

The total pattern, therefore, has been and will doubtless continue to be one of fluidity marked by the relatively rapid change in earlier roles and relationships. Although there has been a growing trend towards regional co-operation, concrete achievements have been slow in coming and limited in scope. Asia and the Western Pacific have not yet acquired anything like the comparative equilibrium and sense of cohesion of the European continent and are not likely to do so in the foreseeable future.

The Forces of Change

There are other long-term problems for which solutions must be sought in the Pacific and Asia—population pressures, the growth of great urban agglomerations of poor people, the rising expectations of Asian youth aroused by basic education and mass communications, effective economic development, race relations, the interrelationship of six of the world's great languages, the interplay of cultures and religions.

There is an inevitable tension between the forces of change and the forces of tradition. Who will control the process of change; how fast will it go and at what cost will its objectives be achieved? Post-war Asia has come up with different answers to these questions, for reasons as varied as the traditions of the countries concerned and the positions in which they have found themselves in the interplay of power. China has chosen the course of revolutionary change, and has become a centre of activity and inspiration for movements which seek the same solution elsewhere. Japan, by contrast, has accomplished another kind of revolution—the technological miracle of Asia.

Both of these solutions have played into an Asian consciousness which has been highly sensitized to Western influence yet which has, at the same time, become more and more aware of the rich cultural legacy of the ancient empires of Asia. One of the dimensions of political nationalism has been the reawakening of a sense of pride in a cultural personality rooted in antiquity, and in many cases obscured by more recent colonial domination. It is possible to discern the beginnings of a tendency to seek local solutions based on indigenous traditions and patterns of thought. The search for expanded opportunity, social justice and a sense of national pride remain fundamental to the search for stability in the region.

The shifting power balance is thus only one aspect of the pattern of unresolved tensions in the Pacific region. The forces of tradition are strong, but they are bending and accommodating to the onslaught of ideological challenges and technological change. The fabric of Asian