

migration strategy" (p. 290). The brief section on identity offers developing scholarship regarding the intertwining of migration experiences with historical memory and native-place sensibilities.

Ronald Skeldon and Graeme Hugo conclude by emphasizing that China's *hukou* system heightens parallels between domestic and international patterns of migration structured by similar obstacle courses of residency and citizenship requirements that produce underground communities of workers, residents, businesses, and organizations (p. 334). Thus, Chinese mobility contributes considerably to debates about global migration and issues such as official policy at destination points, international labor markets, transformations in sending communities, and the fluid identities of migrants.

Although marred by poor copyediting, this volume meets the editors' goal of providing soundly researched material as a basis for Chinese migration to be compared more broadly. The focused arguments and detailed findings will spark the analytical engines of scholars of contemporary China and comparative migration while proving too specialized for more general audiences. These essays will enhance academic understanding of how migrants carve out extra-state spaces, the function of illegal networks and organizations, and individual interpretations of migration experiences.

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The Role of Law and Legal Institutions in Asian Economic Development, 1960–1995. Edited by KATHARINA PISTOR and PHILIP A. WELLONS. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. 294 pp. \$39.95 (paper).

The relationship between law and economic development has been a focus of scholarly inquiry since the days of Adam Smith. Contemporary analyses range generally from neo-Marxian critiques of liberal legal systems and economic dependency to work depicting the complementary and mutually sustaining effects of legal reform and economic development, inspired by the theories of Max Weber and Douglass North. Expectations that legal reform might support economic development have also induced international aid agencies to invest in law reform efforts in support of economic development programs. The Asian Development Bank is a key participant in this effort, and sponsored Pistor and Wellons's research.

This study investigates the interaction between legal and economic change during 1960–1995 in six Asian economies: the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Taipei, China. The authors seem mindful of the complexities of the topic, devoting the first three chapters to summaries of the research approach, the framework for analysis, and the scholarly literature on law and economic change. The authors suggest a simplified model of comparative legal systems based on contrasts between market and state-based resource allocation, and between discretionary and rule-based regulatory procedures. Particular attention is given to business governance and capital formation, credit and security interests, and dispute settlement institutions. Economic development is examined primarily by reference to statistical indicators of economic growth, which the authors suggest are linked closely to legal change through the mediating factors of development strategy and economic structure.

Addressing the key question "Is Asia different?" the authors posit hypotheses of

convergence, divergence, irrelevance, and differentiation to explain the relationship between law and economic development. The authors link the reception of Western law in the six Asian economies to periods of economic policy formation, and suggest that economic development is driven by changes in economic policy articulated and enforced through law. The authors conclude that there is a degree of convergence among the economic policies of the six selected economies, as well as a broad shift from discretionary state-oriented legal systems toward market and rule-based systems. However, the authors concede that causal relationships between legal and economic change are difficult to identify, concluding that the evidence supports primarily the hypothesis of differentiation as legal reform and economic development follow different paths under different conditions in the six selected economies.

This is an ambitious study, which is useful in many respects. The six case studies provide useful information on economic policy change and legal reform in six important economies of Asia. The conceptual and methodological overviews provide a good range of perspectives for studying legal and economic change. In light of their useful review of the scholarly literature on law and socio-economic relations, however, it is puzzling that the authors tend rather uncritically to conflate law and state policy. While this approach may reflect perspectives and practices in the economies under study, it impedes understanding of the ways that law in particular might support economic development. For if law is merely the formal articulation of state policy, then it has no independent function and will support economic growth to the same extent as the state policies that underlie the law. In equating law and policy, the authors appear to disregard the very theorists on whose paradigms they purport to rely, such as Weber and North who suggest that it is the uniquely formal and predictive quality of law that supports economic growth in ways that transitory state policies do not.

Not surprisingly perhaps in light of their policy-centred conception of law, the authors offer bold claims as to the role of law in Asia's economic development. In an implicit defence of the legal-aid programs supported by their ADB sponsors, the authors assert that "law made an important contribution to Asia's economic development" (p. 1) and conclude that "there is little basis for arguing that law has not played an important part in Asian economic development" (p. 263). However, the authors are hard pressed to identify precisely what that part might have been. Indeed, they concede that "it is difficult to identify cause and effect between legal and economic change in respect of corporate governance" (p. 150) and "the effects [in the area of credit and security interests] of the specific elements of a security regime are not apparent" (p. 213). No conclusions to speak of are offered on the relationship between commercial and administrative dispute settlement and economic change (pp. 244–248, 259). In effect the authors have found that economic development in Asia resulted in part from changing economic policies, while their evidence consigns the role of law to the realm of uncertainty. This is a useful lesson, not only for the policy community exploring the causes of economic growth, but also for the comparative-law community attempting to determine the parameters for conceptualizing law and policy and the operational consequences of each. While many in the field of law and development studies will find this book interesting and useful, we must continue to wait for a more definitive exploration of interrelationships between legal and economic development in Asia.

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