

Summaries

Lau Kin Chi

Untimely reflections on modernization in China

The emergency of modernization forced upon China means that the pride and sovereignty of China could only be maintained by becoming the Other in its „best“, that is, by adopting the criteria, norms and values of the developmentalism of the West that seemed to have made it so „successful“. However, it is exactly at a time when pride and sovereignty seem to be such a manifest reality for China that an „untimely“ rethinking of what most people regard as good and with reasons to be proud of is called for.

The dangerous aspects of modernization in China today should be quite obvious to anyone willing to confront them. This paper aims to take some initial steps in dealing with the „main danger“ of the everyday life with a view to a form of activism not exhausted by the political binaries of oppositional politics. Part I of the paper examines how the media representations of the relations between modernization and rural poverty are framed by binary pairs, how the diminishing of the self legitimizes the violences of the modernization processes, and how modernization should be understood not merely as a domestic solution for domestic problems, but should be read together with the movements of colonization and globalization. Part II of the paper examines practices constituting a difference to the „dissemination“ and „over-determination“ effects of globalization on China's trajectory of modernization. One case in point is the rural reconstruction movement carried out in a relatively self-conscious manner in resisting the colonizing effects of processes of globalization and countering the very logic of this development.

Wigbert Flock

Social Environment and Neoliberalism

An Empirical Study about the urban popular sectors in Chile.

Chile's neoliberal system has produced high growth rates, low inflation and growing exports but was not able to close the gap between rich and poor. The so called chilean model created a deep social inequality with winners and losers destroying the potential of self-organization in the popular sectors. This article specially provides a summary of an empirical research – which emphasizes qualitative aspects – sought to determine self-organization in a densely populated poor area in Santiago de Chile by carrying out an ethnographic analysis of the prevailing social conditions there, while attempting

to keep the interpretations of local actors in the foreground. It shows that neoliberal policy may be successful in reducing pauperism, but only by aggravating the economical and political gap between poor and rich.

Hans Löfgren & Prabodh Malhotra

The rise of India's pharmaceutical industry: Transforming the global competitive landscape?

India from the 1970s built a large pharmaceutical industry through an array of measures in support of domestic firms. The absence of product patents enabled Indian companies to become world leading producers of generic versions of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and drugs patented in Western markets. Low costs and a strong engineering tradition continue to sustain competitive strength. The implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) TRIPS regime in 2005 is driving change within the industry. Key elements of the present shake-up include the return to India of big pharma companies on a large scale and the emergence of several Indian firms that aim to become fully-fledged research-based multinationals. This article provides a description of the development and structure of the Indian pharmaceutical industry and explores questions and challenges arising from its integration into global markets. It is argued that the predominant trend is for India's leading drug firms to be integrated as suppliers into the global innovation and production networks controlled by big pharma.

Johannes Harnischfeger

Ethnic Self-determination and Democracy

Minority Ethnic Groups and Militias in the Nigerdelta

With the transition to democracy in 1999, ethnic and religious conflicts in Nigeria have escalated. In the Nigerdelta, representatives of the Ijaw, Ogoni and other minority peoples are calling for control over „their“ oil resources and for a greater share of the oil revenues. But they cannot attain these aims by operating through democratic institutions. Majority decisions in the national assembly will not bring a solution which the minorities would see as fair. So the Delta activists have resorted to violence, attacking oil installations in order to put pressure on the central government and on multinational oil companies. However, giving in to their demands and raising the share of oil revenues will not solve the problems. The six minority states in the Delta region have received billions of dollars in recent years, but the money has bypassed the people. Elected governors and local government chairmen have misappropriated most of it, as the local population cannot make use of the new democratic institutions to enforce accounta-

bility. As a way out, rebel leaders and their young followers are calling for a break with the Nigerian state and the establishment of ethnic republics. But ethnic autonomy will not empower the Delta population. Among local communities there are no common institutions which could ensure an equitable distribution of the oil resources. Where the central government has lost control, militias are fighting each other for a share of the booty.