

PENVENNE, JEANNE MARIE. *African Workers and Colonial Racism. Mozambican Strategies and Struggles in Lourenço Marques, 1877–1962.* [Social History of Africa.] Heinemann, Portsmouth (NH); Witwatersrand University Press, Johannesburg; James Currey, London 1994. xvii, 229 pp. Ill. £35.00. (Paper: £14.95.)

This book deals with the problems of the origins and development of a working class and its organizations in the southern region of Mozambique (Lourenço Marques) during Portuguese rule. It covers the period from the beginning of the effects of the industrialization of southern Mozambique to the year 1962 and deals with a number of socio-historical problems which, for various reasons, have not hitherto been extensively researched. The author is one of the few historians who have dealt extensively with such problems in southern Mozambique and who have published important results. The present study is undoubtedly another major contribution.

This book continues, on the one hand, Jeanne Penvenne's earlier studies, and, on the other hand, represents a systematization and summary of her work in this area. In addition to the new findings presented here, there are also several findings which the author has presented entirely or in part in previous publications. Her new findings buttress and flesh out her earlier ones. This enables the author to research and describe a relatively concentrated representation of decisive developments and unique characteristics of the African workers and their working and living conditions as well as their organizations in the Lourenço Marques region during almost the last century of Portuguese rule, from 1877 to 1962.

The chronological and thematic presentation is especially effective in discovering and interpreting a large amount of material, and in providing an extensive evaluation of the most important literature. Documents from Mozambican, Portuguese, American and British archives have been consulted, enabling a thorough analysis of the processes being studied. In addition, a large number of printed sources, important newspapers as well as year books have been drawn on. The author thereby succeeds in giving a complete, fundamental and problem-oriented picture of the decisive socio-historical processes in the formation, condition and development of native workers in southern Mozambique in the industrialized age. Moreover, it is important for the historiography of Mozambique and southern Africa in the late nineteenth and the twentieth century. The inclusion of individual examples from carefully selected biographical studies as well as an impressive wealth of interviews gives this book additional authentic contours. In using oral sources Jeanne Penvenne is following an important tradition in African historiography. These sources make interesting contributions to the discussion of cultural-historical and everyday matters.

The strength of the presentation lies not only in the extensive use and interpretation of archival sources but also in the complex analysis, interpretation and description of the theme by the author. The research and presentation of problems in the social history of African workers in the Lourenço Marques region are consistently placed within the context of the political and cultural framework of the Portuguese colonial system. The special characteristics of Portuguese colonial policy and the economic, social and cultural situation in southern Africa thus become clear. In this way the author shows that at the

end of the nineteenth century the genesis of the economic and social contours of Mozambique's southern region was fundamentally connected to the development of industrial centres in Transvaal. The recruitment of African workers in the region, their social conditions and special characteristics are related to the urban processes in and around the developing town of Lourenço Marques, with its port and railway complex. In this way a contribution is made to the history of the town and the region. Indeed, it seems to be an important concern of this book that it makes a contribution to the history of the African people of the Lourenço Marques (Maputo) region which exceeds the "White" history of the Portuguese town and colony.

Penvenne's study of contours of Portuguese colonial policy concerning African people examines not only their special characteristics, their variety but also their racial character. This becomes clear in her detailed presentation and discussion of the difficult phenomenon of the "Indigenato". In addition to other problems, the "shibalo" is discussed in detail and put in the context of the mass recruitment of Mozambican workers for the mines in Transvaal. The pattern of recruitment differed over time, however. The author would have done well to compare the racism inherent in Portuguese colonial policy with racism in South Africa/Transvaal and with English colonialism. Not only would this have been very interesting, it would also have provided a clear statement regarding the problem of racism in Mozambique.

The problem of the development of several groups and organizations of African workers in the Lourenço Marques region is presented in detail. The author has already recently published important findings in this field. Thus this book emphasizes her special competence too. At different places in the book, though, the author uses the term "working class". One might object that even according to the author's own categorizations it would be difficult to point to a unified class of workers in southern Mozambique, and thus the use of this term is liable to be misunderstood.

