
ANNOTATIONEN

Tamara Chaplin / Jadwiga E. Pieper Mooney (eds.): The Global 1960s. Convention, Contest, and Counterculture, London / New York 2018, 300 pp.

This collection of rather impressionistic descriptions of the decade between formal decolonization in Africa and last vibrations of the 1968 revolt is co-edited by Tamara Chaplin, Professor of Modern European History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who is known for her publications on French cultural history, and Jadwiga E. Pieper Mooney, Professor of Modern Latin American History at the University of Arizona who has mainly published on gender relations in Chile. Both have brought together 14 authors who have chosen a specific dimension of the decade and who explore this dimension by focusing on a specific region or country in the world. The book thus opens with a chapter on Bourguiba and Senghor to introduce the legacies of colonial history for the now upcoming period of new hopes and initiatives in independent sub-Saharan Africa (Burleigh Hendrickson). The chapter, however, has to accommodate at the same time a short review of the worldwide students' movement, almost every reader will expect from such a book devoted to the 1960s. This is followed by an 18

pages long study of the "socialist scramble for Africa" which already in its title refers to Zbigniew Brzezinski's analysis of the Soviet bloc as suffering from more and more internal conflict and fragmentation (Nick Rutter). The relationship between second and third world is used to introduce at the same time the transformation of the socialist camp from homogeneity to porousness. This principle applies to all the following chapters as well – the editors have invested a lot to compose a volume that fascinates with unexpected angles from which already well-known subjects are presented, with exotic place where stories start that have been told already several times but not in that perspective. This first of all introduces a broad readership to globality in the sense that traditional narratives can be recognized but are sufficiently alienated to go beyond the commonly known. It decentres such stories and convinces the reader that it is worth to look at places that are normally not in the focus when studying topics such as national sovereignty (for which Steffen Bruendel selects the British rule over Northern Ireland) or world views and phantasies of creating the new man (which is analysed by Milinda Banerjee with regard to the Naxalite political activists in West Bengal). In contrast, the global erotics of the French sexual revolution may

be seen as a rather conventional perspective but Todd Shepard connects the theme in a very interesting way to the end of the French-Algerian war in 1962. In contrast and at the same time as a welcome complement, Jing Jing Chang looks at patterns of masculinity through the lens of martial arts films making Hong Kong known as a place of popular cinema production where the Cold War gender stereotypes play out in a particular way. Alejandro J. Gomez-del-Moral explores the confrontation of Franco's dictatorship over Spain and the emerging consumer society which resists more and more to traditional form of disciplinization. In Karen L. Ishizuka's analysis of Asian-Americans looking at the Vietnam War very personal identification with the subject comes to the fore and we learn that the seemingly exotic configurations being at the centre of attention in this volume exist already for quite some time so that they impact on the biographies of mid-career academics.

Jérôme Bourdon with his study of Israel's image in the 1960s and Maha Nasser's investigation into the leftist vocabularies among Palestinian citizens of Israel remind us of conflictual constellations that last since the global 1960s and make the period to a certain extent a close neighbour exactly at the moment when the activists of this time demission. The volume will certainly serve as an introduction to a turbulent decade for students who have been born after the millennium but it is also an important complement to the existing research literature on the many facets of a time when – to mention an element of stability in a period of turmoil – Brazilian football was so dominant that it won three times out of four possibilities the world

championships: 1958 in Stockholm, 1962 in Santiago, and 1970 in Mexico-City.

Matthias Middell

Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol: African Countries and the Scramble for China. A Contribution to Africa's Preparedness and Rehearsal, Leiden/Boston: Brill 2019, xvii + 190 pp.

This is a manifesto for developing Sino-African relations rather than an academic book. The author, Ngonlardje Kabra Mbaidjol, is a Chadian diplomat joined the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agency in 1984. Among others he is a former UNHCR regional representative in the Central African Region (2000–2003), director of the New York UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office (2007–2009), director of the UNHCR Ethics Office in Geneva (2009–2012), and chairperson of the Ethics Committee of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (2010–2015). He holds a PhD from the University of Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development (1985). Since 2012, he is working as an international consultant, based in New Jersey.

In this lean book (the main text, divided into eleven chapters, stretches over just 158 pages), Mbaidjol calls "for strategic" thinking of African states in engaging with the People's Republic of China to benefit from economic and financial cooperation. The book is premised on the assumption that China "is nowadays a respectable global economic partner" (p. x). It offers "competitive trade opportunities, high investment returns, and other mutually