

of the commerce in general with particular mention of the influence the International Fair of Thessalonike exerts on the economic situation. The author also touches some social, political and psychological side-problems connected with Northern Greece's economic development. All chapters of the book contain statistical data concerning various sides of economic life.

The author suggests that economic development implies accumulation of capital through various ways in order to be used for major investments; one of these ways is the lowering of the standard of life by a strict state control of consumption. Greece, she concludes, has succeeded in her northern regions to advance, at least as much as her neighbouring countries, without lowering the standard of life or sacrificing her ideals in democracy.

The book will soon appear in French.

MICHAEL G. PAPACONSTANTINOU

Οἱ γεωργικοὶ συνεταιρισμοὶ ἐν τῷ πλαισίῳ τῆς ἐλληνικῆς κοινωνικῆς διαρθρώσεως. [*The agricultural co-operatives within the framework of Greek social structure*] by John Em. Tsouderos, Athens, 1960, «Hestia» Ed. Co., 193 pp.

The agricultural co-operatives in Greece have always been and still present a most important problem in connection with this country's economic and social development. Recently, moreover, with the government's decision to make them the agencies mainly, if not exclusively, charged with the task of organizing the commerce and export of all Greek agricultural products, they have acquired an even greater importance. How far Greek agricultural co-operatives are in a position—as they stand now—to undertake this additional burden and do the job they have initially been designed for is a subject much discussed in Greece and the book which Professor Tsouderos published last year is a notable contribution to its study and solution. It would be correct to say that nothing of this kind in the economic and social field with regard to the research involved, the approach to the subject and the solutions proposed has been undertaken in the last few years.

Mr. John Tsouderos, Professor of Georgia Institute of Technology, came to Greece in 1958 under the auspices of the Fulbright Foundation with the object to study the agr. co-ops and has devoted two full years to this problem; he toured the country and came in contact with leading personalities and farmers, who are members of agr. co-ops, followed closely the work done, and studied the existing legislature and literature on this subject. He considers in his book the agr. co-ops as a movement directly connected with the development of Greek society, with the modern history of the country, the present general problems and Greece's future development. To stress the im-

portance of the subject it is sufficient to mention the following figures: There are 7,127 local agr. co-ops, 129 regional unions of co-ops, 9 central economic unions, and, on the top, the so-called 'Panhellenic Confederation of Agr. Co-operatives Unions'. Seven hundred thousand peasant families are members of the co-ops, that is 70% of the agricultural population of Greece and 40% of the entire Greek population. These figures outnumber any other organized movement in this country, including the Confederation of Labour Unions.

Mr. Tsouderos starts in the first part of his book by a historical survey of Greek society and Greek economy from the time of the war of independence. This is thought to be useful because it provides the background for the development of Greek co-ops. The agr. co-ops are regulated by a law of the year 1915, which, with some minor modifications, is still in force to-day. Before the passing of the law, however, agr. co-ops had existed in fact among progressive farmers from the early beginning of this century. The writer devotes two chapters to the discussion of the Greek social and economic situation and to the activities performed by co-ops before and, especially after the passing of the law, and examines in detail the influence recent political changes in Greece (Metaxas' dictatorship, war and enemy occupation, liberation and civil war, etc.) as well as the impact of the establishment of an Agricultural Bank in 1929 and the American Aid to Greece after 1945 had upon the co-op movement and Greek agricultural economy in general.

The second part contains a full description of the legal status of agr. co-ops, their internal organization, the various types of co-ops, their capital, installations and their objectives. Worth mentioning are the central economic unions, which, among others, include the so-called "ΚΥΔΕΠ" (for wheat, cereals, cotton and rice concentration and administration), the "ΚΣΟΣ" (for sultana raisins), the "Ἐλαιουργική" (for oil and olives), the "Συκική" (for figs), the "Ὀινική" (for wine), and, most important with regard to purchasing power and export, the "ΣΕΚΕ" (for tobacco). The capital deposited by the members amounted in 1958 to the sum of \$8,820,000 in total, that is to say to \$1,300 per every co-op and to \$13 per every family, a sum absolutely insufficient for the extensive needs of the farmers the co-ops are called upon to cover. Scarcity of capital is one of the major problems the movement has to cope with, being compelled to depend for almost every major transaction on credits from the Agricultural Bank or other external sources, usually at a higher rate of interest.

Mr. Tsouderos outlines in the third part the influence other factors connected with agriculture and the commerce of agricultural products exercise upon agr. co-ops. He calls attention to the activities of merchants and entrepreneurs in the Greek country-side and demands a precise and correct long-term agricultural policy from the governments, who, although always well-disposed towards agr. co-ops, did not entirely succeed in their efforts to help, mainly because of the

simultaneous existence of semi-state organizations endowed with tasks overlapping with those of the co-ops. Finally, the writer considers inadequate the effort for the enlightenment of public opinion with regard to the necessity of the existence of co-ops.

