

The essays show that the inclusion of ethics in economic theory remains a difficult aim and needs further discussion. The authors have nevertheless provided a very interesting stimulus on this subject. The articles will find particular interest with those readers who already have a basic knowledge of economic theory and philosophy.

Dr. Ulrike Dennig, Hamburg

VON BLANCKENBURG, PETER

### **World Nutrition – Present Problems and Strategies for the Future**

[“Welternährung – Gegenwartsprobleme und Strategien für die Zukunft”]

Munich: C. H. Beck Verlag, Paperback No. BSR 308, 1986; 330 pp.

The problems related to world nutrition – the hunger of the population in the Third World – are as such well known. Extensive, informed descriptions of this subject are rarer in the German language than one might think. Therefore, it is quite welcome that the acknowledged expert in this field, Peter von Blanckenburg (for instance, co-editor of the standard work von Blanckenburg/Cremer: Handbook on Agriculture and Nutrition in the Developing Countries, Ulmer Publishing Company, Stuttgart), has gone to the effort to present this complex subject in an easily accessible form, and that this information has been made available to the broader public in a renowned paper-back series. Blanckenburg's “World Nutrition” includes all aspects of the subject which are necessary for completely understanding it. Thus references are made to historical backgrounds and developments, the race between the growing population and the production of foodstuffs and the ideas of Thomas Robert Malthus being the focus of attention. The actual nutritional situation in the individual continents is presented as well as the predictions for future development which have so far been made.

Several chapters cover the many different reasons for malnutrition in the Third World. Some key words give one an idea of the breadth of the book's coverage: neo-colonialism, the vicious circle of poverty, deficiencies in the agrarian structure and in “know how”, world and domestic market imbalances, the wrong agrarian and development policies.

The reader can inform himself about the problems concerned with recommendations on nutrition, and also about how one compiles data on the food situation of a particular population, and how these data are to be interpreted. The economic, ecological and social determinants of nutrition are also treated. The most important measures and strategies designed to improve the food situation are described and critically appraised. Thus, there are sections in Blanckenburg's book on production policies (plants, animals, fish), food aid

programmes, programmes to guarantee the food supply (early warning systems, grain stockpiling), agrarian trade policies, nutritional education and consulting, and nutritional planning.

An important positive aspect of this book is that it points to no one particular reason responsible for the situation nor does it offer simple prescriptions to solve the problems. The global perspective and the complex interrelatedness of the issues are continually pointed out. The professional background of the author is surely evident with respect to where he makes selections and sets focal points. Thus, agrarian economics tends to be over-emphasized, while the sociological and physiological aspects are not developed sufficiently. Von Blanckenburg's basic political attitudes are clearly recognizable. These can be tersely described with the keywords conservative and technologically optimistic. One could argue whether or not more political commitment with respect to carrying out the necessary social and economic restructuring in our society should be called for, something which seems to be indicated in light of the fact that there is joint responsibility for equitable development in the world. However, these comments do not diminish the positive aspects of the book. It does provide one with the necessary extensive information on one of the most depressing world problems. The many and unbiased references covering a wide range of additional literature give each reader the opportunity to learn more about the subject in order to be able to draw his own conclusions.

As a paperback, von Blanckenburg's "World Nutrition" is in principle not a text book, although with its succinct and exhaustive presentation it more closely resembles one than a book on popular science. It ought to be read by many, not only by specialists in the field, for whom it is a must.

Dr. Ulrich Oltersdorf, Giessen

BREYER, KARL

**Euthanasia for Africa. The Paradox of Development Policy**

[*"Sterbehilfe für Afrika. Paradox Entwicklungspolitik"*]

Kiel: Arndt Verlag, 1987; 175 pp.

Several German-speaking journalists have recently published books on Africa's miseries. Most fascinating to read: Peter Scholl-Latour's, "Mord am grossen Fluss" (Murder at the big river); most reliable, systematic and impartial: Ulrich Meister's "Afrika - die Verlorene Illusion" (Africa - The Lost Illusion); more personal and rather haphazard but daring in expressing his views: Karl Breyer's "Sterbehilfe für Afrika" (Euthanasia for Africa), the book this review is about. It is a slender volume with 175 small-sized pages. All these books and a host of similar publications dealing with the problems of

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