

Book Reviews

THE FAMILY REVOLUTION IN MODERN CHINA. By Marion J. Levy, Jr. 1949. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, in co-operation with the Institute of Pacific Relations. Toronto: S. J. Reginald Saunders. xvi, 390 pp. \$9.00, members \$7.20.)

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIALIZATION. By Pei-Kang Chang. Harvard Economic Studies. 1949. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. Toronto: S. J. Reginald Saunders. xii, 270 pp. \$7.50, members \$6.00.)

FRONTIER LAND SYSTEMS IN SOUTHERNMOST CHINA. By Chen Han-Seng. 1949. (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations. vii, 156 pp., mimeo., \$2.00 U.S.)

NOTES ON LABOR PROBLEMS IN NATIONALIST CHINA. By Israel Epstein, with a supplement by Julian R. Friedman. 1949. (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations. viii, 159 pp., mimeo., \$2.25 U.S.)

DRAGON FANGS: TWO YEARS WITH CHINESE GUERRILLAS. By Claire & William Band. 1947. (London: George Allen & Unwin. Toronto: Thomas Nelson & Sons. xii, 347 pp. \$5.50, members \$4.40.)

AMERICA'S PACIFIC DEPENDENCIES. By Rupert Emerson, Lawrence S. Finkelstein, E. L. Bartlett, George H. McLane, and Roy E. James. 1949. (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations. ii, 134 pp., mimeo., \$1.50 U.S.)

Of these six books, five are serious studies of events and trends in China and the Pacific; one, *Dragon Fangs*, is a book of travel and observation. Two of the five, the works of Messrs. Levy and Pei-kang Chang, are works of fundamental and general significance. The other three are highly competent, *ad hoc* analyses of specific problems.

The Family Revolution in Modern China is a systematic examination of the effects of westernization on the most basic institution of Chinese society, the "patrilineal, patrilocal, and patriarchal" family. After defining the general concepts with which he works, the author discusses the family in "traditional" China and in the "transitional" China of today. The patriarchal family of tradition, he finds, was an ideal, even among the gentry which created the institution, and still more among the peasantry. As such ideals tend to be, it was of major social significance, but it was an ideal rarely fully realized. The institution suffered from grave weaknesses in traditional China; for example, the narrowness of its economic base, the land, subject to division or the weight of numbers, and the earning power of the male head of the family. Internal tensions added to the weaknesses, particularly the mother-in-law, daughter-in-law relationship, seldom a happy and usually an inharmonious one.

It has been on these weaknesses that the western influences at work in "transitional" China have fastened. The peasant could rarely, the gentry exceptionally rather than typically, maintain the patriarchal family. The economic distress of unsettled times makes its maintenance now most difficult for anyone; the opportunities for an independent livelihood in those parts of China affected by westernization make the

younger sons—and even daughters—unwilling to continue in the large family unit. A compromise is sought by many in the *famille souche*, or stem family, in which one son marries and remains in the family while the other sons and the daughters marry and found families of their own. The compromise tends to result, however, in more and more “simple conjugal” families of the type dominant in North America. This and other compromises act also to intensify the stresses of the traditional family and to add to the growing numbers of the *Ch'ing-nien*, the youth, now increasingly independent, both sons and daughters, of parental control. These changes are, of course, in process, and proceeding at different rates in different parts of China. But they are proceeding, as western industrialization breaks up the old patterns of Chinese culture.

The *Family Revolution* is a book no student of modern China and no sociologist should neglect.

The same combination of general and particular interest obtains in *Agriculture and Industrialization*. Economists will welcome this scholarly analysis of the adjustments that take place as an agricultural country is industrialized. Students of China will be grateful for an attempt to gauge the repercussions of western industrialization on a peasant and oriental society. The author sees industrial development as a necessary, but not a sufficient, cause of agricultural reform and improvement in a densely populated rural society. He is not hopeful that industrial development will result in a gain to the rural worker commensurate with the gain to the industrial worker. The industrialization of peasant countries may, however, lead to a new and wider international division of labour and a corresponding gain in wealth, if old industrial countries make the necessary adaptations. In China the stimulus for industrialization must come from outside agriculture. Land reform, particularly consolidation of farms, must accompany industrial development. An industrialized China will be on its way to a better agrarian order and a more prosperous part in international trade.

The study is purely economic, with no political reference whatever.

Frontier Land Systems, a study of modern Chinese imperialism among the Pai Yi in Yunnan and the Kamba in Sihang, is a revealing study of little known parts of the Chinese world. The misery caused by “two strata administration,” or parallel rule, of Chinese officials and native chiefs among the Pai Yi, and the *ula*, or corvée among the Kamba, calls for drastic remedy. It is much to be hoped that governments, whatever their political bent or the nature of their problems, may avail themselves of work of the high scientific objectivity of this.

Notes on Labor Problems assembles a useful store of material concerning the incipient Chinese labour movement. The Japanese and the civil war at once stimulated and thwarted the growth of trades unions and labour consciousness in China. Insofar as they have grown they have tended to follow the familiar patterns of western labour history. Of special significance in the light of the Communist victory in China since this study was prepared is the fact that by 1948 the Kuomintang had

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ceased to control the Chinese labour movement; that control had passed to the Communists.

Dragon Fangs, as indicated above, is quite another kind of book. It is the story of the flight of two British university teachers from the Japanese through the north-western provinces held by the Communist guerrillas. It is a detailed and vivid story, which, however, suffers from excessive detail. It was written when Japan still loomed as the chief enemy and before the civil war had clouded the future of China. The authors could still see Kuomintang and Communists working to the same general programme and, if mutual suspicions were dissolved, functioning as "opposing parties in a progressive and democratic constitution." Alas for such hopes!

The authors of *America's Pacific Dependencies* have done an admirable job in a field little examined and little known. The conflict between the strategic interests of the United States in the Pacific and its general support of the doctrines of trusteeship and self-determination, which have resulted in the embarrassing hybrid "strategic trusteeship," are forcibly developed. For the constitutional histories of Hawaii and Alaska many students will be indebted. It is salutary to be reminded that dependencies like Guam and western Samoa have always been governed by the United States Navy. How many students of this area of American history had noted that the anti-imperial bias of American opinion has resulted in the United States acquiring a dependent empire and refusing to create a colonial office to govern it? It is a fascinating essay in reluctant imperialism which Mr. Emerson presents in the opening chapter. But were not some of the greatest empire-builders, the Romans and the British, reluctant and casual also?

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ECONOMIC SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA 1948. 1950. (Lake Success, N.Y.: U.N. Publications. Toronto: Ryerson Press. xx, 279 pp. \$2.00.)

This survey will take its place as an essential reference book on Latin America.

During the second world war Latin America underwent a development similar to that of Canada, though on a far lower plane. Its industries mushroomed; a sizable part of its foreign debt was redeemed. Today the larger republics are less dependent upon a few exports; they are developing more complex economies that offer broader opportunities to their nationals, and greater resistance to cyclical jolts.

Whatever its wartime progress, however, Latin America's point of departure was low. Population density varies from 5.7 per square kilometer in the fertile Argentine, to 126.8 in wretchedly eroded Haiti. The latter figure is greater than that for India. The high birth rate and mortality combine to make the unproductive age group a large portion