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**Socdem: Filipino Social Democracy in a Time
of Turmoil and Transition, 1965–1995
by Benjamin T. Tolosa Jr., Ed.**

Book Notes

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JOHN LEDDY PHELAN

The Hispanization of the Philippines: Spanish Aims and Filipino Responses, 1565–1700

Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011. 234 pages.

This classic by John Leddy Phelan (1924–1976) has been reprinted by the original publisher in a paperback edition, which should enhance its accessibility. Phelan was a historian of Latin America. His dissertation and first book was on a Franciscan writer's views on Spanish actions in the New World. From the comparative vantage point of Latin America Phelan studied the early colonial history of the Philippines, arguing that experiences in Mexico affected Spanish colonialism across the Pacific, resulting in "indirect hispanization" through the work of missionaries who imposed Catholicism on the colonized population who, in turn, resisted as well as adapted selectively to Spanish rule. Significantly Phelan stated in the preface, "I have not, however, employed the historical method exclusively but rather have made an effort to combine sound historical practices with some anthropological techniques" (viii). This landmark work is methodologically significant in its attempt "to bring the disciplines of history and anthropology into closer collaboration" (ix). This approach was nurtured in the milieu of the Philippine Studies Program of the Newberry Library where Phelan was a fellow. The interdisciplinarity of this country-specific area studies program left its mark on this book. Relying on social science interpretative tools would characterize all of Phelan's subsequent work. It would also characterize many later works in Philippine historiography, particularly those that wrestled with issues of religion and historical change, many of them building on but also critiquing Phelan's pioneering work.

BENJAMIN T. TOLOSA JR., ED.

Socdem: Filipino Social Democracy in a Time of Turmoil and Transition, 1965–1995

Pasig City: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Manila, 2011. 316 pages.

As a way of documenting the history of Filipino social democracy, the essays in this collection discuss the various "social democratic formations

in the Philippines in the context of the struggle for democratization in the country's recent political history" (254–55). This movement has had a relatively young history in the Philippines and, "When viewed also in terms of the histories of competing political alternatives like the Philippine communist and national democratic movement, Filipino social democracy is also less visible and is perhaps even seen as less developed theoretically and less consolidated politically and organizationally" (3). Inspired by Catholic social teaching and cradled on the campus of the Ateneo de Manila University and other Catholic institutions, this movement had to evolve its own political practice distinct from the social democratic traditions that flourished in Western liberal democracies, and appropriate to the rise of authoritarian rule of Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s, the militant as well as revolutionary responses to that rule, the period of widespread protest ushered by Benigno Aquino's assassination in 1983, and the challenge of building political institutions in the decade following the overthrow of Marcos in 1986. Cristina Jayme Montiel contributes two chapters, one on the radical *Kapulungan ng mga Sandigan ng Pilipinas* (Kasapi), another on the Pilipino Democratic Party–*Lakas ng Bayan* (PDP–Laban), which had a "dual character of being a political movement and a successful electoral instrument for transformational political change" (187). Roy P. Mendoza narrates the history of the *Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas* (PDSP) and its youth arm. Eleonor R. Dionisio, together with Anna Marie R. Karaos and Jennifer Santiago Oreta, provides a lengthy discussion of *Pandayan Para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas* (Pandayan), from which emerged Akbayan, "the first stable electoral vehicle of the left to bring a group of SD provenance into partnership with non-SD left groups" (84–85). Angelita Gregorio-Medel and Maria Josefa P. Petilla analyze the building of coalitions, the nature of those coalitions, and their contribution to the social democratic agenda. In the concluding chapter, Benjamin T. Tolosa Jr. reflects on the "various socdem formations" (261), their weaknesses and legacies, and the dilemmas of social democratic politics in the wake of the "unfinished revolution" (270) of 1986 and "the global crisis of neoliberalism" (282).