

It would be interesting to have a Yugoslav review of this book but the English reader can be sure that he is getting as unbiased a view of Yugoslav history as it is possible to obtain.

W. W. MARSHALL

DIE NIVEAUVERÄNDERUNGEN AN DEN KÜSTEN KRETAS SEIT DEM ALTERTUM. By DIETRICH HAFEMANN. *Akad. Wissensch. Lit. Mainz: Abh. Math. Nat. Kl.* 1965, no. 12. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 7 inches; 84 pages; maps, plates. DM. 9.40

Observations on raised beach phenomena on the coasts of western Crete were first made by T. A. B. Spratt in the early 1850's and used to postulate tectonic uplift of the western end of the island in historical times. Dr. Hafemann has reinvestigated this problem in detail during the course of four field sessions 1958-1964. Historical changes in the relative position of land and sea are deduced from minor but well-defined and fairly continuous notches, occasional sea caves and localized abrasional platforms, lines of holes produced by rock-boring marine organisms and narrow limestone ledges deposited by the calcareous alga *Tenaria tortuosa*. A wealth of information is assembled to show that the watermark of classical times is today located at +1.7 m. in west-central Crete, rising progressively to +7.8 m. at the south-western tip of the island. This tectonically deformed shoreline is dated by 11 Heidelberg radiocarbon determinations on algal limestone, ranging from 363 B.C. to 277 A.D., with a mean age of 52 A.D. Thus the western parts have been conspicuously unwarped since the third century A.D. In central and eastern Crete, on the other hand, submergence of classical ruins indicates a relative rise of sea level by 2.8 m. since about 400 B.C. This latter movement is attributed to a positive eustatic oscillation verified elsewhere in the Mediterranean area. The full amplitude of deformation in western Crete may therefore be somewhat greater than 7 metres.

This study demonstrates the magnitude and complexity of tectonic deformation in unstable areas within historical times. Unfortunately the geomorphological implications are difficult to unravel from a loosely-organized text that should have been condensed and augmented by a geological *précis*, by rather more than two scale sections and by some geomorphic maps.

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ASIA

ASIA: a handbook. Ed. Guy Wint. London: Anthony Blond, 1966. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 872 pages; maps. 147s

In view of the quickening importance of the continent, *Asia: a handbook* is particularly welcome, for this is a reference book of lasting qualities. A brief review can do little more than catalogue the contents in terms of general framework, as the contributions come from more than sixty authorities of international standing, but enormous credit is obviously due to the wisdom, imagination, and industry of the editor, Mr. Guy Wint.

A tremendously wide range of information is packed into this fascinating volume, providing essential background to current events in areas as different and far apart as Soviet Central Asia and Japan, Mongolia and Indonesia. The analysis of political, economic, cultural and social trends involves discussion of topics such as Buddhism; oil; films; revolution; tourism; acupuncture; broadcasting; and even women's dress.

Asia: a handbook is divided into four sections. Part one includes available basic statistical information for the individual countries, which is most uneven, but nevertheless it is helpful to find it collected together for purposes of comparison. The second part of the book outlines the historical background of the various parts of Asia covered. Part three is by far the largest section, and deals with religion; art; literature; political affairs; minorities and disputed areas; Asia in the world; aspects of society; the intelligentsia; mass media; and economic affairs. The final section is in the form of an appendix, which reproduces selected texts of important post-war treaties and agreements. The book includes twenty-two well-drawn maps, with a map