

historischen Informationen zu vergessen, die uns mündliche Überlieferungen geben können. Bibliographie, Ortsnamen- und Sachindex runden dieses erfreuliche Buch ab.

WOLFGANG MARSCHALL

ADRIAN C. MAYER:

Peasants in the Pacific. A Study of Fiji Indian Rural Society. 2nd ed. International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1973. XIV, 233 S., 40 Abb. a. 20 Taf., 9 Ktn. i. T., zahlr. Tab. u. Diag.

This book is a revised edition of MAYER's well known account of Indian communities in Fiji, first published in 1961. MAYER returned to Fiji briefly in 1971 and spent a fortnight in Vunioki and Delanikoro and a briefer period in Namboulima. On the basis of this short visit, a new chapter is added to the original book. Despite the fact that the 1971 visit contains only impressions which look very tentative compared to the thorough fieldwork carried out in 1951, the additions are to be welcomed. It would be very useful, in fact, if more anthropologists returned to the fieldwork of their youth.

Very significant changes took place in these Fijian villages in the intervening twenty years. MAYER focusses on the economic changes. In Vunioki the area under sugar cane increased dramatically, an expansion made possible by technological improvement (particularly new strains which could produce many more ratoon crops, the greater use of fertilizers, weed killers, etc.) and also by the increased demand for Fiji's sugar. As a consequence, every farm in Vunioki had become a cane farm replacing paddy and pulses and this had extended into the district and also into what had previously been uncultivated jungle. Delanikoro by contrast had switched from paddy and cane to relying mainly on urban commuters. Every family had one or more male wage earner in it. In both villages there was a very great increase in the number of consumer goods, in population, and generally in the people's perception of their development and socio-economic status.

What were the social effects of these changes? MAYER argues that they have had an influence on what he calls increasing individualism and a change from being peasants

to becoming (in the case of Vunioki) commercial farmers, or in Delanikoro a periurban working class. He is admittedly cautious, and one might well argue in both villages, like Sherlock Holmes dog in the night, that what was most significant was what did not happen. In these villages, as indeed in other Fijian or Pacific villages¹⁾, there appears to be a strong element of continuity in important parts of the social structure. In Vunioki, in fact, there is evidence in the increase of joint households to indicate that the importance of kin nets are increasing, not decreasing. The functions of other important institutions like the cane gang seem not to have changed radically. Again in Delanikoro there was an increase in joint households, and few wage earners moved away from a household. Certainly there seemed to be fewer settlement associations, but this as MAYER concedes may only reflect the lesser amount of time available by commuters for associational activities rather than a deeper structural fragmentation. In both villages the social structure seems to be adapting and even resisting changes both in the economy and in the polity. It is significant that Fiji's independence only merits a passing reference as does the vital question of ethnic relations. As MAYER continually points out we need more, and more, intensive research on these issues. Hopefully Professor MAYER will go back to Fiji for a longer period.

DAVID PITT

PAULA BROWN:

The Chimbu — A Study of Change in the New Guinea Highlands. International Library of Anthropology. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul 1973. XIV, 151 S., 16 Abb. a. Taf., 2 Ktn.

Dieses Buch ist nach allen Maßstäben, die für ethnographische Darstellungen gelten, nach Maßstäben für Stammes-Monographien (auch solche mit dem speziellen Aspekt des Kulturwandels) eine ausgezeichnete Monographie. Dafür bürgen schon die Voraussetzungen, fast fünfzehn Jahre Interesse an und Feldarbeit (in Abständen) bei den Chimbu im Hochland Neuguineas. Das Buch der Verfasserin, gemeinsam mit H. C. BROOKFIELD, „Struggle for Land“ (1963) ist ein Klassiker der ozea-

¹⁾ See, e. g., PITT, D. C.: Tradition and Economic Progress in Samoa. Oxford University Press 1970.