

bles d'héberger sans densification aucune plus de 100 000 habitants alors que la population actuelle atteint à peine 27 000 personnes, ainsi qu'une certaine spéculation foncière constituent une des grandes forces agissant sur le paysage. L'agriculture rationalisée en a déplacé l'impact en intensifiant la culture des terrains encore relativement naturels, qui ne subsistent plus que sous forme de rares îles.

Compte tenu des conditions naturelles et socio-économiques, le présent travail tente de décrire la mutation du paysage de la plaine du Rhin au Liechtenstein à l'aide de diverses études. Il montre en détail les causes et leurs effets dans les zones urbanisées et à la campagne et tire des conclusions pour les nécessaires perspectives d'avenir pour le pays.

trad. J.-B. Chappuis

#### SUMMARY

In Liechtenstein, just 5000 hectares of landscape make up the small valley, between the Alpine River Rhine and the mountain slopes, which means 30 % of the whole area. Formerly recurrent inundations by the rhine, the strong weathering due to tectonic influences accompanied by frequent mountain torrents and numerous conflagrations in the villages caused by the south wind, called "Föhn", did not allow any economic prosperity in this corridor. This fact is proven when the older buildings that are still at hand are examined closely. Only the embankment of the rhine and the consequently drainage of the planes around the rhine valley through the construction of a main canal gradually allowed an intensive agricultural use, these successful operations taking place from about 1850 until the II. World-War.

At the turn of the century it was still 1600-1800 hectares of wetlands that covered the coomb, which represented about 40 % of the whole area at that time. Today only about 8 % are left. In Liechtenstein the abrupt change from a population of mainly agricultural workers to a postindustrial society took place only until the length of one generation. While more than 30 % of the population worked in the fields of agriculture and forestry during the II. World War, this rate has been reduced to 3 % at present.