The main organ for the realization of the state's agricultural policy is the Agricultural Bank of Greece. The writer discusses in a separate chapter its composition and work and emphasizes its beneficial influence upon the co-operative movement. Yet, after a penetrating analysis, Mr. Tsouderos reaches the conclusion that the influence of this Bank, although beneficial up to a certain point, is not fully satisfactory mainly due to the high rates of interest it has to charge in order to cover its extensive administration expenses (offices and sub-offices all over the country, byurocratic and antiquated methods of work etc.) and pay its own interest to the Bank of Greece; it must be noted that the Agricultural Bank, deprived of its own capital, is entirely dependent upon other sources or state funds. The cost of money in 1958 for the Agricultural Bank amounted to 5.90 % (1.36 % interest paid, 3.95 % salaries and wages, 0.39 % general expenses and 0.19 % amortization). The inability of the Bank to help effectively co-op peasants results in their attempting to seek the Bank's financial support through political means, and renders them pawns in the general political game. However the sum of money lent by the Bank to the farmers on long- and medium-term credit in 1958 amounted to \$2,376,000 (\$1,730,000 in 1957) and to \$94,000,000 on short-term credit.

In the fourth and last chapter of the book the author analyzes the deficiencies of the co-operatives in view of the existing social structure of the Greek country-side, examines the co-ops as an economic and moral cell of Greek society, points out the organic weaknesses and suggests that the co-operative leadership shall endeavour to develop a "co-operative consciousness" among co-op members, enlighten public opinion on the tasks and possibilities of the co-ops, establish a closer co-operation with the state and seek to achieve economic self-existence. All these shall be coupled with a broader effort for organization, for education of the rank and file, renewal of leadership by men from the ranks of the co-ops, and co-ordination between production and commercial activities.

The political role co-ops may play in this country is also envisaged, although the writer considers the possibilities limited in view of to-day's Greek political mentality favouring the so-called "personal" parties and not "principle" parties. Of course, the development of political strength by the co-ops would have been helpful towards the fulfillment of their objectives, but as the situation now stands, they seem to be unable to form a political party of their own or follow on the whole one of the existing parties willing to adopt their aspirations.

In spite of all inabilities and difficulties involved, Mr. Tsouderos believes that agr. co-ops are, if a serious and systemantic effort on

the lines stated above is launched, in a position to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic evolution of this country and to render themselves into a notable means for the transmission to the Greek people of the values of life and of the belief in independence, cooperation and democracy. The main point of interest is that the co-operative movement in Greece develops in a democratic way and by democratic means, being a self-existent and volutary association of free and independent farmers in all respects.

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Stoianovich, Traian, *Conquering Balkan Orthodox Merchant* (Wiederabdruck aus: *Journal of Economic History*, Juni 1960, S. 234-313).

Die vorliegende Studie untersucht die wirtschaftlichen, sozialen und allgemeinpolitischen Voraussetzungen und Begleitumstände, unter denen der weitaus grösste Teil des Innen- und Aussenhandels des Osmanischen Reiches in die Hände orthodoxer Händler geriet und versucht, soweit es das dem Verfasser vorliegende Material erlaubt, die Herausbildung der orthodoxen Händlerklasse nach chronologischen, geographischen und ethnischen Gesichtspunkten zu differenzieren. Dabei geht es dem Verfasser nicht nur um die Aufhellung eines rein wirtschaftsgeschichtlichen Phänomens; es sollen gleichzeitig die sozialen und geistigen Auswirkungen dieser Entwicklung auf die allgemeine Geschichte der christlichen Balkanvölker angedeutet werden. S. betont in diesem Zusammenhang zweierlei: einmal die Rolle der Kaufleute als «human catalyst», der den Balkan mit Europa verband und die Rezeption europäischer Kultur einleitete, und zum zweiten die Einflüsse der Ideologie, Disziplin, Erziehung und Organisation dieser Klasse auf die Sozialstruktur und die politischen Konzeptionen der christlichen Balkanvölker.

S. verlegt die Anfänge der Entwicklung einer Klasse orthodoxer Händler ins 14./15. Jhd. zurück und verfolgt deren Geschichte bis zu den Unabhängigkeitskriegen der Serben und Griechen. Neben der Erteilung von Privilegien an orthodoxe Händler durch Stefan Dušan und verschiedene Städte ausserhalb des Balkans (z. B. Ancona 1514) schufen vor allem die Privilegien der Osmanen wichtige Voraussetzungen für die Entwicklung dieser Klasse. Schon vor 1500 versuchte die Pforte der Auswanderung christlicher Händler mit der Genehmigung des Imports von Zucker, Farben, Aromata und Seide aus Afrika, Syrien und Indien und der Wiederausfuhr dieser Waren nach Italien und Mitteleuropa entgegenzuwirken, da die muslimischen Untertanen, wie der Verfasser des Näheren erörtert, nicht in der Lage waren, den Handel in grossem Umfange—vor allem mit dem Ausland—abzuwickeln. Trotzdem kann die generalisierende Behauptung des Verfassers, die Eroberung des Balkans durch die Osmanen habe den Sieg der Griechen,