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So much for the author's account of the facts. No one not intimately acquainted with the region studied can say whether the picture is overdrawn, or not. If it is not—and the evidence presented suggests that it is not—then rural society in China, or in this part of China, is crumbling at the bottom. No stable state can be built on such foundations, and the case for some serious policy of land reform, already unanswerable, is once more reinforced. What that policy should be, Dr. Chen Han-seng does not indicate. He dismisses, quite rightly, the view which he ascribes to "many foreign writers"—they must surely be half-witted—that existing holdings are not too small. At the same time, he rejects as "unrealistic" the idea that "farming might again prosper in China with the introduction of farming enterprise on a large scale, commercially organized," and, here again, his skepticism seems not unjustified. He describes as "futile" any "isolated reforms" of the marketing system, of the machinery of credit, of the techniques of production, even of the land system itself, if pursued separately without regard to the totality of influences which impinge upon the life of the farm community; and I, at any rate, am not tempted to dispute his verdict. I cannot help feeling, however, some slight regret that, since the author foretells disaster "unless the agrarian problem is reasonably well solved," some hint of the solution should not have been given. Academic detachment has, doubtless, its merits, but, after all, the object of social investigation is, or should be, action. All readers of Dr. Chen Han-seng's volume will be grateful for what he has already given them. They may be permitted to hope, however, that he will find the opportunity to tell them in some subsequent work what plan of action might be undertaken to change the conditions which he convincingly describes. 346

R. H. TAWNEY  
London, March 1937

PACIFIC AFFAIRS, vol x No2 (June 1937) p 215-216

(378) OUTLINE OF CHINESE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY. (In Russian.) By M. E. Kazanin. Moscow and Leningrad: Government Printing Office. 1935. pp. 227. 4 rubles. 215

SINCE scientific investigations of China are rare, compared with those of other countries, one does not expect any economic geography on China, at the present stage, to be completely satisfactory. Obviously it is in this light that Mr. Kazanin's book must be reviewed. In contrast with several recent studies of the same subject, this book is a concise account, representing a selected compilation of publications relating to Chinese economic geography up to about 1933. It falls into five parts, physical geography, population, communication, agriculture and industry, preceded by a long introduction. The introduction includes a brief historical survey of the relative strength of foreign capital investment and of international imperialism in China in general, and also brief accounts of Sino-Japanese relations up to the summer of 1935 and of China's internal politics since 1925. 215

More than ten regions are discussed on the basis of physical geographical conditions. These regions include the Lower Yangtze, the Central Yangtze, the Loess region, the Pearl Delta, and the Kweichow and Yunnan plateaus. Parallel to these, national regions have been chosen, namely, Inner Mongolia, southwestern China, Sinkiang, western China and Tibet, besides north and central China. Special regions for both agriculture and industry have been defined for purposes of clarification. Such divisions do not seem to reveal any new geographic knowledge, though they facilitate the appraisal of past work. 216

In the section on industry, two aspects are dealt with which are often neglected by the usual run of writers on this subject. The working and living conditions of industrial employees are described, and a short account of the labor movement is included. The author further brings out the colonial character of Chinese industrial development itself.

The book is not entirely free from small errors. Population figures in a few cases are erroneous. Some of the important sketch maps bear no mention of sources nor of the necessary dates. In the arrangement of the bibliographical lists, no particular order is adopted, and in a few cases the reference is incomplete. 216

There are a few major omissions in the subject matter of the book which may be noted. Considering the importance of opium production in China, it seems strange that there is no better map than that on page 153, and that no effort has been made to discuss the opium question in connection with transportation. Currency problems have not been dealt with—a matter of special significance in China where the exchange rate between silver and copper varies in certain definite regions. While the author, towards the close of the introduction, accounts for the different Soviet regions in China, readers wishing to learn of accomplishments in the former central Soviet region of Kiangsi, particularly in communications, agriculture and industry, will be disappointed. It is to be hoped that these gaps will be filled when the book is revised. But as it stands, this remains the best concise and handy introduction to the study of Chinese economy yet available. 216

CHEN HAN-SENG  
New York, April 1937

地理学家的书评