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Review

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run-off resulting from deforestation has caused the extreme floods in 1987 and 1988' has resulted in great damage 'by warping political relations and changing development priorities' (p.163).

The message of the editors is that facts of importance to communities who live with environmental and economic challenges tend to be 'smeared out' by outsiders with different agendas but with the resources to implement policies based on generally inadequate and uncertain information. The book will also be useful to those wanting a systematic review of the water resources of this huge catchment. It will also be of interest to those convening first- and second-degree programmes in environmental science and especially to those emphasizing the relationship between environment and development.

J. A. Allan, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

China in transformation. Edited by Tu Wei-Ming. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1994. 253pp. Pb.: £11.25. ISBN 0 674 11754 9.

Since the beginning of the 1960s, East Asia has experienced a remarkable modernization and growth process. Originally Japan took the lead followed by the Four Mini-Dragons (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan) and since the beginning of the 1980s China appears to have taken the initiative with record growth rates. The Chinese economy is already the world's third largest and if the present hypergrowth process continues it will become the world's largest within just 15 years. Confronted with such a scenario it appears no overstatement to claim that a new world is about to take over.

This volume is conceived as an attempt to understand these processes and in particular the complex issue of 'China in transformation'. It is, as all anthologies necessarily will be, a joint venture involving a variety of disciplines. The contributions vary in ambition and scope, ranging from overall reflections on the nature of China's transformation to the report of results from recent empirical research. Most of the catchwords of present Chinese studies such as 'discourse', 'identity', 'modernity', and 'nationalism' are dealt with in one way or another, but primarily in the contributions by Edward Friedman, Helen F. Siu, Myron L. Cohen, David Apter and Benjamin I. Schwartz.

Two chapters stand out as especially worth studying. One is Ying-shih Yu's brilliant interpretation of the history of Chinese thought in the twentieth century as a process of radicalization, which is based on an assumption of double marginalization: the marginalization of China in the world and the marginalization of intellectuals in Chinese society. The other is Andrew Nathan and Tianjian Shi's report from a survey on Chinese political culture conducted in China in 1990, which, among other things, indicates that Chinese citizens today underestimate the power and control of the regime. This popular underestimation creates a 'safety cushion' between the objective role of the party-state and the perceptions of ordinary citizens thereby, in effect, blunting demands for democracy. Tu Wei-Ming deserves credit for editing and bringing out this volume on basic issues concerning one of the pivotal transformations of modern times.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard, University of Copenhagen

Governing China: from revolution through reform. By Kenneth Lieberthal. London: Norton. 1995. 498pp. Index. £22.00. ISBN 0 393 03787 8.

In *Governing China*, Kenneth Lieberthal has attempted to write three books in one: an overview of China's political development over the past century; a study of the structure and process of policy-making and implementation in recent years; and an assessment of issues that will confront China in the future. It is not easy to write a sophisticated textbook suitable for undergraduate teaching purposes, while at the same time satisfying specialists and the interested public. The author, one of America's leading China specialists, has largely succeeded in these three tasks and has produced a highly informative study that will find its way on to many reading lists and coffee tables.

As a result of these diverse goals and target audiences, the book does suffer from compartmentalization and lacks an integrated argument. The first two parts and 150 pages of