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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Agrarian Policy of the Chinese Communist Party, Chao Kuo-Chun, Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1960. Pp. xii + 399. Rs. 22.50.

The book, as its title indicates, is essentially an attempt to analyse the agrarian policy of the Chinese Communist Party. However, the agrarian question in a predominately agricultural country like China where 80 per cent of the population lives in the rural areas and 30 per cent of the national product is derived from the agricultural and allied sectors, cannot be studied in isolation from other issues like industrialisation, capital accumulation and economic planning. The book thus throws considerable light on the broader political and economic strategy of the Party since its foundation in 1921 and should, therefore, prove useful to the students of Chinese affairs.

The book is divided into six chapters. The introductory chapter deals with organizational leadership in the political, economic and social spheres, which is considered to be the key in analysing the primary causes of stagnation that prevailed in the rural economy of China prior to the establishment of the Central People's Government on October 1, 1949. The land policy of the Chinese Communist Party had undergone frequent changes in the past. Chapter II makes an historical survey of changes in land policy during the period 1921-1949, falling into four periods, namely, the pre-Soviet period, 1921-1927, the Soviet period, 1927-1937, the Sino-Japanese War period, 1937-1945 and the post-war transitional period, 1945-1949. Except in the case of the first period during which the Party had no territory under its control, where it could implement its programme, the developments of each period have been discussed from the viewpoint of the following broad headings: (1) Party Theory, (2) Legislation and programmes, (3) Organization and administration, (4) Results and effects, and (5) General comments. The land distribution programme undertaken by the Party during 1950-53 is examined in Chapter III. During this period the land reform programme was pursued vigorously and was carried out all over the mainland. A detailed account as to how this vast programme was administered, what were the procedures adopted and the role of the Party in these reforms is contained in this chapter.

In Chapter IV is described the agrarian policy of the Party in the more recent years. The period 1953-1959 covers some of the most significant developments in the agrarian system of China. The people's commune movement which later was to sweep the entire Chinese mainland and basically transform the rural community in China had its origin in April, 1958. The period also saw the development of some important agro-technical programmes including conservation, irrigation, reclamation, etc., programmes on rural finance and market control and social and cultural programmes. All these are described in detail. In Chapter V, the author makes an evaluation of the agrarian policy surveyed in the preceding chapters, with particular emphasis on the recent developments outlined in Chapter IV. The author has listed up certain important factors which make the Party's "agrarian programme stand out among numerous other movements of rural reform in China in the past." These are: (1) the effectiveness and pene-

trating nature in the Party's organisation and leadership which reach down to the village masses, (2) the close co-ordination of the agrarian policy with other long-range, basic socio-economic programmes and (3) the integration of many agricultural programmes with political objectives. The significant aspects in the agrarian development in recent years are : (1) the exceptional increase in the productivity of major crops, (2) the effective co-ordination between agricultural development and the cultural-technical revolution, (3) the skilful utilisation of rural labour power, (4) the effective use of indigenous resources, and (5) the emergence of a new class of Chinese peasants free from traditional superstitious beliefs and inferiority complex.

In the last Chapter, the author has offered a few comments on the politico-economic question : "How far should individual rights go ?" He briefly discusses the Chinese experiment in relation to the problem of economic growth in underdeveloped countries with a view to knowing fully the overall significance and implications of the agrarian development in China. He concludes the chapter by saying that though "the Chinese agrarian experiment cannot and should not be transplanted *in toto*, . . . there are elements such as the organisational skills and social engineering techniques developed by the Chinese Communist Party which could be of reference value to nations faced with similar problems as traditional China did."

The book contains five appendices which deal respectively with model regulations for advanced agricultural producers' co-operatives, revised draft programme on agricultural development in China 1956-1967, resolution on some questions concerning the people's communes adopted by the eighth Central Committee of the C. C. P. in December, 1958, progress in water conservancy and progress of China's national economy in 1959.

Agricultural Marketing in India and Abroad, R. S. Srivastava, Vora & Co., Bombay, 1960. Pp. 243. Rs. 12.50.

This book is a revised edition of the author's thesis accepted by the University of Oxford in 1948 for the B. Litt. degree. The statistical data relating to undivided India on which the thesis was based, have been recast as well as brought up-to-date. An attempt has also been made to incorporate in the book the recent developments in the sphere of marketing.

The book contains eleven chapters. The first three chapters provide background to the study of agricultural marketing and deal with the importance and functions of marketing, the ramifications of the structure for agricultural marketing in India as also the socio-economic and the structural background of Indian agriculture. Some aspects determining the standard and efficiency of the existing marketing system and mechanism for the marketing of agricultural commodities in India such as the numerical adequacy of markets and their general performance, market intelligence, methods of operation, diversity of weights and measures, market charges, are described in Chapter 4. An attempt is also made to compare the standard of agricultural markets in India with that of British, Continental and American markets. The study reveals that Indian markets suffer