

Philippine Social History: Global Trade And Local Transformations

BOOK REVIEWS—SOUTHEAST ASIA

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far too little about those faceless ministers of the old Burman court. Nor is Lieberman able to tell us very much about what Burmese kings and officials thought, and whether we might consider intellectual changes through his period.

It is a joy at last to see a scholarly monograph on Burmese history, the footnotes to which are almost entirely references to Burmese-language sources. And it is a gratuitous bonus that what Lieberman has to say not only tells us a great deal about a subject on which we knew little, but it also provokes us to reconsider what we thought we knew about other states of the region.

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Philippine Social History: Global Trade and Local Transformations. Edited by ALFRED W. MCCOY and ED. C. DE JESUS. Manila and Sydney: Asian Studies Association of Australia in cooperation with Ateneo de Manila University Press and George Allen and Unwin Australia, 1982. (Southeast Asia Publication Series, no. 7.) xii, 480pp. Maps, Figures, List of Abbreviations, List of Measures, Glossary, List of Contributors. N.p.

This book is meant to represent "the fruits of an important decade's research on Philippine social history" (p. v). In tracing the histories of the major ethnolinguistic regions of the archipelago, the authors bring to light much archival material that has been adumbrated but largely unexplored by previous scholarship. The authors also chart recent, predominantly Anglo-American efforts to find ways around the functionalist frameworks and the nationalist obsessions that have marked much of Philippine studies since World War II. One senses this acutely in the constant stress of the essays on the tight wires between economic changes occurring within and outside specific localities and the social transitions attendant upon such changes from the middle of the eighteenth century to the twentieth. It is the reciprocal effect of one on the other that is the most apparent leitmotiv of this collection. By uncovering new data organized around themes that have national and global import, the essays present the potential, as Ed. C. de Jesus says in his conclusion, for "opening up new fields of investigation" and broach "a wide range of questions" for future research on the Philippines as well as for other parts of the non-Western world (p. 453).

Although they build on the pioneering works on regional and social history by such scholars as Edgar Wickberg, John Larkin, and Benito Legarda, these essays distinguish themselves from previous studies by situating in many instances local histories within the context of theoretical issues pertaining to the global spread of capitalism and the emergence of "underdevelopment" put forth by such writers as Immanuel Wallerstein, Andre Gunder Frank, and Hans Bobek. It is not surprising then that, although they deal with areas as diverse as the Sulu Zone and the Cagayan Valley, the authors produce a cluster of complementary findings. A summary of some of these follows.

Colonialism, by systematically working through and thereby privileging an elite group, effected complex class divisions within native societies. From Central Luzon to Kabikolan, Western and Central Visayas to Bukidnon and Magindanao, Spanish and, later, United States colonial policy maintained the authority of indigenous and, in time, Chinese mestizo elites over the rest of the populace. Yet colonialism also profoundly altered the terms of elite authority. These studies convincingly demonstrate the vital links between foreign capital and a *principalia* class encouraged by

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