

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

under fifty per cent of all the papers written by Asian scholars. Of those written by non-Asian scholars, six are from the United States, five from Western Europe, and three from Eastern Europe.

Ngo Mahn-Lan, the editor, has taken pains to cover the major Asian countries with at least one contribution on each. But, given the large numbers of countries in Asia and their great diversity, this spreads the coverage fairly thin in most cases. It would, perhaps, have been better to concentrate on the major examples of development strategies such as India, China, Japan, and the countries of Southeast Asia (in particular, ASEAN) in order to examine the issues this book claims to address: the "unreal" growth that has been achieved since the majority of Asian countries gained their independence. Comprehensive coverage of all of Asia stands in the way of greater in-depth analysis of the few main development strategies adopted in the region.

The authors have apparently been selected for their ideological orientation rather than for a balance of different views on the development process in Asia. The gains of economic growth are seen "to have been usurped by the small nexus of national and foreign monopoly capitalists and the self-enforcing inter-relationship between them". According to the editor, the entire undertaking for growth "has left untouched the vast majority of these developing countries and has rather led to increasing poverty and human misery. Hence the title unreal growth to depict the reality and to jettison the rhetorics and clichés related to development policies and strategies." While it is accepted that Japan has been successful in economic development and growth, the "resurgence of militarism" and the "intensification of its trade wars with Western Europe and the United States" are seen as an indicator of its role *vis-à-vis* other developing countries. Thus Japan, rather than being accepted as an economic success, is looked upon as "patterned on its Western counterparts in the strategic context of political and techno-

economic dimensions". Needless to say, that is regarded as bad.

It is unfortunate that the selection of articles in this book is so onesided. There has been no attempt to incorporate other points of view or at least to discuss the approaches used. In this sense, the work must be regarded as dogmatic. It is useful as an indication of what some other people think, but not as a contribution to development economics.

It is perhaps indicative of the way in which researchers addicted to Marxist philosophy close their eyes to realities that a work of some of nearly 900 pages almost completely ignores the fastest growing region not only of Asia but of the world, that is, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The detailed index mentions ASEAN only once (incidentally pointing to a page in an article with no reference to ASEAN at all). ASEAN is mentioned explicitly in a paper by Renato Constantino of the Philippines on nationalist perspectives in Asia. It is worth quoting this passage in full, because it not only demonstrates the point made here, but also the kind of approach taken in many of the papers of this work:

Third World countries know from experience how shrewdly imperial powers co-opt valid Third World aspirations and turn these to their own advantage. They should therefore be wary of massive projects being proposed on a regional basis. It is possible that these projects which utilize the rhetoric of Third World basic needs, and cater to Third World hopes of modernization, are in reality Transnational plans to better utilize the resources of these countries. An example is ASEAN. More and more, ASEAN is becoming a platform for the regional schemes of global Corporations. Collective self-reliance based on individual nationalist goals by ASEAN countries can only be realized by transforming the association into a real regional grouping based on the needs of the peoples of the region and not an appendage of foreign corporate giants. To achieve real solidarity as a regional institution, ASEAN should encourage the participation of the Indochinese State.

One need not deny the fact that multinational corporations do have important implications for economy and society and that there are dangers inherent in their uncontrolled operation in Third World countries. But the idea of the grand transnational conspiracy propounded above and in so many of the papers contained in "Unreal Growth" is pure nonsense.

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Missing Women: Development Planning in Asia and the Pacific. Edited by Noeleen Heyzer. Kuala Lumpur: Asian and Pacific Development Centre, 1985. Pp. 419.

This book is a compilation of five country papers prepared for the project on "Women and Development Planning" carried out by the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur. The case-studies presented are representative of five countries from three sub-regions: South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, that is, Malaysia (Jomo Kwame Sundaram and Tan Pek Leng); Sri Lanka (Kumari Jayawardena and Swarna Jayaweera); Fiji (Suliana Siwatibau, Ruth Lechte, Janet Agar, Donita Simmons, and Carol Sofield); Bangladesh (Rushidan Islam Rahman); and the Philippines (Rosa Linda P. Tidalgo).

The editor of the work, Noeleen Heyzer, introduces development planning as a relatively new instrument of development in Asia and the Pacific, formulated only after the colonial period. By planning the course of economic development, governments endeavoured to bring about desired changes in society. With an expansion of the goals of development, development comes to be seen increasingly as people-oriented, and there is a shift in perspective from development of things to the de-

velopment of human potential. Development planning now includes a wide area of objectives and aims including besides economic growth, issues of equity and especially of eliminating poverty.

The papers presented identify the need for women to be recognized as central rather than marginal to these processes of development. All the authors agree that present development planning includes women only in their traditional roles. That is why women have always been subjected to the lower ranks and regarded as a protected group, rather like children, which results in a great loss of opportunities and a far smaller degree of participation than in the case of men.

In reality, development planning has become a political process of bargaining by different groups with regard to the distribution of development gains. In this process the interests of women have always been neglected since they are weak in their political influence.

Progress has been made in education, social, and economic spheres, and quite extensive data has been provided in this book on indicators of such progress. Yet despite this progress, women have not been integrated in the planning process of decision- and policy-making. One reason given by the authors is that women are always looked upon in their traditional roles. Discrimination of sex has been practised for centuries, so that it is difficult to ignore existing social structures and to change the conception of planners. In fact, additional participation in the development process only aggravates their already heavy domestic load.

In conclusion, the authors suggest changes in the social conception and the transformation of the self-perception of women. A lot of information about women is available, and mobilization of women as productive agents, for example, and making use of their capability and resourcefulness would go a long way towards more equitable development. What is lacking is not their capabilities, but organization. In planning for development, serious consideration must therefore be given not only