialist, but the book is marred by inadequate organization. A full index, cross-referencing and the addition of an annual chronology of events would have made a great improvement.

A more human view of China can be gleaned from the pages of Louis Barcata's book *China in the Throes of the Cultural Revolution*. The dust jacket is misleading in claiming that "its greatest original contribution is the disclosure of a series of letters exchanged between the State Departments of Moscow and Peking." The letter which the author reproduces in "all but its entirety" is that of the Chinese Central Committee to the Soviet Central Committee of 29 February (not 20 February 1964 as stated) in reply to the Soviet letter of 12 February 1964, which was in turn a response to the Chinese letter of 29 November 1963. This correspondence was published in the *People's Daily* on 9 May 1964 and the *Peking Review* on 8 May 1964. The main body of the text records events during the author's trip to China in the Spring of 1967 when he visited Canton, Shanghai and Hangchow. The format is not

new: discussions interspersed with the author's conclusions are supported by photographs and spiced with quotations from the series of booklets on the Cultural Revolution published by the Chinese to illustrate the not-so-veiled criticism of the regime during and immediately after the difficult years. It would have been much more interesting had the photographs reflected the author's itinerary. This book succeeds in capturing the atmosphere of China at this time, but unnecessary mistakes (Peng Chen is referred to as the former mayor of Canton, and Sinkiang as an industrial province) detract from an otherwise interesting commentary.

BRIAN HOOK

Asia Awakes: A Continent in Transition. By DICK WILSON. [London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1970. 457 pp. Index. 65s.]

L'Asie Orientale de 1840 à nos jours. By N. PIROVANO-WANG. [Paris: Fernand Nathan, 1970. 265 pp. illustrated. F.20.]

DICK WILSON, former editor of the authoritative *Far Eastern Economic Review*, has produced a readable potted version of all the best sources on Asia, illustrated by his own wide experience. Apart from some splendid misprints (Hans Suyin, p. 68) the material is exceptionally well set out, with a large bibliography and suggestions for further reading. Divided into four main parts—the issues, the actors, the spectators and the future programme—the chapters deal with such subjects as the building of new nations, conflicts of culture and language, ambiguous borders, the population problem, agriculture and industrialization, and the appeal of communism. Among the actors pride of place is naturally given to China and Japan. The author explains (pp. 189–208) the Chinese cultural tradition and the contradictions in Chinese communism, in English that is both straightforward and readable—a change from the Chinglish which sometimes creeps into scholarly writing on the new China. He notes (p. 206) that “we would mislead ourselves if we were to see the entry of China into world affairs as a purely political matter”; it is also a philosophical question, a question in the end of terminology. Books like this can help to bridge the cultural gap, at least on our side.

Pirovano-Wang's textbook, though extremely concise, is fairly unbiased and accurate (though not entirely in the section on the Indochina wars). It outlines the situation in East Asia in the mid-nineteenth century, describes the Occidental “irruption” and its effects: China's reaction and pre-revolution; Japan's development as a modern Asian power. A second section deals with the events of 1905 to the Sino-Japanese war,