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Review

Reviewed Work(s): Slavery in Classical Antiquity by M. I. Finley; Slavery in Ancient India by Dev Raj Chanana

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Fischer begins with a chronological survey, in which he points out special fundamental trends (at the beginning of the nineteenth century, then after the founding of the German *Zollverein*). This historical sketch is followed by an analysis according to economic types and by the attempt to determine sociologically and classify the representatives of enterprises. The industrialization process in Baden corresponds to its geographical location. It took place later than in Switzerland and in Alsace, although earlier than in most of the medium-sized German states. This essay is an excerpt from Fischer's book *Staat und Industrie in Baden 1800 bis 1850* which will be published in the near future. K. RIEKER, 'Die Konzentrationsentwicklung in der gewerblichen Wirtschaft. Eine Auswertung der deutschen Betriebszählungen von 1875 bis 1950', *Tradition, Zeitschrift für Firmengeschichte und Unternehmerbiographie*, V (1960), 116–31. By means of industrial statistics Rieker examines whether Marx's thesis of the suppression of small and medium-sized businesses by large enterprises is correct. The result is that the number of business enterprises grows simultaneously with the number of workers.

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#### GENERAL

- M. I. FINLEY (Ed.). *Slavery in Classical Antiquity*. (Cambridge: W. Heffer & Sons. 1960. Pp. vii + 235. 15s.)  
 DEV RAJ CHANANA. *Slavery in Ancient India*. (New Delhi: People's Publishing House. 1960. Pp. xi + 203. Rs. 10.00.)

The last ten years have seen a remarkable revival of interest in slavery in the ancient world, comparable to that stimulated by the abolitionist movement and the American Civil War; but despite Rostovtzeff's work and the publication of Westermann's *Slave Systems of Greek and Roman Antiquity* in 1955, there is still no definitive modern study to take the place of Wallon's *Histoire de l'esclavage dans l'antiquité*, now nearly a century old. With the needs of his Cambridge seminar in mind, Dr Finley has therefore published this photographic reproduction of eleven recent papers (including one in German and two in French) from periodicals as a contribution towards the filling of this gap, and he has rounded them off with a very useful bibliographical essay. Though employed before in medicine, the method is new in this field; it forms a precedent warmly to be commended, and that not only on grounds of convenience and cheapness. The technical disadvantages – different types and margins – are trifling; and in the clash of opinions the problems become alive.

Many popular beliefs are here questioned. A. H. M. Jones is not the only writer to argue forcibly that there is no evidence that slaves in the ancient world undercut the wages of free labour, though in Republican Italy gang slavery did throw peasants out of work. Finley himself, who accounts slavery a more important matter than Jones would admit, shows how, paradoxically, its growth and that of democracy went hand in hand. He puts the number of slaves at Athens rather higher than Westermann, who discusses Athenaeus's figures and, in another essay, tries to define the elements which constitute legal freedom and the extent to which slavery supervenes when any of these is absent. H. Lévy-Bruhl has a rather schematic account of ancient theories of slavery, and R. Schlaifer traces the development of Greek thought about slavery down to the fourth century, when the first opposition took the form of

rejecting, not the institution, but only Aristotle's theory that it was natural. In a brilliant paper (to which he adds some reservations from 1959) G. Vlastos links Plato's cosmological belief in a disorderly and irrational *ananke* 'persuaded' towards the good by the Demiurge with his views on the relations between master and slaves. Vogt writes on the growth of humanity in relation to nurses, pedagogues and doctors of servile status; M. L. Gordon surveys slave nationalities and nomenclature at Rome; E. A. Thompson discusses slavery in pre-migration Germany; and M. Bloch concludes with a fine analysis of the transition from slavery to serfdom.

With the last two papers we are already outside the classical world; and indeed the 'peculiar institution' resists any such confinement. It is, for example, interesting to observe how closely Westermann's definition of the elements of freedom lacking to the slave correspond with that of the *Digha Nikaya* recorded in D. R. Chanana's book on slavery in ancient India. This work marks the first attempt to assemble and discuss the evidence for Indian slavery contained in the Rigveda, the ancient Sanskrit epics and the Buddhist canonical texts in Pali. Western scholars will now no longer be restricted to casual and ill-informed remarks in a handful of Greek authors for their knowledge of Indian slavery, and they will echo the warm welcome extended to this work in the foreword by M. Filliozat of the Collège de France.

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*Sredniye Veka* (The Middle Ages). Vols. XVII and XVIII. (Academy of Sciences of the USSR. 1960. Pp. 348 and 425.)

The volumes of *Sredniye Veka*, published from time to time by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., are large cloth-bound books of 3-400 pages. The contents consist of articles and reviews, mainly dealing with west European history, though there is an article in Vol. XVII on an 8th century Chinese poem. The period covered extends from the late Roman Empire to the seventeenth century, since the Middle Ages end for Soviet historians in 1640. In recent volumes summaries in the appropriate West European language have been printed at the end of the main articles. The English reader should ignore these résumés, which will give him little idea of the contents or value of the article. They normally emphasize the schematic Marxist generalizations of the article, and conceal the solid factual basis on which the generalizations are usually based.

Of the volumes under review, No. XVII contains a number of articles on the peasantry and agrarian relations – by M. M. Meyman on the rise of feudal relations in the Roman Empire of the West; by L. A. Kotelnikova on the North Italian peasantry in the ninth-twelfth centuries; by Yu. L. Bessmertny on the peasantry of Lorraine in the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries, arguing that improvements in legal position did not necessarily entail economic improvement. A. N. Chistozvonov writes on the social structure of South Holland in 1494 and 1514, on the basis of (printed) inquiries into tax assessment. A. S. Samoylo surveys agrarian relations in the Puritan colonies of New England. Yu. M. Saprykin analyses the volume of the Irish Civil Survey dealing with Limerick in 1654-6. L. S. Chikolini discusses the social satires published in the mid-sixteenth century by Antonio Francesco Doni, printer of the first Italian translation of More's *Utopia*. Chikolini argues that as a critic of private property and a proponent of Utopian communism Doni deserves to be put beside Campanella. M. M. Gromyko makes a careful analysis of the (printed)