

# philippine studies

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## **A Practical Man's Economics Guide: The Planning and Execution of Economic Development**

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are sound, but do not perhaps give enough weight to the conflicting claims of other parts of the world (though he recognises the needs of India) nor the great part being played by the United States, whose vast contribution is far beyond anything Britain could hope to offer.

Local readers will find the scarcity of references to the Philippines a disappointment. British involvement has certainly been slight in the post-war period. But the British occupation of Manila in 1762-4 deserves a mention, and so does the part played by British merchants in the development of Philippine trade (especially abaca and sugar in the 19th century. The figure £17 million given for Anglo-Philippine trade in 1936, quoted on page 65, is in fact a misprint for £1.7 million. The table of post-war trade on pages 176-7 omits the Philippines altogether.

There are some maps to illustrate the early chapters, and an adequate index. The short bibliography lists chiefly modern, secondary works. The text, however, abounds in extracts from British official sources (quoted not always with malice); it would be useful to be able to identify these more closely. But in general this book gives a fair and balanced, though not uncritical, account of British activities in South-East Asia. There is plenty of lucid, well-documented exposition of fact, and the opinions expressed are moderate and not obtrusive. It forms an excellent background to studies both of recent Philippine history, and of the present situation in the region as a whole.

NICHOLAS BAYNE

## A PRACTICAL MAN'S ECONOMICS GUIDE

THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A Non-technical Guide for Policy Makers and Administrators. By Louis J. Walinsky. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1963. xiii, 248 pp.

Mr. Walinsky acknowledges at the start of this trite little volume that it rests on twelve years of work with Robert R. Nathan Associates, whose business it is to advise backward countries on problems of development. Aside from occasional flashes of observation yielded only by personal experience in the field, the manual has nothing fresh to offer. It is a kind of practical man's guide; it does not pretend to shed new light. Chapters are brief, often dessicated. Some pages are little more than a passel of tedious questions. The one novel suggestion which I found in the book appears to be of dubious practicality: the village bank. One nagging question in a country like the Philip-

pires is how to extend loans on humane terms to small farmers and get them repaid. Rural banks here are far from having solved this beguiling riddle. W. recommends that the village elders—men on the spot acquainted both with local conditions and with the creditworthiness of their neighbors—be used to review loan applications, to supervise loan-use and eventually to collect repayments from the small farmers. It seemed like a good idea when it was tried here by farmers' co-operatives. Briefly, it didn't work.

Though the volume is entitled *Planning and Execution of Economic Development*, it does not make as clear as does the standard, academic literature why there is any need at all for a plan of development: even to make sure, let us say, that goals of growth are mutually consistent and possible of attainment. I am certain that a gentlemen employed by Robert R. Nathan Associates would, if queried, find an encouraging word to put in for private enterprise, individual initiative and the market mechanism. Curiously, not even the term, "market," appears in the index. Yet markets, day after day, do planning that still baffles the most talented computer.

Behind the everyday writings about the economic development of backward countries there lurks an unspoken belief that the capacity for economic development is diffused as widely as mankind; that the power has here and there been crusted over, as it were, by untoward external circumstances; that, once the shell has been cracked, people will "take off" naturally, thanks to their own inner propulsion towards higher plateaus of living. It is no more plausible a creed than that there are certain chains binding the faculty to create music, literature and the drama which, once burst, release a people's immanent, ready but hitherto imprisoned genius to express an art of their own as distinctive as Byzantine or Japanese.

It may well rather be that the seed is as yet so unripe or so torpid that premature plowing and manuring and watering will bring forth nothing worth the effort, simply because of the failure of fertility.

Economic development is only in small part an economic phenomenon. It is one aspect of human evolution whose origins lie deep beneath the field of economics. Like the advance of science, art and religion, it is but one further manifestation of the progressive culture and civilisation of man. One does not look for it among a rude, uncivilized people. The question why economic development has not come to Papua in the past century as it has to Japan would get a quick answer. Again, what ought to get done now to bring Papuans quickly to a steadily rising level of economic performance is no more timely a question than asking what ought to get done to raise their dramatic, musical and poetical output quickly to the plane of Japan's. On the theme of human development the inspired glimmerings of Pierre

Teilhard de Chardin can serve as beacons to guide social scientists away from dead-end paths. "Without a long period of maturing, no profound change can take place in nature." Admittedly, this is not a comforting reflection.

MICHAEL MCPHELIN

## ONE MORE ABOUT ROMULO

**CARLOS P. ROMULO: VOICE OF FREEDOM:** By Evelyn Wells. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, Inc. 1964. 180 pp.

The life of Carlos P. Romulo is the classic tale of the small-town boy made good. It is a story which has all the elements of a novel because it seems too remarkable to be true.

Carlos P. Romulo is familiar to most Filipinos and Americans of the Second World War generation as the Voice of Freedom. From battle-scarred Corregidor, the small man from Camiling resisted the Japanese. Today the same voice speaks for freedom whether it be from colonialism or communism.

Evelyn Wells' "authorized biography" is but one more about General Romulo. In 1953, Cornelia Spencer wrote *Romulo: Voice of Freedom*. And in 1961, President Romulo gave the world his own version of his enchanted existence in *I walked with heroes: General Carlos P. Romulo*. The present work offers nothing substantial. It is an easy-to-read primer. There is nothing new for those already familiar with the General's life.

MICHAEL P. ONORATO

## ON THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

**AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE SUPREME COURT.** Edited by Alan F. Westin. New York: Macmillan, 1963. xii, 475 pp.

This collection of selections from the writings of justices of the United States Supreme Court does not, of course, fulfill the promise of its rather whimsical title. While the court has reached the venerable age of 175 years, the editor, an associate professor of public law and government at Columbia University, presents mostly writings of recent times. Of 38 selections 25 are by justices who occupied the bench after 1930. The editor unabashedly has a favorite, to whom he dedicates