

The main merit of the book lies in its numerous, in some cases less well-known, original illustrations, more than half of which are reproduced in colour. The text is strictly subsidiary. The chapters on "The Gold Lands" and "The Indian Tribal Art" consist of only five sides each. Therefore only a few, but usually principal, fundamentals of the subject are communicated but these are supplemented by instructive and very complete synoptic chronological tables, a detail index and by very comprehensive references to the literature.

Professor Dr. Horst Nachtigall

BECHERT, HEINZ

Buddhism, State and Society in the Countries of Theravāda Buddhism.

First Volume. General and Ceylon

(Volume XVII/1 of the Papers of the Institute for the Study of Asia in Hamburg)

["Buddhismus, Staat und Gesellschaft in den Ländern des Theravāda-Buddhismus. Erster Band. Allgemeines und Ceylon"]

(Band XVII/1 der Schriften des Instituts für Asienkunde in Hamburg)

Frankfurt: Verlag Alfred Metzner, 1966; 377 p.

The fact that in the history of Southern Asia down to the most recent times the national and social life was to a great extent dependent upon the great religious communities of Hinduism and Buddhism has long been known in Europe, but hitherto there has been a lack of any book in which this is described in a general context. This omission is now made good by H. Bechert's comprehensive study, the first volume of which (on Ceylon) is now to hand. This book is the fruit not only of two journeys to Ceylon by the author, during which he was able to obtain personal insights into the modern conditions there, but also of his thorough knowledge of traditional Buddhism, to which a series of his earlier works were devoted. Thus, he was able to evaluate critically a mass of documents from various countries and periods and to assemble them in a cohesive and readable whole.

The wealth of the material offered can only be indicated in this review. The first part is concerned with the "general and theoretical fundamentals". To begin with, it gives an outline of the basic ethical notions of Buddhism, insofar as they are important to the state and society, and an historical survey of the Theravāda school including its position as a state religion under the kings of Ceylon, and of the organized communities of monks, the "Sangha".

Section III, which describes in detail the development of "Buddhistic modernism", will be of special interest to anyone who knows modern

India, because it invites a comparison with the parallel appearance of Neo-Hinduism on Indian soil. The development of Buddhism in the communist sphere of power is then described in a lengthy excursus which is nevertheless indispensable to the overall picture; this is followed by a section on Marxism and socialism in the Asiatic countries which gives examples of the attempt that is constantly being made to reconcile Buddhism and Marxism ideologically in one form or another. The second part, which deals more specifically with Ceylon, first explains the structure of the island's population and then goes on to give a detailed account of the Ceylonese Sangha, its organization and division into groups, and of the history (so often puzzling to the layman) of the issues of jurisdiction, taxation etc. connected with the monasteries. This is followed by descriptions of the plans for the reform of the Sangha, particularly those of the "Buddhist Committee", and a chapter devoted to "The State Religion Issue in Ceylon", on which Ceylon, unlike India, has never reached a clear decision and the attendant problems of which could be regarded as fairly representative of those dealt with in the whole book. The volume concludes with a comprehensive chapter on the (not always happy) "Development and Activity of Political Buddhism in Ceylon", this being treated briefly up to 1945 and thereafter exhaustively up to 1965. What is particularly interesting in this chapter is the account of the conflicts between the Singhalese and Tamils in 1958 and their background, as well as the assessment of the personality of S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. In general, the restrained and objective – but never euphemistic – appraisal of all the political and cultural currents described can be regarded as a particular virtue of this book which will commend it, not least, to the Asiatic reader as well. One will await the announced second volume on Further India with interest.

Professor Dr. Hermann Berger

BRACHER, KARL DIETRICH; DAWSON, CHRISTOPHER; GEIGER, WILLI and SMEND, RUDOLF (Eds.)

Modern Constitutionalism and Democracy. A "Festschrift" Presented to Gerhard Leibholz

["Die moderne Demokratie und ihr Recht. Festschrift für Gerhard Leibholz"]

Tübingen: Verlag J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), Vol. I: 1966; 801p. Vol. II: 1966; 999 p.

This work is an unusual "Festschrift" for an unusual person. Gerhard Leibholz, in honour of whose 65th birthday this presentation work has been published, has been and still is active, both scientifically and practically, in many realms – as professor at a university, as a judge at