

monetary system, he gives no indications of its preconditions or operation. One exception is his recognition of the inability of such a system of "village communism" significantly to redistribute wealth between regions. Therefore, as an argument for a particular development strategy, the book has major flaws.

Given this fundamental weakness, much of the book is, however, an interesting and valuable discussion of the Soviet industrialization debates of the 1920s. Of particular interest is the chapter on "least-cost" industrialization strategies, including the debates on how open the Soviet economy should be. In these debates China is the next example to be considered as "the Chinese road to Stalinism." In this he uses a variety of sources, but does not take account of recently available statistical data which help to correct past errors and misunderstandings. Thus, some of his figures are misleading, such as an alleged ratio of 16:1 rural urban disparity (p. 135). Also, he has only two sentences on the major changes in rural organization in the 1980s which ironically would add weight to his case. However, he does identify many of the problems facing Chinese economic policy at the end of the 1970s, such as stagnating per capita agricultural production and high energy consumption.

Further chapters also cover Cuba and Eastern Europe, especially Yugoslavia and Hungary, with a final chapter on rural collectivization, in particular Soviet Central Asia. The overall result of the book is therefore stimulating in its wide range of countries discussed and the view taken, but with severe limitations in its fundamental arguments and the analysis of countries like China which the author knows less well.

MARTIN LOCKETT

*Les sources du droit de la République populaire de Chine.* By DOMINIQUE T. C. WANG. [Geneva: Librairie Droz, 1982. 223 pp.]

Since the Third Plenum of the 11th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in December of 1978, China has been undertaking an ambitious programme of law reform, with a view to both promoting domestic stability and attracting foreign investment. Professor Wang's book offers a useful summary of the formal structure of the legal system as of 1982. The first part contains a summary of what are called "the sources of modern Chinese law," weighted heavily towards legislative texts. The second part is a bibliography of various subjects.

Used for reference or as a bibliography, the book is a useful addition to the specialist's shelf. I would hesitate, however, to recommend it to beginners in the field of Chinese law, mostly because it appears to lack a clear conception of its purpose and does not adopt a consistent approach to the various subjects covered.

What, for example, does the author mean by "source of law"? The

phrase appears to include non-legislative sources of authoritative standards, since the author explicitly considers politics, custom, doctrine and case law as well as legislation. I agree that this is a useful, and perhaps the only realistic, way of considering “sources of law” in China. I question, however, whether it accurately reflects the reality of China’s legal system today to devote 143 pages to legislative texts and barely two pages to politics.

It is difficult to see what principles governed the selection of bibliographic entries. A number of secondary words in Japanese are cited under the heading “sources bibliographiques générales,” but nowhere else. While the bibliography evidently does not purport to list exhaustively all articles published in Chinese law journals, it is not clear why the author selected the ones she did.

Finally, the book is marred by numerous typographical errors and at least one major error of substance. It was not true at the time of the book’s publication that Supreme People’s Court (SPC) approval was necessary for all death sentences imposed by other courts (p. 79). Since 10 June 1981, SPC approval has not been necessary for death sentences imposed by high people’s courts in certain circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

DONALD C. CLARKE

*Legal Problems of Seabed Boundary Delimitation in the East China Sea.* By YING-JEOU MA. [Baltimore: School of Law, University of Maryland. Occasional Papers/Reprints Series in Contemporary Asia Studies, No. 3 (62). 1984. 308 pp. \$5.00.]

This important study will be of much interest both to those concerned with the current problems of the China Seas and to international lawyers in general. After a description of the geology of the East China Sea, Dr Ma gives a valuable account, painstakingly assembled from a wide variety of eastern and western sources, of the overlapping Chinese (People’s Republic of China and Taiwan), Japanese and Korean claims and concessions to the oil-rich seabed in the region. He notes that the dispute over ownership of the Tiao-yu-t’ai islets is often said to be a major obstacle to an agreed Sino-Japanese seabed settlement, but argues that under international law the islets would probably be denied any seabed beyond their 12-mile territorial sea, so that the question of their ownership has no significant implications for rights to the seabed off the islets. With that issue out of the way, the author proceeds to a careful and incisive analysis of the current international law of seabed delimitation, based—as is the whole work—on a detailed examination of the decisions rendered in the 1969 *North Sea*, 1977 *Anglo-French*, and 1982 *Tunisia-Libya* continental shelf cases and on the unilateral and treaty practice of states.

1. See *The Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure Law of China* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1984), pp. 217–18.