

Book Notes

Zia-ul-Haque. *Revelation and Revolution in Islam.* Lahore: Vanguard Books Ltd. 1987. 259pp.

This book describes the lives, missions, characters, and the struggles and achievements of the prophet-revolutionaries in Islam. The author deals with the nature of prophecy, revelation and revolution. Questions addressed in the book include: What is truth? What is the social significance of the religious conception of revelatory truth? What is the difference between revelatory truth, revolutionary principle and ritual. The prophet-revolutionaries whose struggles and achievements are discussed in this book include Nuh, Hud, Salih, Ibrahim, Shuayb, Musa, Isa, and Mohammad.

T. N. Srinivasan and Pranab K. Bardhan (eds.) *Rural Poverty in South Asia.* New York: Columbia University Press. 1988. 565 pp.

The volume consists of essays by eminent economists, nutritionists and policy-makers which examine various policies proposed and followed to remove poverty from rural South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. After quantifying the extent of rural poverty, the book examines its variations over time and area and also among socio-economic groups. Productive employment is a major factor affecting poverty, and a number of essays in the book are devoted to analysing wage, employment and unemployment trends. Also analysed is the effectiveness of various public policies designed to help the poor in providing food, health-care and education.

Omar Noman. *The Political Economy of Pakistan 1947–1985.* London and New York: KPI. 1986. xiii + 218 pp.

Three main issues relating to Pakistan are discussed, namely, region, religion and economic development. The main thesis of the book is that politics in Pakistan is linked with the economic policies followed by the government in power. The period analysed is 1947 – 1985, and is divided into three convenient segments for such analysis.

Paul Hartman, B. R. Patil and Anita Dighe. *The Mass Media and Village Life: An India Study.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 286 pp.

The contribution of mass communication media to the process of development in India is examined. The study discovers that the impact of mass communication on development has been limited. Then the authors look at the reasons for this by studying the process of communication in Indian villages. They follow essentially an anthropological approach, using five villages in three Indian states as case studies. They conclude that the influence of the media is conveyed through structures of inequality, which themselves prove to be major obstacles to change. Another conclusion that emerges from the study is that locally-based – rather than centralized – strategies for communication show the greater likelihood of being successful.

Anil Bhatt. *Development and Social Justice: Micro Action by Weaker Sections.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 208 pp.

With forty years of planned development behind them, the plight of the poor in India has not improved. With ever greater realization, the poor are discovering that a possible solution to their problems is to organize themselves into groups and associations to promote their self-interest. This book evaluates the functioning of such groups and associations at the grass-roots level. Thirty-eight such groups have been examined by the author. These groups had been established by the tribal youth in the rural areas of Gujrat. The book deals with the manner in which these associations promote the socio-economic development of their members.

K. Mahadevan (ed.). *Fertility Policies of Asian Countries.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 320 pp.

This book looks at the policies followed to control fertility in eleven countries. These countries include Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. Chapter I presents an overview of the multi-dimensional facets of fertility-control policy. This chapter is followed by eleven country studies, which examine various aspects of fertility-control policies in the countries mentioned above. The importance of this book is reflected in the fact that it has collected diverse information about population policies of these countries in a concise and compact form for the interested researcher.

Ram K. Vepa. *Modern Small Industry in India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1988. 193 pp.

This book critically appraises modern small industry in India. It identifies its strengths and weaknesses. Stress is laid on the following areas to meet the challenges of the future: technology support, credit disbursement, and market assistance.

A comparison is made of India's strategy for the development of small industry with that of Japan and China.

LIST OF BOOKS RECEIVED

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