

AUS WISSENSCHAFT UND PRAXIS

Research Institute for International Affairs Ebenhausen (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)

The ›Research Institute for International Politics and Security of the Foundation for Science and Politics‹ is the most important institute in West Germany in the field of International Relations.

The Foundation itself grew out of a grouping of some 30 leading scientists and policy-makers, which in 1961, under the chairmanship of the late Professor Arnold Bergstraesser, had come together in order to further interdisciplinary policy-oriented research in the field of international relations, national security, and arms control and disarmament, to bring together theoreticians and practitioners in the discussion of the relevant problems, and to provide a competent group of experts for international dialogues. This grouping initiated the Stiftung in 1963.

In 1965, the Bundestag, under the challenge of its SPD members, asked the Federal Government to set up both an office for arms control and disarmament within the Federal Government and an independent research institute which might provide the necessary scientific analyses. The Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, which had been set up for the purpose of institutionalizing foreign policy research, proceeded to organize a research institute for this purpose under the direction of Professor Klaus Ritter; it began operating in 1965. Originally its funds were included in the budget of the Foreign Office (where the arms control office was initially set up. Later, its budget was transferred to that of the Federal Chancellery in order to enable the institute to coordinate and to tie together the research activities of the Foreign Office and the Defense Department in arms control and disarmament matters. It currently receives some DM 10 millions a year in basic support; additional funds can be secured from foundations for basic research. The Forschungsinstitut of the SWP, having built up in its twenty years' history a staff of some forty researchers – many among whom are widely acknowledged as experts in their fields – attempts to meet in its research program the needs of policy preparation and analysis. It is therefore in close contact with all four caucuses of the Bundestag and the relevant departments, staying free, however, of the limitations of contractual research.

In order to facilitate and intensify the dialogue between the Stiftung and Parliament, the main ministries, the foundations of political parties, party headquarters, offices of the churches and similar institutions based in Bonn, the SWP in 1969 decided to establish a liaison office in Bonn.

The SWP sees its proper function as one of providing advanced analyses of potential problem areas to a bureaucracy which is generally more occupied with day-to-day operations. It is also prepared to draw on its expertise for studies geared to more immediate policy needs. For these purposes the SWP has access to classified material; its research reports, however, with very few exceptions, are widely distributed to policy-makers, opinionmakers, and interested scholars. Research results are also widely published in periodicals, books etc. In 1978, SWP inaugurated its own publication series »Internationale Politik und Sicherheit« and in 1983 »Aktuelle Materialien zur Internationalen Politik« (in cooperation with the Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden).

The institute's overall research program is set once every two years by the Stiftungsrat (a supervisory council composed of representatives from the foreign policy bureaucracies, the Bundestag, and the science community). Within the confines of this very broad program the institute is free to pursue its research activities according to its own set of priorities.

The Research Institute for International Affairs works in four general areas, each of which involves a number of different subjects:

- Western European policy, Atlantic policy, Eastern European and Soviet policy;
- international security policy (questions involving defence strategies, arms control and technological developments);
- international economy;
- developments outside of Europe (Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America) with reference to the other areas.

To the readers of *Verfassung und Recht in Übersee* the Stiftung's activities in the later field will be of particular interest. As far as the Middle East is concerned, recent studies of the Stiftung dealt with the political culture of the PLO, democratisation in Egypt, the relationship between the two Yemens, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Council's relationship with the EC. The Latin America experts of the Foundation concentrated their efforts in the last years on US and EC policies in Latin America, developments in Brazil and Nicaragua, and the Carribean. As far as East and South Asia are concerned, the research of the SWP focuses on internal developments in China, the Soviet-Japanese relations, the South Asian Regional Cooperation, Pakistan's and India's nuclear policies and India's role as a donor in the field of international development policies. Finally the SWP works on African issues, i. e. Soviet Policies in black and South Africa, regional cooperation in Southern Africa, the EEC/ACP relationship, the role of the OAU and the African state system, western policies in Namibia and South Africa, and the internal developments in the Republic of SA.

Social science research, and especially policy-relevant analyses, cannot be carried out without easy access to all sorts of printed material. The SWP, therefore, has concentrated a large part of its efforts on the build-up of a large library and an extensive newspaper clipping file (which is complete for the period since 1968); more important – in its own estimation and for its own purposes – is the development of a computerized access system. This system is based on a polyhierarchical thesaurus, which allows a fairly ex-

tensive cataloguing of literature. The researcher, in turn, is enabled to »communicate« with the computer until he has located that mix of categories which yields a listing of all publications written on a very specific topic. Plans currently under development call for the build-up of a nation-wide integrated information system in the fields of international relations and area studies.

Klaus Frhr. von der Ropp

Barthazar Aloys Rwezaura

Traditional Family Law and Change in Tanzania

A Study of the Kuria Social System

Tradition and change in African social institutions is a theme which has attracted many social scientists since the thurn of this century. However, although there are many studies dealing with various aspects of social economic change in Africa, there are few works by lawyers covering a similar field. This book is a lawyer's contribution.

The book is based on the author's fieldwork in Tanzania. It analyses the structure of the Kuria traditional social systems and the role of the colonial state and shows how the transformation of Kuria traditional economy affected family relations. Three areas are examined in greater detail. They include changes in relations between parent and child, husband and wife, and the transformation of bridewealth from a traditional economic exchange to an item of individual consumption. The historical and interdisciplinary approach of the book makes it particularly relevant for most social scientists interested in African studies.

1986, 197 S., kart., 62,- DM, ISBN 3-7890-1201-1
(Institut f. Internationale Angelegenheiten Hamburg, Bd. 17)



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