

Im 3. Kapitel bietet der Verfasser eine Bestandsaufnahme der wichtigsten Werke über Gaismair. Die Beurteilung des Oppositionsführers durch Historiker, Chronisten und Schriftsteller der letzten vier Jahrhunderte wird unter dem Aspekt der politisierenden Verwertung von Geschichte untersucht. Bücking zeigt den (gewollten oder ungewollten) Einfluß des jeweiligen politischen Standortes eines Autors in seiner Auseinandersetzung mit Gaismair, und zwar von vernichtenden Denunziationen durch Apologeten des Hauses Habsburg bis hin zu glorifizierender Mythologisierung durch Faschisten und schwärmerischer Idealisierung durch Sozialisten und Kommunisten. Erst allerjüngsten Darstellungen bescheinigt der Verfasser, daß sie »sich mit Erfolg von einer direkten Indienstnahme Gaismairs freihalten und auch z. T. methodisch neue Wege zu gehen suchen«.

Zur Vervollständigung der Literaturliste sei hier noch das 1978 in englischer Sprache erschienene Werk von W. Klaassen angeführt, das, von einem Teilnehmer des eingangs erwähnten Symposions geschrieben, auch schon dessen Vortrags- und Diskussionsergebnisse einbezieht.

Im kurzen 4. Kapitel stellt Bücking Materialien zusammen, welche die »Religion unter anderem als Antisymbol zu den konfessionellen Normen der herrschenden Schichten« ausweisen. In bezug auf den »Bauernkrieg« und Gaismair arbeitet er das geforderte »Göttliche Recht« im Sinne einer gesellschaftlichen Oppositionslehre heraus. Ein Hinweis auf das überwiegend religiös verankerte Rechtsgefühl des 16. Jahrhunderts (so Bücking noch in seinem Aufsatz »Der ›Bauernkrieg‹ in den habsburgischen Ländern als sozialer Systemkonflikt, 1524 bis 1526«) hätte den Eindruck, daß die Bauern und Gaismair die »Erlösungsreligiosität« bewußt zur Anti-Ideologie funktionalisiert hatten, gemildert.

Insgesamt enthält die Arbeit Bückings wichtige weiterführende Quellen und Ergebnisse — einige »Schwachstellen« jedoch, die nicht zuletzt auch auf die Fülle der zu recherchierenden Fragen der Forschung zurückzuführen sind, weisen darauf hin, daß nach wie vor die Aufgabe ansteht, Gaismair und sein Umfeld näher zu untersuchen.

Angelika Urack

A. E. Musson, *The Growth of British Industry*, B. T. Batsford, Ltd., London 1978, pp. 396, £ 14.50.

The growth of university departments of economic history and the appearance of journals devoted to particular aspects of the subject — such as transport, agriculture, urban development, social questions, and local history — have greatly increased our knowledge of the growth of the British economy. A recently published bibliography of British and social history (though limited to books and articles written in English) lists well over 4 000 items. Much of this research has thrown new light upon various aspects of the industrialisation of Britain and many traditional views have been revised. Few scholars can be so familiar with this material as Professor Musson and in his new book he places students of economic history in his debt by giving a clear exposition of the results of thirty or forty years' research on the growth of British industry.

As might be expected Musson rejects the view that the industrial revolution was a unique and dramatic occurrence in the reign of George III. He has no difficulty in showing that many of its characteristics were evident for over a century before 1760. These included the remarkable increase in the output of coal, the growth of London, the shift in balance of the economy to the north and west, the mounting demand for manufactured goods at home following increasing agricultural output, and the expansion of both the overseas trade with North America and the West Indies and the re-export trade in colonial products to the Continent. Long before 1760 various industrial processes had been improved by inventions

which included manually operated appliances (the stocking knitting frame), machines driven by water power (fulling mills and gig mills) and the Savary and Newcomen engines to drain mines. And there had been early manufactories in which large numbers of artisans had been brought together under a single roof.

Musson considers that the first phase of the process of industrialisation lasted for 150 years from 1700 to 1850. He covers familiar ground when he describes »the phenomenal rise of the cotton industry«, the inventions which revolutionised the production of textiles, and the rise of the factory system. In his chapter on coal and metals he shows that too much emphasis has been placed upon the iron industry and that not enough attention has been paid to the expansion of the non-ferrous metal industries (copper, tin, lead, zinc, and their alloys). Next the author examines progress in the chemical industries and the consumer goods trades which have in the past often been neglected by historians. He stresses the significance of advances in the production and use of various chemicals for many branches of manufacture, such as textiles, soap, glass, pottery, and paper. When discussing consumer goods Musson shows how the clothing, leather, building, and woodworking trades expanded on traditional lines with little technological change or the establishment of large factories. He concludes his survey of the industrial revolution by observing that in 1850 when Britain had become the workshop of the world only quite a small part of the labour force worked in factories. The biggest occupational groups were those working on the land or in domestic service and the typical industrial worker was still a craftsman or labourer producing goods at home or in a small workshop with tools or machines operated by hand. Coalminers still used picks and shovels while workers in the building industry — bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and so forth — used much the same tools as their forefathers. The use of steam power was confined to relatively few industries while waterwheels survived in considerable numbers.

