

# philippine studies: historical and ethnographic viewpoints

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**Tibak Rising: Activism in the Days of Martial Law**  
by **Ferdinand C. Llanes, Ed.**

Book Notes

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of capitalism was intense, and for many Americans the result was not all positive, leading them to experience colonial guilt. This colonial guilt vis-à-vis the project of modernity is the theme of chapter 4. The book ends with an epilogue entitled “The American Military Period in Historical Memory,” which talks about the author’s personal reflections about the impact of American colonialism on the identity politics in the country, in terms of the dichotomy that separates Moros from “real Filipinos” (140).

FERDINAND C. LLANES, ED.

## **Tibak Rising: Activism in the Days of Martial Law**

Pasig City: Anvil, 2012. 240 pages.

The word *tibak* is a slang term taken from the syllables of *aktibista* (activist) that became popular among the youth during the martial law period of the 1970s and early 1980s. Ferdinand C. Llanes’s edited collection of short essays is an anthology of different *tibak* stories from the *tibak* themselves or people who were close to them. In his introduction, Llanes describes the book as an articulation of the “memory of a generation,” most especially college and university students in the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman and the university belt in Manila who became radicalized by Pres. Ferdinand Marcos’s authoritarian regime and its repressive response to youth-led demonstrations as seen in the First Quarter Storm and the establishment of the Diliman Commune. The book features more than forty essays that are divided into important themes evoking collective memories of picket lines, being imprisoned, and lasting friendships. Most of the essays are reminiscences of how one became an activist, such as Judy Taguiwalo’s “Babaeng ‘Makibaka’ sa Likod ng Rehas.” Others are anecdotes of specific episodes, such as Behn Cervantes’s “Lino Brocka and the 1985 Arrest.” The emergence of the anti-Marcos underground movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its popularity among the youth activists are prominent themes, if not the thread that holds all the pieces together. Nonetheless, the book also features essays about controversies and conflict within the underground movement, as exemplified by Joel Saracho’s “Si Beck, Batang I-T,” which recounts a dark episode in the history of the communist struggle, the anti-infiltration campaigns.