

For a hundred years scholars have been engaged in research on the industrial revolution in Britain. Many aspects of the revolution have been discussed in monographs and articles while numerous general accounts have been written of the way in which Britain developed into the workshop of the world. It is natural that various studies of the industrial revolution should emphasize different aspects of Britain's industrial growth. Technical progress and innovation (particularly the inventions in the textile and iron industries), a low rate of interest, and a high rate of capital investment have all been seen as key factors which explain the astonishing growth of the British economy. Miss Deane is coauthor of two valuable statistical studies of Britain's economic growth and the strength of her book lies in the use which she has made of the statistical material which she and other scholars have collected and evaluated. Many early studies of the industrial revolution in Britain were written before the underdeveloped countries of the present day had any ambition to establish industries of their own. Miss Deane is well aware of this problem and in her preface she suggests that the fact that the industrial revolution in Britain »was achieved spontaneously and without the advantages of either planning or foresight seems to give it a special relevance to the problems of countries which are currently finding it difficult to begin or to sustain a process of industrialisation«. But since the circumstances in which Britain became industrialised were entirely different from those affecting modern underdeveloped countries it may be doubted whether those engaged in promoting the economic growth of such regions today have much to learn from Britain's experience two hundred years ago.

There are some weaknesses in this book to which attention must be drawn. The first is that apparently no attempt has been made in the edition of 1967 to correct the mistakes which reviewers noted when the book was first published in 1965. George Stephenson's *Rocket* for example is still called the *Rapid!* Secondly, the chapters on the growth of the cotton and iron industries as key factors in the expansion of the British economy should have been amplified by a discussion of the importance of the coal industry. Coal played a unique part in the industrial revolution in Britain. Without her vast resources of coal – her output was probably 85 per cent of the output of the world in 1880 – it is doubtful if there could have been an industrial revolution in Britain. Only increased coal production made possible the growth of the textile, iron, steel and engineering industries not to mention the development of railways and steamships. The power derived from coal drove pumps, machinery, locomotives and marine engines. Coal was used to smelt iron, to produce gas and to heat houses and industrial establishments. In 1776 Adam Smith observed that the coal trade between Newcastle and London gave employment to more people than all the leading branches of manufacture in the country. And the impetus for the construction of canal and railways came, in no small measure, from the need to transport coal from one part of the country to another.

Next, Miss Deane's chapter on the agricultural revolution requires some amplification in the light of Paul Bairoch's researches which were published in 1963. In his study of the process of industrialisation he expressed doubts concerning any correlation between population growth and industrial growth or between inflation and the expansion of manufactures. He argued that the expansion of the agricultural sector of the economy always precedes the growth of the manufacturing sector. And he considered that the increased demand of the farming community for metal and textile products was a vitally important factor in stimulating industrial growth.

A final criticism of Miss Deane's book is that – like so many others – it surveys the industrial revolution in Britain without paying sufficient attention to similar developments elsewhere. The industrialisation of Britain was part of something much wider – the industrialisation of western Europe, the United States and later Russia and Japan. The dramatic changes in the British economy that occurred in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century can be understood only if they are regarded as part of the great economic changes which affected much of Europe and North America and not merely the British Isles.

It may be added that since Miss Deane's list of books and articles is confined to works in English the attention of students is not drawn to important works by foreign scholars – such as the standard account of the British economy at the time of the Continental System by François Crouzet.

W. O. Henderson

Anton Rauscher, *Die soziale Rechtsidee und die Überwindung des wirtschaftsliberalen Denkens. Hermann Roesler und sein Beitrag zum Verständnis von Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft* (= *Abhandlungen zur Sozialethik*, Bd. 2), Verlag Schöningh, München/Paderborn/Wien, 1969, 313 S., 32 DM.

Rauschers Studie beschäftigt sich mit dem Ertrag eines wissenschaftlichen Lebenswerkes, das in der Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaft schon kaum eine zeitgenössische Resonanz gefunden hat und auch bis heute dogmengeschichtlich unbeachtet geblieben ist. Hermann Roesler, dessen Beitrag zur Entwicklung der »sozialen Rechtsidee« und zur Überwindung des Wirtschaftsliberalismus im nationalökonomischen Denken diese Arbeit behandelt, wurde 1834 geboren, nahm nach einem juristischen und »staatswirtschaftlichen« Studium 1861 einen Ruf nach Rostock als Ordinarius für Staatswissenschaften an. Er veröffentlichte zwischen 1860 und 1878 eine Reihe juristischer und volkswirtschaftlicher Arbeiten, darunter ein Lehrbuch der Volkswirtschaftslehre und eine kritische Studie über die Volkswirtschaftstheorie von Adam Smith, bis er 1878 als »juristischer Berater für das öffentliche Recht« in den Dienst des kaiserlich-japanischen Auswärtigen Amtes eintrat und dort wesentlichen Anteil an der Ausarbeitung der japanischen Verfassung hatte. Roesler starb 1894 während eines Erholungsaufenthaltes in Bozen.

Die Relevanz des wissenschaftlichen Werkes von Roesler ergibt sich für den Autor – der damit seine Habilitationsschrift für das Fach »christliche Sozialwissenschaften« in Münster vorlegt – im Hinblick auf die Konzipierung der christlichen Soziallehre von der »solidarischen Gesellschaft«, deren maßgebliche Grundlegung durch Roesler aufgezeigt werden soll. Diese Einbettung der Untersuchung in Ausgangspunkt und Zielsetzung muß zu ihrer Verständlichkeit besonders hervorgehoben werden, weil anders ihr Erkenntniswert als eine dogmengeschichtliche Abseitigkeit verkannt würde, zumal wegen solcher Absonderlichkeiten »christlicher« Sozialwissenschaft, die bei der Schilderung der Biographie Roeslers den Hinweis unverzichtbar findet, daß »wie sein Leben . . . auch sein Sterben von der Nachfolge Christi geprägt [war]« (S. 50); die auf die Fruchtbarkeit »des gesunden konservativen Denkens in Abgrenzung zum Liberalismus, aber ebenso zum Sozialismus« verweist (S. 113); die darzulegen in der Lage ist, daß Roesler »von seinem wissenschaftlichen Standpunkt her . . . den Sozialismus nicht allein, ja nicht einmal in erster Linie deshalb ab[lehnte], weil er sich anti-religiös und antikirchlich gebärdete« (S. 131); die schließlich – um diese Auslese abzuschließen – eine Mitteilung über die Kenntnis der Veröffentlichungen von Marx Ende der sechziger Jahre in Deutschland aus einem Literaturverweis auf eine Ketteler-Studie absichern zu sollen glaubt.