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## Reviews

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## REVIEWS

**Kreutzmann, Hermann K.**

**Hunza: Laendliche Entwicklung im Karakorum.** (Hunza: Rural Development in the Karakorum). Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1989. *Abhandlungen-Anthropogeographie*, vol. 44, Institut fuer Geographische Wissenschaften, Frei Universitaet Berlin. xiii + 272 pages, maps diagrams, photographs, appendices, glossary and bibliography.

German field research in that western trans-Himalaya mountain redoubt known as Karakorum has a long and distinguished record. As Hewitt has recorded in his excellent essay on Karakorum research and exploration, "European Science in High Asia," in Tinkler's *History of Geomorphology*, Continental European field researchers, especially the German von Schlagintweit brothers last century, contributed more to the scientific knowledge of the Karakorum than did the plethora of English military accounts of mule routes, passes and peaks, and complaisant petty chieftains. (Scottish efforts were at least more adventuresome; Dalglish left his bones on the Karakorum pass, Hayward had his head lopped off in Yasin, Thompson, the botanist, ended his distinguished career in Kew Gardens, and G.S. Robertson is memorialized for his classic ethnographic account of the Kafirs.)

The book under review continues in the Germanic tradition of lengthy periods of field research followed up by long descriptive accounts of the areas under study. Kreutzmann's area focusses on Hunza tehsil of Gilgit district (sometime Agency) of north Pakistan. It was British India's bulwark during the "Great Game" (as Peter Hopkirk's recent book of that title informs and entertains) against Tsarist Russia and China's eastern Turkestan. Hunza is also the putative "Shangri-La" of James Mason's *Lost Horizons* wherein people eat apricots and are supposed to live to be 100 years old.

Kreutzmann breaks down the story of Hunza's integration into today's Pakistan into four segments. A history of Hunza with ties to adjacent Badakhshan, Chinese eastern Turkestan, the Dogras in the Vale of Kashmir and, in general, British India. The second part focusses on the traditional economy in a mountain society where field, orchard, and pasture sustained the indigenous population. This review is followed by an examination of the socio-cultural milieu wherein language adherence, especially Burushaski speakers, religious adherence, Ismaili Shia, and ethnicity is covered in depth. The last thirty pages are devoted to the central theme of the book, that is, the external political economy relationships of Hunza.

A too brief account of theories of mountain society and habitat is provided at the beginning. The familiar models of Rhoades/Thompson, Guillet, and Brush, are mentioned and the Troll-Allan controversy skimmed. In an arid environment such as the trans-Himalaya one does not have to pay much attention to human induced problems like deforestation, erosion, and river siltation. The Theory of Himalayan Environmental Degradation that Ives and Messerli have critically examined in Nepal and adjacent areas never really applied to the trans-Himalaya. What is of utmost importance in the Karakorum is the attention to irrigation systems and it is in this topic that Kreutzmann excels. He has followed on from C. Charles' 1985 dissertation on glaciers and irrigation systems and fully analyzed the traditional and modernizing irrigation system of Hunza. Although he is nowhere mentioned in the bibliography, Karl Wittfogel would have recognized this irrigation system as a micro version of hydraulic agriculture. Hydroagriculture, or in modern parlance, farmer managed irrigation systems, is found further south in the autarkic remnants of acephalous territories.

Hunza exhibits all the traditional symptoms of the maladapted mountain society so widespread throughout the Himalaya; inadequate food supply, malnutrition or at least spring starvation, high mortality, substantial migration to the plains, and an economy no maintained by external remittances

or direct transfer payments from the central government. Foreign aid was never a factor until the 1970's when a strong effort was made by the United States to find income alternatives to opium poppy growing in some villages adjacent to the Hunza valley. Today Hunza has a reputation for foreign projects that actually work, with a notable success first under UN/FAO in promoting a "drills and dynamite" project for jeep tracks and irrigation extension linked with the establishment of potato cash cropping and later, under the auspices of the Aga Khan Foundation, for programs in community development.

In this book the reader will not find any enlightening discussion of theories of economic development or with notions like basic needs, participatory development, or ecodevelopment. Instead this very proficient compendium with a thirty two page bibliography traces the emergence of this one-time princely state to its integration into the nation state of Pakistan.

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