

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

Protestant Activity in Southeast Asia: Christ and Crisis in Southeast Asia

Review Author: Francis X. Clark, S.J.

Philippine Studies vol. 17, no. 2 (1969): 337–338

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

Book Reviews

PROTESTANT ACTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHRIST AND CRISIS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. Edited by Gerald H. Anderson. New York: Friendship Press, 1968. 176 pp.

One encouraging aspect of the last decade has been Philippine interest in other countries of Asia. This increasing awareness has been evident, for example, in economics, journalism, the dance, library science and the communication arts. Christian concerns have also had multiple contacts, as various Church groups have been meeting to discuss, for example, Asian social and educational problems. However, the average person in the Philippines has not had similar opportunities for direct contact with Christianity in Burma, Thailand or Indonesia. For this purpose *Christ and Crisis in Southeast Asia* is recommended as up-to-date, concisely written and attractively presented.

The editor, Gerald H. Anderson, had previously published a bibliography on Christianity in Southeast Asia. In this book he writes the introduction and the conclusion, and collaborates with Peter M. Gowing on the Philippine situation. The other five chapters are as follows: Frank L. Cooley on Indonesia; John R. Fleming on Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei; Ray C. Downs on Thailand; Paul Clasper on Burma; Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are treated by the only Catholic author, René de Roeck, a Belgian missionary in Vietnam.

This book, primarily intended for study groups in U.S. Protestant organizations, has already sold 50,000 copies there. This wide distribution indicates considerable interest in Christianity and Southeast Asia. But any reader in Southeast Asia itself can profit from the same information. Although emphasis throughout the book is understandably on Protestant activity, the Catholic situation in each country is included.

With regard to negative criticism, should not at least some of the authors have been Asians? Since Dr. Anderson's strong interest

in inculturation is well-known, some serious factors must have hindered such a procedure. But the question is at least mentioned here.

Further, may a Jesuit in the Philippines be permitted mild wonder that his Jesuit predecessors receive no mention in the three hundred and thirty-three years of the Spanish period in Philippine history? In the text for this period all Catholic religious orders are grouped together as "friars," a technical ecclesiastical term which does not include Jesuits, *Paules* and Benedictines, who were also in the Philippines in Spanish times.

FRANCIS X. CLARKE, S.J.

DISSENT OVER AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

TWELVE AGAINST EMPIRE: THE ANTI-IMPERIALISTS, 1898-1900. By Robert L. Beisner. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1968. xvi, 310 pp.

The expansionist fever whipped up by irresponsible journalism, which swept the United States into the Spanish-American War and carried over into the forcible occupation of the Philippines as its aftermath, was not without its fierce opponents in the United States itself. The anti-imperialists, as they came to be known, though some had from the beginning opposed war with Spain, became fully aroused when the treaty of Paris left Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines in the hands of the United States. The obvious unwillingness of the Filipinos to submit to American annexation, soon made manifest in the outbreak of war between Filipino and American forces, caused the Philippines to become the main focus of the attention of the anti-imperialists, though they likewise opposed annexation of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. The campaign which poured out denunciations of American imperialism through newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and public speeches during the years 1898-1900, and even beyond, was carried on by politicians of both major parties, as well as large numbers of private citizens. For the two years preceding the re-election of McKinley in 1900 on a platform calling for retention of the Philippines, anti-imperialist leagues in all parts of the country denounced the American war against the Filipinos as a violation of the American Constitution and the principles on which the Republic had been founded. Perhaps no question besides slavery so profoundly divided the American people in the nineteenth century.