

SUMMARIES

Peter WEICHHART:

Notes on the dogma of a divided geography. G. HARD's criticism on „ecogeography“

In an extensive and highly critical review G. HARD (1975) attacked the author's methodological suggestion of an ecogeography within the framework of a "unitary geography". In this reply an attempt is made to point out that HARD's proposition of an insignificance of a "unitary geographical-ecological" approach is untenable and simply ignores pronounced trends in the development of this research discipline. A revived interest in man-environment problems as one of the central topics of geography has become apparent not only in recent methodological analyses and programmes, but in numerous empirical studies, too. Some of these, which make use of methods of systems analysis, are briefly described in this paper.

A detailed comparison of the theses attacked by HARD and the author's actual suggestions shows that his criticism lacks justification, as the factual and formal errors condemned were not dealt with in the book under discussion. Thus G. HARD's "accusations" can only be interpreted as misunderstandings, possibly caused by an inflexible ideological orientation towards an endeavour to split up geography, which seems to have become a methodological dogma with him. In contrast to HARD's interpretation, the unity of geography as it is supported by the author in regard to an ecological approach, was neither deduced from an assumed fundamental unity of all empirical research nor from the structure of the geosphere, but was clearly defined as a matter pertaining to the philosophy of geography, motivated and rendered necessary by the specific approach of ecogeography.

Max H. FINK:

The current state of karst morphology

In this paper an attempt is made to assess the present state of karst morphology. The first part deals with the karren as the characteristic small forms of karst, shedding some light on modern views on their genesis and their importance for karst denudation.

Some new findings on the mode of formation of dolines (sinkholes) and uvalas are being presented. The studies made arrive at the conclusion that funnel-shaped dolines seem to be the original form of rock dolines. Genetically many dolines are closely linked with potholes (pits) below.

Another chapter is concerned with poljes and the problems of the formation of planes in karst regions. The conception that the majority of the poljes are connected with old inactive valleys and, moreover, were formed at those places where impermeable rocks or sediments are to be found within an area of karstifiable rocks seems to have been put on a firmer basis.

In conclusion a survey of the karst typology is presented. The most important karst types are listed together with their dominant geoelements and active geo-factors.

Peter FRITZ:

The dependence of recent periglacial phenomena in the Eastern Alps on lithological conditions and the resulting differentiation in location and form

In this paper the author presents findings that are based upon comparative research into periglacial phenomena, carried out for a number of years both in

summer and winter, in areas of limestone, dolomite, schist and crystalline rocks tending to shatter into large blocks when weathering. Specific positions within the relief, differences in the lithology, the distribution of a snow-cover in winter dependent on winds and the changeable human influence are shown to be the decisive factors in the regions under study, where specific combinations of them result in a predominance of certain forms. Thus, e. g. with forms connected with restrained solifluction, physical factors of varying intensity coincide with human influences of diversified types and result in a great variety both as to the mode of formation and their characteristic aspect. Moreover the study provides subtler alternatives for a delimitation of major zones and subzones of the Alpine periglacial region as well as practical considerations for reclamation measures in case of damages.

Hans BOBEK:

The origin and distribution of the most important field systems in Iran. Basic concepts of a social-geographical theory

By means of both extensive studies of air photographs and fieldwork, executed in the latter half of the fifties, the author arrived at a view of the distribution of the traditional field systems in Iran. This information was combined with the available knowledge of social conditions in pre-reform rural Iran to formulate a theory as to which factors are responsible for the formation of the different systems of field division and their peculiar spatial distribution. According to this theory the main types of rural societies were identified. The first, responsible for the forming of irregular block systems, is based upon a free peasantry, in which individual families settled without planning, undisturbed by landlords and rulers. In contrast, the second, responsible for open field villages with strip division, appears to be dominated by landlords who organized their villages into fixed numbers of arable fields of equal size. These were laid out in numerous strips, the tenancy of which was re-allocated annually or from time to time among the crop-sharing peasants. There is ample proof that this rotation was meant less to equalize the peasants' opportunities than to keep them from acquiring certain rights which might have improved their economic position.

