
ANNOTATIONEN

Carola Lentz/David Lowe: Remembering Independence (= Remembering the Modern World), London/New York: Routledge 2018, xii + 244 p.

In 2018 “Remembering Independence”, co-authored by Carola Lentz and David Lowe, appeared as the fifth book in the Routledge series “Remembering the Modern World”.

The title is slightly misleading as in reality the book does not focus on collective memories and commemorations of (national) independence in general, but only of decolonization in Africa and Asia. The countries that are dealt with in detail are Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Namibia and Papua New Guinea.

The book consists of an introduction, six chapters, and a section with final reflections. It also contains a twelve pages long index that allows for detailed search of individual facts. The first chapter sketches the conceptual framework and introduces the ‘media’ where the remembrance of independence takes place. The books, museums, monuments, heroes, martyrs, and national days highlighted in this chapter presage the following chapters 2 to 4. These deal with independence days as mediating moments between past, present and future (chapter 2), the iconic national

heroes around which both unity and division, inclusion and contestation crystallize (chapter 3), and the smaller “martyrs, victims, and anti-heroes” of liberation who vie for a place in the national gallery (chapter 4).

The two last chapters of the book add a spatial and temporal dimension to the analysis. In chapter 5 regional differences as well as the concentration of commemoration in specific places – typically the capital cities – is used to ‘map’ the remembering of independence. Chapter 6 in turn deals with the temporal flexibility in choosing which past is remembered for which future as part of contemporary political agendas.

Richly illustrated and replete with insightful examples, this book gives an agreeable access to the politics and practices of national remembrance and identity in post-colonial Africa and Asia.

Geert Castryck

Trevor Burnard/John Garrigus: The Plantation Economy. Atlantic Capitalism in French Saint-Domingue and British Jamaica (= The Early Modern Americas), Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press 2016, 350 p.

The co-authored book, “The Plantation Economy”, appears in an active and im-