

The second part of the third session was dedicated to 'Colonial Law and the Definition of Indigenous Society' with papers by J.Heesterman (Leiden) on 'The Social Impact of Colonial Legal Systems in India and Indonesia' and by D.Washbrook(Warwick) on 'Law and State, India and Indonesia'. Commentator was E.T.Stokes (Cambridge).

The fourth and last session 'Problems for Comparative Colonial History' was aimed at an evaluation-on-the-spot under the chairmanship of R.E.Robinson (Oxford). Most participants felt that the comparisons had been useful, albeit that the results differed widely. Most successful had been the discussions on the two colonial armies and the respective systems for cultivating cash-crops.

'To keep trying' was the obvious solution for some of the other conference themes, which seemed to defy a comparative approach. C.A.Bayly (Cambridge) pointed at an important topic for further comparative analysis: which differences and similarities were there in the societies of pre-penetration India and Indonesia and to what extent did these differences have an impact on the respective colonial societies?

It was hoped that funds could be raised in Holland to enable the organization of a second comparative Anglo-Dutch colonial history conference. Specific mention should be made of the kind generosity of both the British 'Social Science Research Council' and of the 'British Council' in their financial support for this conference.

The papers which were presented at this conference, will not be published as an entity; individual authors might seek publication in the appropriate scholarly journals.

P.C.Emmer



Announcement

The centre will organise its fifth workshop on 'Colonial Cities', 17-18 April 1980. Further information can be obtained from Robert Ross, Middelstegracht 4, Leiden.