

Bert G. Fragner. *Die Persophonie. Regionalität, Identität und Sprachkontakt in der Geschichte Asiens.* Published by Das Arabische Buch, Berlin, 1999 (2000?), 116 p.

Tchanguiz Pahlavan



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- 1 This small book is discussing a very important cultural aspect of the Iranian Civilization. The author believes that the word « persophonie » which has been coined after the « francophonie » does not enjoy the desired precision he is looking for. This word should have been able to transmit the meaning of the « qalamrū-yi zabān-i fārsī ». The latter literally means « The Realm of the Persian Language » or in the German Language we might translate it to « Das Reich der Persischen Sprache ».
- 2 According to the author we have to distinguish between Persian as the mother tongue (or native language) and Persian as trans-regional language (= Lingua Franca) which had been in use for a very long period of time in a vast region including Central Asia.
- 3 The author deals with a number of quite interesting questions without being able to discuss and analyse all of them in detail in this very small book. But this does not decrease the value of the book or the questions concerned. Many things mentioned in the present book need further research and study. On the whole after having read the book one gets a general picture of the problem concerned. Besides that this small book belongs to those researches which widens the scope of the present Iranian Studies. We might only understand many Cultural, historical and political aspects of this region provided we were able to conduct interrelated researches, trans-national and trans-regional studies. In this sense the contribution of this book is of some importance. The French scholarship had been much more advanced comparing to the similar efforts in other parts of the world. The expression « Le Monde Iranien » has created a better perspective to develop an interrelated understanding of one of the ancient civilizations

of the world in a region starting from China including the present central Asia, South-East Asia, Persian Gulf, Caucasus to the Black Sea.

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Thèmes : 2.2. Langues vivantes et dialectes

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