

E. Gough Whitlam, *A Pacific Community*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1981. Pp. xii, 122. Bibliography, index. \$12.50.

This small book consists of four addresses given by former Australian Labor Party Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, in 1979. Three addresses were delivered at Harvard University where Mr. Whitlam was visiting professor in Australian studies, and the fourth to an Australia-Japan symposium in Canberra. Whitlam's theme is that given the increased inter-

dependence of the Pacific region since 1945, the time is now appropriate for governments to formalize their economic and political relations and construct a genuine Pacific community. The basis for such a community, he asserts, lies in the tremendous recent economic growth and the emergence of a clear economic identity in the Western Pacific, and in the relative predictability of political change in the region. His organizational model is not that of an integrated regional economic system, but one similar to the Commonwealth of Nations which embraces a diverse range of developed and developing countries. His vision is of a Pacific community based on growth, equity and political harmony.

In Chapters One and Two, which deal with resources and trade, Whitlam proposes a number of progressive measures on resource development support for the Law of the Sea Convention, revision of the Antarctica Treaty, on the liberalization of trade and aid, and on the responsibilities of foreign investment. Unlike some of the economists and others engaged in formulating a "Pacific Rim" strategy, Whitlam is particularly concerned that the small developing nations obtain an equitable deal and are not "ripped-off" in the process. In Chapter Three dealing with the politics of the Western Pacific, he is sharply critical of earlier United States' interventionist and divisive policies in the region, and of current American strategy in isolating Vietnam; but he believes that despite the uncertainties surrounding the future of Indo-China, the political orientations of the Pacific states are sufficiently predictable for a satisfactory accord to be reached.

In Chapter Four Whitlam explores the relationships between Japan and Australia, and, apart from criticizing conservative Australian governments for their alleged failure to develop an appropriate economic and regional strategy, he exhorts both countries to look beyond purely economic relations in their dealings with other states of the region.

As Prime Minister of Australia from 1972 to 1975, Whitlam's record on decolonization, to the normalization of Australia's relations with Asia, and on the general promotion of Pacific cooperation, was outstanding. In these addresses, however, he seriously understates the intraregional contradictions and political constraints which are bound to inhibit the emergence of the type of community he has in mind. The book, nevertheless, is lucidly written, insightful, and will serve as a useful introduction to the study of the Pacific's political economy.

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