

*Sūtrānukramanikā*, which is used in Andhra Pradesh, and *Pūrvaprayoga*, which is used in Tamil Nadu. Ute Hüsken compares these texts and comes to the conclusion that 'Despite all differences in detail, the similarities between the two ritual handbooks predominate in the description of the viṣṇubali saṃskāra: there can be no doubt that they present one and the same ritual of this specific tradition. Not only the similarities in what is said, but also that which is not dealt with in both texts is significant' (p. 188).

Next U. Hüsken describes three performances of viṣṇubali that she observed in South India. She introduces a detailed comparative description of the three rituals. She shows that the performances differ from one another and also from the texts and explores the factors that influence the performance of a ritual. She considers as a decisive factor for the ritual form the development of a ritual specialist – brhaspati who leads the ritual. Therefore relevant attention is also given to the training of ritual specialists of the Vaikhānasa tradition which usually takes place in Vaikhānasa training institutions. Two of them – the pāṭhaśālā in Nanguneri and the Veda pāṭhaśālā in Tirumalai – are introduced in more detail.

Part Five is devoted to the variation in life-cycle rituals and the stability of tradition.

The author claims that the central work of the Vaikhānasas *Daśavidhahetunirūpaṇa* 'is not only the work of its author Śrīnivāsa Dīkṣita, but also product of its transmission'. She explains why was this particular text chosen for transmission over several generations. She also shows in what ways the Vaikhānasas' religious tradition changed in the conflict of the Vaikhānasas with the Śrīvaiṣṇavas and what role rituals played in this change.

The book presents a profound description of ritual tradition of Vaikhānasas in South India. It brings a very good analysis of relevant Sanskrit texts completed by the author's personal knowledge achieved during her fieldwork conducted during repeated stays in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in 1998 – 2006. The publication is an excellent part of the series Indo-Ethnology and can be highly recommended to all who are interested in Vaiṣṇavism in South India, Hindu life-cycle rituals and Hinduism in general.

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NDULU, Benno J.; O'CONNELL, Stephen A.; BATES, Robert H; COLLIER, Paul; SOLUDO, Chukwuma C. (ed.): *The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa 1960 – 2000*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009. 452 pp. ISBN 9780521127752.

The book examines economic growth of African countries in the years 1960 – 2000. Under term African countries one should understand the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The team of specialists looked at the problem of economic growth on the country level. They had country-teams, which collected data. The first chapter is an

overview of the whole research programme called Growth Project and the way how the research was done. Next chapters are divided according to problems, which they are trying to solve or analyse.

The authors examined all the economic determinants, but they also focused on other reasons for economic growth, stagnation, or decline, which can be educational threshold, geographical location of the country, demographic change, natural resources, and political situation. African countries are put into comparison with countries of the Middle East, Latin America and/or East Asia. The keys to economic growth are especially avoiding syndromes, overcoming location disadvantages, and building human resources. "We have emphasized that maintaining syndrome-free status is necessary but not sufficient for achieving truly rapid growth on a sustained basis. The growth econometrics literature suggests a potentially important role for public investments aimed at reducing the unusually high cost of development in African countries." (p. 67) Therefore these countries need to work on the national and also on the regional level to unlock long-term growth. Building human resources is one of the most important parts of economic growth. "One of our stylized facts is that SSA has done a bit better on HDIs than it has done on real GDP growth. If initial conditions matter, this suggests SSA has a more solid starting point for growth now than in the 1960s." (p. 68)

The book gives a detailed description of economic situation in Sub-Saharan Africa during a forty year period. It also identifies different economic determinants of growth. There are four policy syndromes, which can affect economy of the country negatively – regulatory, intertemporal, redistributive, and state breakdown. They have a much bigger influence on growth opportunities. "The shortfall of Africa's policies and institutions relative to other regions was closely equivalent to the effect of these syndromes." (p. 123)

Africa is in a very bad socio-political situation. Natural resources, ethnic diversity, and autocracy go hand in hand with economic decline. The problem of solving Africa's economic situation is in the diversity of countries' economic policy and also in the differentiation of the countries according to econometric evidence. "Were the coastal, resource-scarce economies now to escape the syndromes it is much more of an open question whether they would match the growth of other regions. During the 1990s even those economies that avoided the syndromes grew markedly less rapidly than other regions." (p. 125) Even for countries with little prospect of growth, there are still opportunities, which can help these countries. They can open new export services, or have untapped natural resources.

However the policy-making was also an important factor in the economic growth. "The case studies have taught us that at the time of independence in many African countries, strong central governments were perceived as the optimal mechanism for nation-building. Controls from the central authority and redistribution were among the strategies employed. In many instances, these efforts appear to have actually succeeded in preventing state breakdown in terms of open rebellion. Unfortunately, however, the strategies adopted then also resulted in the various anti-growth syndromes of controls, adverse redistribution and intertemporally unsustainable spending." (p. 167)

The political instability can enormously influence economy of country. Militant changing of government is the most anti-growth syndrome; however dictatorship does not need to be anti-growth syndrome. However the situation in Africa is different. "The history of the continent has revealed that growth and dictatorships are unlikely to coexist." (p. 167)

African societies work in a redistribution system in which participants are divided into three categories – consumers, delegates, villagers. Each group is working for itself and this makes the system fragile and can lead to rebellions. The main question of the book is the link between the global policy and syndromes. Through the analysis the authors came to three conclusions. "First, all the three channels of transmitting ideas from the global development paradigms to the African policy choices appear to have done so potently. ... Secondly, from the analysis it is clear that African values of consequence to growth syndromes are in tandem with the world values. ... Finally, given Africa's high dependence on aid, international multilateral agencies have played a disproportionately larger role in shaping African policy syndromes – through technical advice, conditionality, and now increasingly through selectivity in aid allocation to engender adoption of globally desirable policies." (p. 338, 339)

The book is an analysis of the economic development of African countries, which is a really interesting topic and its view on the influence of policy-making on economic development, makes the book interesting for many people. It focuses on the reasons for economic growth, stagnation, or decline. It is a clear description of whole processes. The book is part of the Growth Project and it is a theoretical part of the research. There is also second volume, which is a case study of African countries. However, the book has one problem; it is written in a way that people without specialized economic knowledge will not understand clearly. The parts written about economic topics are very difficult for ordinary people interested in this topic.

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LUTGENDORF, Philip: *Hanuman's Tale. The Messages of a Divine Monkey*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2007. 434 pp. ISBN 0-19-530922-7

This long-awaited monograph by Philip Lutgendorf, a Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies at the University of Iowa, is a result of more than a decade of concentrated effort by one of the leading American scholars in the field. It capitalizes on a series of papers he published between 1994 and 2004, recasting them into a seamless body that has all the prerequisites to become 'The Book' on Hanuman in English (although the author disclaims such adoration right from the beginning).

Hanuman, a simian aide-de-camp to Rama, the main human hero of the epic *Rāmāyaṇa*, has evolved into one of the most popular Hindu folk-deities. In the experience and practice of Indian people, particularly in the north, he is the most endearing character, a preeminent "deity-of-choice of the kali yuga" (p.10). However, in