A further problem is that the author's representation of native African workers gives the impression that they had no or only a marginal connection with the white Portuguese workers and their organizations. This is true of the compulsorily recruited group of workers who were subjugated by the "shibalo", but it cannot be said of the class of free African workers who were occupied at the Lourenço Marques port-railway complex. Nor can it be said without qualification of those workers occupied in the Transvaal mines. Such a representation therefore overstates the extent to which the beginning of separate African working organizations was isolated from the activities of white workers.

This study could have been greatly improved if the author had also drawn on South African sources. Had she done so it would have become apparent that the important problem associated with workers being occupied in the mines of South Africa (Transvaal) has much in common with the one associated with the Mozambican situation. The important groups of workers from the Lourenço Marques area who sold their labour to earn money and gained their specific social, cultural and political experience have not been considered sufficiently; too little attention has been paid to their influence and importance for the social, political and cultural situation of African workers, their structure and forms of organization in the south of Mozambique.

Despite such reservations, Jeanne Penvenne's book makes an important contribution to the social history of the southern region of Mozambique, and, further-

more, to the history of Mozambique and southern Africa in general. It is one to which all future researchers in the field will be indebted.

*Mathias Tullner*

DITTMANN, WILHELM. *Erinnerungen*. Bearb. und eingel. von Jürgen Rojahn. [Quellen und Studien zur Sozialgeschichte, Band 14.] Campus Verlag, Frankfurt [etc.] 1995. xx, 286\*, 1562 pp. (in 3 vols). DM 420.00; S.fr. 420.00; S 3276.00.

At last they are available in print, the memoirs of the German Social Democratic politician Wilhelm Dittmann (1874–1954).

Dittmann rose from journeyman joiner to trade union official, party journalist and SPD member of parliament; was a spokesman for those opposing party policy during the First World War and became a founding member of the Independent Social Democrats (USPD); was one of the six “people’s representatives” in the revolutionary government in November–December 1918; helped, after the USPD split in 1920, to pave the way for the unification of the rump USPD and the SPD. At special risk as one of the supposed “November criminals” when Hitler was appointed chancellor in January 1933, he left Germany within a month. He wrote his memoirs, relying on extensive source material he had been able to take with him, in exile in Switzerland between 1939–1942.

The manuscript, numbering several thousand pages, had an unusual fate. No publisher could be found in Switzerland, and in Germany in the early 1950s neither the SPD party executive nor the Commission for the History of Parliamentary Democracy and Political Parties was willing to publish Dittmann’s memoirs. As Ludwig Bergsträßer, a Commission member, put it, it was dangerous to destroy legends, and he would not lend himself to that (p. 280). The manuscript ended up in Amsterdam in 1953, where the International Institute for Social History initiated preparations for publication. When two scholars entrusted with editing the material threw in the towel after years of inactivity, Jürgen Rojahn took over the task in 1980. Now, more than 40 years after completion of the manuscript, this important work has finally been published, in a lavish edition.

Dittmann’s memoirs cover the period from his childhood and youth until the year 1933. Cutting across the division into 25 chapters, the material is arranged in three large complexes, each of which has a distinct format and style. In the first part (around a quarter of the text) Dittmann gives a very vivid description of his youth and his development from union official to senior member of the SPD by the First World War. The second part (around a third of the total), covering the war years, in particular the arguments within the SPD parliamentary group, has the feel of a documentation. And the third part, covering the revolutionary period of 1918/1919, the rise and fall of the USPD and Dittmann’s activities within the reunited SPD, is written in the form of report, and also includes lengthy extracts from speeches and minutes.

Wilhelm Dittmann was born in 1874 and grew up in eastern Holstein. His father was a cartwright, who had to give up his trade and take a job in a wagon factory. The young Dittmann, the second oldest of four siblings, com-