

## Preface

This first issue of *Copenhagen Papers in East and Southeast Asian Studies* brings together three papers presented at the conference "Ten Years After: The Post-Mao Development", held, with a grant from the Danish Social Science Research Council, November 7-9, 1986, in Elsinore, Denmark. They deal with post-Mao economic and political reforms in China. The contributors are Professor Stuart Schram, School of Oriental and African Studies, London; Dr. Erhard Louven, Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg; and the editor.

Professor Stuart Schram's contribution deals with reform of the economic and political system as it has been discussed and to a certain extent put into practice in China since 1978. His conclusion is that the predominant trends in the various economic, political, intellectual, and cultural domains tend to converge and reinforce each other. He believes that economic reforms will be maintained in the foreseeable future, provided the reform process will continue to include the implementation of concomitant political reforms.

Dr. Erhard Louven analyzes basic trends and perspectives in the economic arena in the post-Mao period. He points out that the economy, in industry as well as in agriculture, has performed very well in the period, with record-high growth rates. He concludes, however, that sooner or later agricultural performance will have reached a plateau, requiring new massive investments from the industrial sector, and that the urban reforms seem to meet resistance from traditional power elites in the Party and in the planning apparatus.

My own contribution addresses the overall economic and political reform process in the post-Mao era. It argues that the Chinese reform process is characterized by the introduction of reforms which seek to improve particular aspects of the economic and political system rather than to change the system itself. In this sense, the Chinese have not gone beyond the borderline to structural reform that changes the very parameters within which the decision-making process and the political-economic patterns of behaviour operate.

*Copenhagen Papers in East and Southeast Asian Studies* is part of the publication program of the Center for East and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen. It is planned to publish 2 issues a year. Our hope with this series is to demonstrate the breadth and depth of modern East and Southeast Asian Studies in this part of the world. Nevertheless, as the first issue shows, contributions will not be limited to Scandinavian scholars.

Forthcoming issues will include "Chinese Intellectual Life Post-Mao", "East Asian Security in the 1980s", "Decentralized Water Resource Management in the PRC", "Science and Technology Reforms in the PRC", "Reform and Readjustment in the Chinese Economy with Particular Reference to the Post-Mao Period", and "The Role of the State in the East Asian Modernization Process".

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