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## A “Non-Book” on the Philippines

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would be in misery had it chosen socialism, though this might well have been the outcome. Other factors, known and unknown, may have affected the results significantly and do bear part of the responsibility" (pp. x-xi).

It is the study of these "other factors" which make this short work very stimulating.

Other than their economic policy, perhaps the most significant difference between Malaysia and Indonesia is the composition of their labor forces. Malaysia's labor force is more highly skilled than Indonesia's. In both countries, managerial and technical skills are found mainly among the non-Malay segment of the population. In Malaysia, this segment was more than half the total population, whereas in Indonesia it was less than five percent.

Indonesia's failure in its experimentation with socialism has helped it realize the poverty of its manpower potential. To remedy this defect, Indonesia has been encouraging the return of private enterprise to its shores.

Malaysia, on the other hand, has succeeded in its venture with capitalism, because by means of this policy it gave the non-Malay segment of the population a sense of belonging to the new nation. However, this is no guarantee that Malaysia will adhere to that policy. Centralized economic planning functions best when the necessary skills are available and a high level of willingness to cooperate is present. It could well happen that when the Malaysian government feels that it has these two requirements, it will take upon itself the responsibility for more direction and control of the economy.

Students of economic development and policy will find this short work provocative.

R. EUGENE MORAN

## A "NON-BOOK" ON THE PHILIPPINES

SIX PERSPECTIVES ON THE PHILIPPINES. Edited by George M. Guthrie. Manila: Bookmark, Inc., 1968. x, 279 pp.

We must be candid: this is not a first-class book, and its publication must be considered a mistake.

The original intention was good. When the Peace Corps was organized in 1961, it was necessary to give the prospective emissaries to the Philippines some introductory notions concerning the country to which they were going. Accordingly, the "area study" program was

organized by Dr. George Guthrie, editor of the present book. He tells us in the Preface that "In order to help the trainees understand as much as possible of the culture of the country to which they were going, we sought the help of a number of American and Filipino scholars. Each was asked to share his understanding of the Philippines from the perspective of his discipline." Six of the lectures thus given were subsequently collected in the volume under review. They are: (1) "Philippine Social Structure" by Fred Eggan; (2) "The Philippine Temperament" by George M. Guthrie; (3) "Party Politics in the Philippines" by Carl H. Lande; (4) "The Background of Literature in South East Asia and the Philippines" by John M. Echols; (5) "Racial Heritage" by Manuel A. Viray; (6) "The Philippine Economy" by Frank H. Golay.

The intention, as we have said, was good. But to deliver introductory lectures to neophytes is one thing; to publish them as authoritative pronouncements on the Philippines is another.

Two of these essays are in fact authoritative. When Dr. Golay speaks on the Philippine economy, or when Dr. Lande speaks on Philippine political parties, they speak from first-hand knowledge. This cannot be said for some of the other essays in the book. And this is unfortunate, because there is no lack of scholars—American or Filipino—who could have spoken with greater authority and at greater depth on these various topics.

Particularly unfortunate is the essay on Philippine Literature. We are informed that its author is an authority on Indonesian literature. We have no doubt of the fact: but it is regrettable that his knowledge of Indonesian literature—undoubtedly vast—is not brought to bear on the present subject. Nor is there any evidence that he speaks with first hand knowledge of the Philippine literary works which he discusses.

Perhaps it was to remedy this precise defect that Mr. Viray's essay on "Racial Heritage" is in fact an essay also on Philippine literature. Mr. Viray focuses his attention on Philippine poetry, and in that region he is on native ground. But then, why was the other essay also published?

Moreover, the inclusion of Mr. Viray—the only Filipino in the group—renders the book even more puzzling. If there had been no Filipino on the panel of authors, the book might have been presented to the public as "Six Perspectives on the Philippines as seen by Outsiders". Such a book might have had a curious kind of usefulness, as evidence of what foreigners think of the Philippines. But the inclusion of a Filipino gives the book a different orientation. The impression given by the book's title is that these are six perspectives on the Philippines written by the authors best qualified to speak on their

respective topics. But this is precisely where the book fails, for the six essays in the book do not uniformly come up to this expectation.

How this book is regarded by educated Filipinos may be illustrated by two remarks. One was made by a well-known columnist in Manila. "This book is completely out of proportion", he said.

The other was a remark made by an equally well-known bookseller. I visited his office one day and saw on his table some fifteen or twenty copies of this book. "What do you think of the book?" I asked. His reply was immediate: "It is a non-book."

Well, there it is. I would not have used the term myself; but perhaps it hits the nail on the head: it is a non-book.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

## PHILIPPINE SOCIETY DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION

THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES by A. V. H. Hartendorp. Manila: Bookmark, 1967. Vol. I, xvi, 662 pp.; Vol. II, vii, 682 pp.

When a *Colliers* magazine writer interviewed General D. MacArthur in October 1941, the General confidentially told him in the presence of Hartendorp, the author of this book, that "If war does not break out before April, we shall be ready. If it comes sooner than that, all we will be able to do is put up a good fight." (Vol. I, pp. 250-251.) The war did come sooner. And until American forces, with Filipino cooperation, liberated the country from the Japanese in 1945, the Filipinos carried on a good fight for survival. Also set free early that year at the University of Santo Tomas (U.S.T.) internment camp were internees of varying nationalities, mainly Americans.

Totalling 1,367 pages, this two-volume book is a rich source of detailed information on what took place from day to day at the U.S.T. camp which was recorded by the author who was appointed the camp's historian. In between accounts on camp activities, Hartendorp describes developments outside the camp based on the *Manila Tribune*, printed Japanese propaganda materials, news from the camp's secret radio receiver, stories from, and interviews with, internees returning to camp after a home leave as well as those who were brought to U.S.T. from internment camps located in other parts of the Philippines.