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## **Bayanikasan - The Effective Democracy for all**

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which might have related the author's earlier views to subsequent events. For in fact, much of our theorizing has been overtaken by events and many of the structures which Ramos describes no longer function as they did ten years ago. Nor has his reading of a trend toward a dual type of unionism — one segment relying on collective bargaining in behalf of the economically more powerful groups, and the other on political action in favor of the weaker groups — been verified, unless by the latter we understand the clandestine, ideologically-oriented training sessions being organized for factory workers and peasants.

What *does* seem to be verified, unfortunately, is the observation of Professor Dunlop [John T. Dunlop, "The Role of the Free Trade Union in a Less Developed Nation," in *American Labor's Role in Less Developed Countries*, A Report on a Conference held at Cornell University, 12–17 October 1958, p. 19.] years ago and which I at the time was reluctant to accept:

I do not want to get into an argument about this word "free," but I will go so far as to say that I doubt there is a free trade union in any under-developed country, and I will go so far as to say that we are unlikely to have a free trade union in such a country. Any elite which is managing industrialization is not going to allow a free trade union.

I say that this is unfortunate for two reasons. It perpetuates a pattern, now questioned by leading specialists in economic development, whereby the costs of development have been paid by the poor and the weak, while its fruits were enjoyed by the wealthy and powerful. And it favors the growth of a clandestine, radicalized labor movement excluded from genuine participation in "the system" and bent on its total overthrow.

*John J. Carroll, S.J.*

**BAYANIKASAN — THE EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL.** By Salvador Araneta. Malabon, Rizal: Bayanikasan Research Foundation, 1976. svii, 349 pages.

This is a well-thought-out discussion on the subject of democracy or *bayanikasan* (the author's rendition of the word in the national language). The word refers to that form of government which is based on the principle of popular sovereignty. Such a government is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "a government of the people, by the people, for the people." Democracy has been hailed as the best system of government ever devised by the mind of man.

The author has impressive credentials for the task he has chosen to undertake. A lawyer by profession, he has an established reputation as a political scientist and economist. He was at one time president of a large university in Manila. He comes from an illustrious family; his father was a member of the Philippine Commission during the early decades of American rule in the Philippines. He was a member of the 1935 and 1971 Constitutional Conventions.

The book shows that the benefits of democracy as a system of government can best be achieved through a course of action aimed at (1) the democratization of wealth, (2) the democratization of power, and (3) the democratization of man.

In connection with the democratization of wealth, the author as a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention submitted a plan designed to broaden the ownership base of an enterprise with a view to giving the unpropertied class a chance to become part owners of the enterprise in which they have their main source of livelihood. The plan would require the contribution by the "little man" of "seed funds" derived from various sources, such as compulsory savings from wages and salaries and bonuses from a profit-sharing plan. It seeks to correct the existing anomalous situation in the country where 10 percent of the population own 90 percent of the nation's wealth leaving the remaining 10 percent in the hands of 90 percent of the country's households.

It is interesting to note that a plan very much like that proposed by the author is being put into effect in the United States. In 1974, The U.S. Congress approved a program known as the ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) under which substantial tax benefits were accorded to companies that would adopt ESOPs for their employees. In 1976, the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress called upon the legislature to ratify the goal of stock bonuses to employees as part of "a national policy to pursue the goal of broadened capital ownership." (Alan Adams, "Profit Sharing," *Horizons U.S.A.* 22).

With respect to the democratization of power, Araneta claims that that objective can best be achieved through the participation of the people, individually or through their accredited representatives, in the life of the nation. For one thing, he proposes a term of six years for all officials in the national and local governments. Any person, including his spouse, after serving one administration is disqualified for election or appointment during the succeeding administration. Known as the 6-6 rule, the plan is intended to prevent elective officials from utilizing their positions to assure their continuance in office and thereby establish family dynasties.

A proposed change of major importance is the creation of three states, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao with delegated constitutional powers of government. The plan would decentralize the powers now exercised by the central government and at the same time meet the aspirations of the inhabitants of the Muslim South for local autonomy. According to the author, the proposed arrangement would enable the Philippine Government to maintain more effectively peace and order and at the same time facilitate the establishment of closer economic, political and cultural relations between the Philippines and the states of Southeast Asia of which the great majority of the population in common with the inhabitants of the Muslim South profess the Islam faith.

With regard to the democratization of man, he states that there is need for an environment that is conducive to the development of the new man, an en-

vironment of good human values, good institutions and good policies. The new man that emerges from such an environment is humane, fully imbued with a sense of his duties and responsibilities as a citizen and as a child of God.

But the democratization of man as envisioned by the author is not by any means easy to accomplish for the simple reason that man has a free will and a natural desire to enhance his interests, individual and collective. Freedom of the will is the hallmark of man's human dignity. It enables him to conduct himself in a given critical situation either in the spirit of a hero or in the manner of a beast having no regard whatsoever for the laws of either men or of God. The misguided use of man's free will is the source of all the troubles and difficulties that afflict mankind.

Today, the author tells us, there are two politico-socio-economic systems contending for the minds and hearts of mankind: Capitalism and Communism. Capitalism with its exploitative and monopolistic tendencies is viewed as the source of many of the ills that afflict mankind – poverty, unemployment, class conflicts, etc. Communism is dictatorial and hostile to the idea of private ownership of property, but it is attractive to many of the peoples of the world because of its avowed concern for the welfare of the masses.

The author offers bayanikasan as an alternative to capitalism and communism. Under that system, he claims, there are better prospects for the people to enjoy a higher standard of living. The author's claims are meritorious. His proposals and recommendations reflect the thinking of a scholar and a statesman and are worthy of serious study and considerate judgment by the political leadership of this country.

*Nicolas Zafrá*

EL GOBIERNO DE DON GASPAR ANTONIO DE LA TORRE Y AYALA/  
LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS. By Vicente Rodríguez García. Granada: Universidad de Granada, 1976. x, 283 pages. 315 pesetas.

EL GOBIERNO EN FILIPINAS DEL ILMO. SR. DON FRAY JUAN DE  
ARECHEDERRA Y TOVAR, OBISPO DE LA NVA. SEGOVIA. By  
Antonio F. Garcia Gonzalez. Granada: Universidad de Granada, 1976. ix,  
243 pages. 315 pesetas.

In recent years a number of books by Spanish scholars, led by Professor Ma. Lourdes Díaz-Trechuelo, who writes the foreword to these two books, have begun to dispel some of the obscurity which had long shrouded eighteenth century Philippine history. The two books under review are both licentiate theses done at the University of Granada. From a chronological point of view they form a unity, since De la Torre was governor 1739–1745, and at his sudden death was succeeded by Juan de Arechederra, O.P., Bishop-elect of