

Preface

The papers in this volume were all presented at a researcher course for Ph. D. students on "Development theory and the role of the state in Third World countries", co-sponsored by the Danish Research Academy, and held on March 4-9, 1991, in Hornbæk, Denmark.

The focal point of the course was the state and its role in societal development. While other courses in the series organised around the IDS Ph. D. Programme focus on the forces and organisations determining the forms of regime, on institutional development and inter-linkages at the local level, and on international economic institutions and development strategies, the present seminar series dealt primarily with the inter-relationships between state and society. Within that perspective attention was drawn to the decision-making processes through which economic and other development related policies are formulated and adopted in different Third World countries. Attention was also directed toward the implementation of adopted policies, the outputs produced and their impact (or non-impact) on societal development. Particular emphasis was assigned to the complex and differing inter-relationships between state forms and modes of intervention, on the one hand, and economic structures and institutions, including the market and property relations, on the other hand.

Several different conceptual frameworks and methodologies were presented. These included (a) traditional Marxist and other theories of the state, including theories which aim to explain particular patterns and forms of state intervention; (b) state building theories and theories concerned with public administration, economic planning, bureaucracies and military politics in the Third World; and (c) various approaches from the stream of analysis often referred to as the new institutional economics. The participants were introduced to some of the major theoretical, methodological and ideological controversies about the role of the state in economic and social de-

velopment. Special emphasis was given to the recent discussion between the "new classical" macro economists (Lal, Little, Balassa, etc.) and the development economists influenced by Keynesianism or Marxism.

Different spheres of state intervention were discussed. The state's role in providing a legal framework for economic and social development was thus among the topics of the course. But most of the attention was directed towards various forms of intervention in the economic processes.

The course dealt extensively with empirical evidence which could support particular conceptions and theories - and falsify or drastically limit the areas of applicability and validity of others. An important issue was the contrasting of the roles played by the state in different societies like those in East and South East Asia, in India and Pakistan, and in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pursuant to this, questions were raised concerning the very basic determinants of state forms, autonomy, capacity and developmental impact.

In methodological terms, the presentations ranged from rational choice and decision-making analyses of the behaviorist type to approaches based on the logic of functional explanations and structuralism. A major objective was to acquaint the participants with mutually exclusive, competing as well as supplementary modes of analysis with a further view to strengthening their own research methodologies.

The main objectives of the researcher course could be summed up in this manner:

- A) To acquaint the participants with some of the major approaches to the study of the state in a development context.
- B) To present and discuss different conceptualisations pertaining to state forms and their inter-relationships with the

rest of society, particularly the modes of production and market structures.

- C) To ensure a basic understanding of epistemological positions/assumptions and methodological guide-lines embodied in the different approaches to empirical analysis and theory construction.
- D) To discuss implications of empirical studies for the various theoretical frameworks and the hypotheses elaborated based on these.

We have compiled and published some of the major papers from this researcher course, because we believe that other post-graduate students as well as some graduate students might benefit from easy access to these introductions and reviews of recent discussions and theoretical developments. We have abstained from thorough formal editing and opted instead for fast processing and publishing.

As organiser of the course I would like to thank each of the paper writers for their contribution also to this volume. I believe we would all like to thank the participants and other guest lecturers for their stimulating and often provocative contributions to the researcher course.

Any comments, of course, would be highly appreciated.

Roskilde, August 1991

John Martinussen

Preface to the second edition

This edition includes a paper presented by Olle Törnquist. Otherwise no changes have been made.

Roskilde, August 1992

John Martinussen