The fortunes of the industrial economy between 1850 and 1914 are next examined. Musson criticises those who argue that the industrial revolution ended round about 1850, that the period 1850-73 was one of exceptional prosperity, and this was followed by the so-called »great depression« of 1873-1896. He regards the period from the Great Exhibition to the first world war as one in which »the industrial revolution really occurred, on a massive scale, transforming the whole economy and society much more widely and deeply than the earlier changes had done.« In that period there was a considerable improvement in living standards as national income, real wages, and spending on consumer goods increased. By 1914 Britain had become a highly industrialised country with an economy characterised by large factories run by steam power. Many new machines and processes had transformed the industrial scene — the Bessemer, Siemens-Martin and Gilchrist Thomas steelmaking processes, the steam turbine, the electric generator, the internal combustion engine, the telephone, the sewing machine, the first plastics and many more. But while most of the inventions before 1850 had been of British origin a number of those in the later period were American or German. Musson also has his doubts about both the »great Victorian boom« and the subsequent »great depression«. He observes that it is an odd sort of boom that sees the collapse of the cotton industry during the American civil war and the very serious commercial crises of 1857 and 1866. And he points out that the »great depression« was an era of increased production (though growth rates of course were falling) and reasonably steady employment. What happened between 1873 and 1896 was that both prices and profit margins were declining but that hardly constitutes a depression. Musson's discussion of the characteristics of the industrial economy in the second half of the nineteenth century is followed by a very valuable detailed discussion of developments in the leading branches of manufacture.

In his concluding section on the inter-war period Musson again challenges some widely accepted views of the changes in the industrial economy that occurred between 1918 and 1939. He doubts whether the first world war was really a great watershed between a phase

of industrial expansion and supremacy in world trade and one of decline and unusually high unemployment. He points out that before the war there had been clear signs of decline such as a lower rate of industrial growth, a drop in productivity, and a failure to meet the challenge of foreign competition in markets at home and abroad. The war simply accelerated a process that had begun long before. After 1918 there was a dramatic decline in the old staple industries — coal, cotton, shipbuilding — on which Britain's prosperity had once rested. The result was a considerably higher level of unemployment than before which reached nearly 23 per cent during the slump that followed the Wall Street crash. But not all of the old industries declined. Building, for example, expanded. The survival of some of the old industries and the appearance of a number of new branches of manufacture meant that, on the whole, Britain's performance as an industrial country »improved substantially« between the wars. The new industries included certain branches of the chemical industry (such as rayon, plastics and photographic accessories), the manufacture of new motor vehicles and their components, and the electrical supply industry.

It is a compliment to the author rather than a criticism to ask for more. Musson deals only briefly with some aspects of Britain's economic development which are relevant to an examination of the growth of British industry. These include the role of such institutions as the Bank of England and the country banks, the London merchant banks and the stock exchange, the provincial and metropolitan commodity exchanges, Lloyds and the great insurance companies. While the impact of the first world war on the economy is discussed the effects of the wars of the French revolution and Napoleon on industrialisation in Britain hardly receive adequate attention. It may be added that the bibliography at the end is confined to books and articles written in English or translated into English. Some of the works of foreign scholars on the industrial history of Britain, even though they have not been translated, might with advantage have been included in the bibliography. W. O. Henderson

Hanspeter Ruesch, *Lebensverhältnisse in einem frühen schweizerischen Industriegebiet. Sozialgeschichtliche Studie über die Gemeinden Trogen, Rehetobel, Wald, Gais, Speicher und Wolfhalden des Kantons Appenzell Außerrhoden im 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert* (= Basler Beiträge zur Geschichtswissenschaft, Bd. 139/139a), 2 Bde., Verlag Helbing & Lichtenhahn, Basel/Stuttgart 1979, 689 S., brosch., 76 Fr.

Seit Jahren verfolgt die von M. Mattmüller an der Universität Basel mit großer Konsequenz geleitete Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Geschichte sozialer Strukturen in weitgehendem Anschluß an Konzept und Methoden der Annales-Schule ein langfristig angelegtes Projekt über die Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Schweiz zur Zeit des »Ancien Régime«. Die Arbeit von Hanspeter Ruesch fügt der Serie von bereits erschienenen Studien einen weiteren wertvollen Beitrag hinzu, indem sie innerhalb des bisherigen regionalen Forschungsschwerpunkts des »Hirtenlandes« mit Appenzell Außerrhoden erstmals auch ein Gebiet mit reformierter Bevölkerung und darüber hinaus »eine mehrheitlich von der Heimindustrie abhängige Bevölkerung« erfaßt. Die historisch-demographische Analyse, die das Herzstück der Arbeit bildet und in die sechs von zwanzig Gemeinden des näheren einbezogen wurden, ist breit eingebettet in eine Beschreibung der ökonomischen und sozialen Gegebenheiten und Bedingungen des Untersuchungsgebiets — der Zielsetzung des Gesamtprojekts entsprechend, von der historischen Demographie ausgehend, den weiteren Kontext der Lebensverhältnisse zu erschließen. Nicht zuletzt als Baustein zu dem umfassenderen Forschungsvorhaben erhält die Studie ihren Wert; die Bestandsaufnahme über den engeren Untersuchungsbereich ist bereits