Whereas the free peasant system was found mainly in peripheral and agriculturally marginal areas, the landlord system prevailed in a quasi-continuous zone running from eastern Azerbaijan, through Qazvin and then towards a centre between Kermanshah and Arak. It continued beyond Isfahan towards the central plains of Fars. Isolated areas also existed in Khuzistan and Khorasan. Taken as a whole, it included the most heavily populated and economically and politically important areas of western and eastern Iran.

Between these two contrasting zones there were extensive transitional areas in which the two systems were intermingled. These included the whole interior plateau, the Caspian provinces, central Azerbaijan, and most of the areas immediately surrounding the bigger cities. In these transitional areas, although non-peasant landownership still prevailed, sharecroppers and farmers possessed clear titles and claims which enabled them to intensify cultivation at their will and according to the availability of water. Land was divided mainly into regular blocks, suitable for efficient irrigation. The lack of power of the landowners in these areas seemingly derived from a lack of solidarity among them, caused by divergent interests.

In its first phases, land reform did not affect land division greatly. The so-called re-integration phase (PLANCK 1975), however, started serious changes. The preceding analysis led the author to hypothesize that the field patterns which prevailed in Iran during the ninth and tenth centuries A. D. may have disseminated to feudal France in the course of the Arab occupation of North Africa and the Iberian peninsula. Therefore a historical research would be required to substantiate this hypothesis.

RÉSUMÉS

Peter WEICHHART:

Annotations sur le dogme d'une géographie désunie. La critique de Gerhard Hard sur l'écogéographie

Dans un traité détaillé et rigoureux, Gerhard Hard a attaqué la proposition méthodologique d'une écogéographie „unitaire“ que l'auteur a mise en discussion. Cette réponse-ci a l'intention de démontrer que la thèse prononcée par Hard — c'est la thèse de l'insignifiance de la pensée d'une géographie „unitaire-écologique“ — n'est pas à maintenir et qu'elle ignore des tendances de développement toutes actuelles de cette science. La redécouverte des problèmes résultant de la société humaine et de son environnement ne se manifeste pas seulement dans des programmes et analyses méthodologiques modernes, elle se trouve aussi comme une des questions centrales dans de nombreuses études empiriques. Quelques unes de ces idées orientées à une théorie des sciences ont été discutées brièvement. Une comparaison des attaques de Hard avec les propositions prononcées par l'auteur peut illustrer que cette critique n'est pas du tout justifiée et que les erreurs matérielles et formelles condamnées par Hard n'existent même pas dans le livre critiqué. Les reproches de Hard ne peuvent être comprises que comme une série de malentendus, nés peut-être d'une fixation idéologique sur le dogme méthodologique de la nécessité d'une scission de la géographie. L'idée d'une géographie unique, soutenue par l'auteur en vue d'un concept écologique, n'est pas déduit ni d'une unité inhérente aux sciences empiriques par principe ni de la structure de la géosphère — comme M. Hard cela veut interpréter. Elle se manifeste plutôt clairement comme une proposition de caractère politique au cadre de cette branche scientifique — une proposition devenue nécessaire par les problèmes spécifiques et actuels de l'écogéographie.

Max FINK:

A la situation actuelle des reconnaissances phénoménologiques et typologiques du karst

Cet article fait la revue des reconnaissances actuelles des phénomènes karstiques et de leur typologie notamment. La première partie s'occupe des lapiés — formes mineures du relief karstique — tout en accentuant leur importance pour la dénudation karstique et en interprétant les explications modernes de leur genèse.

Quant aux dolines et aux ouvalas, l'auteur en réfère les connaissances récentes de la genèse de types rocheux: D'après les études présentées, le type original de

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