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Cruzada Española En Vietnam: Campaña De Cochinchina

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http://www.philippinestudies.net Fri June 27 13:30:20 2008 foreign countries. The actions of the U. S. that created military and economic dependency in the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand did not prevail in Indonesia. Any attempt to help was held in suspicion by all Indonesians. The failure of American policy in Asia in the period following World War II arose from the failure to understand the new nationalism in Asia and Africa. Nationalism was wrongly seen as the throwing off of the colonial yoke. Archaic societal systems also had to be overthrown if the aspirations of the common man had to be satisfied. America was not aware of the aspirations of Asian peoples. Another important and perhaps surprising conclusion is that "economic development is not economics alone — it involves the total socio-political and religious attitudinal web and structure of society."

The book is explicitly for Americans in the hope that her leaders may take the steps needed for Indonesia to become what she has the power to be, a great Asian country. Still it is recommended for those who wish to deepen their understanding of Indonesia and of Southeast Asia as well.

Subroto Widjojo

CRUZADA ESPANOLA EN VIETNAM: CAMPANA DE COCHINCHINA. By Francisco Gaínza, O.P. Introducción y edición de Fidel Villarroel, O.P. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 1972. xxiv, 559 pp.

The relevance of this book to Philippine history, apart from the fact that its editor is professor of history and archivist of the University of Santo Tomas, is two-fold. The expedition of 1859—1862 to what today is Vietnam was carried out by joint French and Spanish forces, purportedly to obtain satisfaction for the execution of the Spanish Dominican bishop, José Ma. Sanjurjo, the latest of a number of Christians, native and foreign, martyred in the preceding years, and to obtain religious liberty for the persecuted Vietnamese Christians. The Spanish contingent of 1500 men from Manila was mostly made up of Filipino soldiers. Secondly, accompanying the expedition was Father Francisco Gaínza, professor of the University of Santo Tomás, and a major figure in the mid-century history of the Philippine church, particularly as the energetic and enterprising bishop of the diocese of Caceres.

Gaínza was a prodigious writer on many subjects, and in addition to his published books, left a number of unpublished works now found in the Santo Tomas archives. Among them is his chronicle of the first phase of the campaign, in which Gaínza was present. Because of his frank criticism of both French and Spanish officials, apparently the book was refused publication, whether by ecclesiastical or civil authorities is not clear. Father Villarroel has now published it as the heart of the book under review, annotating it where necessary and providing the necessary complements to the story. The first part of the book gives the background to the

Franco-Spanish intervention. Mainly this was French imperialist ambitions in Asia, to which Spain, principally for religious reasons, was persuaded to give her help from Manila. The second part (pp. 59—237) is the chronicle of Gaínza. In the third part Villarroel completes the story of the campaign from the time of the departure of Gaínza, using other Spanish sources of the participants. The lengthy appendix (pp. 397—535) reproduces the various articles written by Gaínza during the campaign itself, published in newspapers of Manila and Madrid, which provide more detailed information on the events.

As the author makes clear, earlier French intervention had been the major cause of the hostility to the Church on the part of Vietnamese rulers, and no one deplored it more than the missionaries. Protection of Catholicism served principally as a pretext for the French expedition, which resulted in substantial annexations by France, the beginning of the total incorporation of Indochina into the French colonial empire by the end of the century. As both Gainza and Villarroel point out, Spanish-Filipino intervention was exploited by the French for their own purposes. the sole gainer being France. The title of "crusade" as regards the Spanish participation is justified by the author on the basis of the primarily religious motivation which occasioned Spain's intervention. Though one result of the treaty of 1863 was indeed the concession of religious liberty to Vietnamese Christians, like all "crusades" the inevitable mixture of the political and the religious led to ambiguous results. The Church in Vietnam, including the Dominican mission staffed by the Philippine province of that order, dated from the seventeenth century. Without the intervention of European powers it had grown under the missionaries into a vital indigenous church with a substantial number of native Dominican and secular priests. Against its will, it henceforth had to suffer the taint of connection with the imperialist political influence of France.

The reviewer is not competent to judge how well the episode has been placed within the total context of Vietnamese history. Villarroel admits that he only had at his disposal Spanish sources for the general history of the period. But given the principal purpose of making available unpublished contemporary primary documents, this would not seem to be a major problem. Though the story remains marginal as a whole to Philippine history, the book is of interest, and is carefully done. It is enhanced by a number of interesting illustrations.

John N. Schumacher

STUDIES IN PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC-DEMOGRAPHIC RELATION-SHIPS. By Agustin Kintanar, Jr., Romeo M. Bautista, Mercedes Concepcion, Jose Encarnacion, Jr., Mahar Mangahas, Vicente B. Paqueo and Peter C. Smith. Quezon City: University of the Philippines School of Economics, 1974. xvii, 288 pages.