

expansion eventually results in comprehensive barriers being brought down against Japanese exports in the United States and Western Europe. Japan adopts retaliation measures and is forced to concentrate far more on economic relations with the countries of East and South-east Asia. Stockwin envisages the possibility of a regional economic zone with the building of organizations to help the region function as an economic unit. North America and Europe ultimately find themselves having to deal with a huge and effective but also an exclusionist economic and political bloc in East and South-east Asia. Thus, the risk of global instability posed by its emergence becomes the primary international problem of the early 21st century. Stockwin believes that some version of the first "globalist" scenario is not only more likely but also more desirable than the second, regionalist scenario. In fact, he proposes that we should make sure that present policies towards Japan do not lead to some version of the second.

Sung-Jo Park, the editor of the present volume, winds up the half dozen lectures with one on the importance of Europe in the future of Asia, in which he calls for a common technological and economic policy. This erudite paper builds on a critical analysis of the work of many classical scholars from both this century and the last who have dealt with the relationship between the Occident and the Orient. Park sees three waves that have determined this relationship from West to East: christianization, colonization, and democratization. With regard to his rhetorical question: "Where are we now?" Park speaks of a technological wave. However, compared to the previous three waves the difference is that the technological wave is moving from East to West, with high technology from Japan being exported to the West.

This book is stimulating in many, sometimes unexpected, ways. Perhaps inevitably, it throws up more questions than answers. In particular, the question implied by the title, that is, whether the 21st century will come to be considered the Asian century, is neither

answered nor sufficiently clearly posed.

Finally, the editor and publishers are to be commended for the speed with which the papers, presented in June 1985, have been published within a couple of months. This might conceivably warrant an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. To be sure, the price for this "Express Edition" has to be paid in terms of a number of misprints, translation errors, and other technical inaccuracies.

This book is recommended to all who are interested in our future beyond that of day-to-day occurrences.

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Food Security Issues in ASEAN Agricultural Development. Edited by Francis K. Chan and L.J. Fredericks. Special issue of *Kajian Ekonomi Malaysia* XVIII, nos. 1 & 2 (June/December 1981). Pp. vi, 418.

The contents of this volume have had a long gestation period, being the selected output of a conference held in November 1981. Although published that year in the journal of the Malaysian Economic Association, administrative constraints had postponed actual distribution of the volume to early this year.

Nevertheless, the timing is serendipitous. Coming as it does in the wake of unprecedented media attention to food crises in Africa and elsewhere, the volume can and should benefit from public interest in food security, which has never been higher. The energetic efforts from an unlikely source — pop musicians — and the accompanying media blitz have focused attention on one of the most crucial issues of our times; but in doing so have exposed a welter of often conflicting assertions and opinions on an exceedingly complex problem. For the concerned or otherwise interested individual, faced with the task of separating the genuine from the self-serving, some rational

exposition of the concepts and issues involved would be useful. To such an individual, the present volume commends itself.

The *KEM* volume was not intended as a popular primer. It is a scholarly contribution in an academic journal. Most of the articles are, however, quite accessible to the layman. As noted below, the overall presentation suffers from a lack of organization, but some discerning sifting of the contents would yield enough information and insights to make the effort worthwhile.

The brief but excellent overview by the editors explains the basic concepts and issues. In practical terms, food security is concerned with ensuring that the population of developing countries obtains a minimum adequate level of food supply irrespective of the fluctuations of agricultural production. Conversely, food insecurity is an unacceptably high probability of breakdown of adequate food supply, which is attributable to a shortfall in food production, a sharp increase in imported food prices or — most fundamentally — a fall in real income of the target population. The major concern, then, is with instability of food supply about some targeted mean levels, rather than the levels themselves. Attention is thus focused, not on long-term issues like population growth rates, food production capacity and food consumption patterns, but on the more immediate concern with the existing food system's ability to absorb short-term shocks and disturbances. As the editors point out, a consequence of such an approach is to shift the orientation of policy from statistics (per capita food supply and consumption) to people (flaws in the food distribution system and their effects on the poor and disadvantaged sectors).

Thus the twenty-five articles address, among others: the socio-economic processes involved in the distribution of resources for food production and consumption; the effects of agricultural and overall economic development policies; and the consequences arising from institutional and technological change. Specific topics include studies of the food distribution

systems of the respective ASEAN countries, rural employment and income, terms of trade in agriculture, the marketing of modern agricultural inputs, and agricultural credit policies.

It is a pity that no attempt was made to organize the varied and undoubtedly rich material; the articles are instead presented in alphabetical order of the contributors. A meaningful division, for example, would have been by country, with a separate section for the technical articles. This would have yielded, in addition to the two ASEAN and four technical papers, six papers on Indonesia, five each on the Philippines and Thailand, two on Malaysia and one on Singapore; thus demonstrating an equitable mix, with more attention being given to the relatively more food-insecure countries.

Nevertheless this does not seriously detract from the overall value of this volume. Given the timeliness of the issues addressed, and the accessibility of its contents to the nonspecialist, this particular volume deserves a wider readership than is normally commanded by an academic journal.

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Unreal Growth: Critical Studies on Asian Development. Edited by Ngo Mahn-Lan. New Delhi: Hindustan Publishing Corporation Press, 1984. Pp. xxx, 898. US\$48.

This book contains in its two volumes over forty individual papers on development issues in the countries of Asia, the region of Asia, and the world at large. The book is important because many of the papers are well researched, well written and replete with useful information on individual countries not available elsewhere.

As is to be expected in a work of this kind emanating from India, there is a preponderance of Indian authors. They contribute just