

# philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

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## China and the Overseas Chinese

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*Philippine Studies* vol. 21, no. 1-2 (1973): 234–236

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Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

**HISTORY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.** By Cecilia Bocobo Olivar. Quezon City: University of the Philippines, 1972. xiii, 219 pages, illustrations.

In 219 pages, Celia Bocobo Olivar has succeeded in organizing available data in the history of physical training of the Filipino into a readable, systematized form. Almost all books in Philippine education include a section or two of observations similar to those of Olivar, but not one has related the events with the historical and sociological influences affecting physical training in the country as she did in this book.

The book, which is based on the author's Master's thesis submitted to the University of Oregon, is organized as follows: Part I Pre-Spanish Times; Part II Spanish Era; Part III American Regime; Part IV Japanese Occupation; Part V Contemporary Period.

An interesting feature is the recognition given to national leaders, American patrons, and civic organizations who contributed to the betterment of physical training in the Philippine schools. Recognition is also given to well-known names as well as unknown ones in this field.

On the whole, Olivar has achieved what she hoped to, "... that students today recall the early efforts of the pioneers and look back proudly to the nation's records and rich heritage in dance, sports, and games as they enjoy themselves in these and other similar activities." Not only students but teachers and researchers as well, will find recorded in this book the gains and achievements made in physical training in the Philippines through the years.

The last paragraph on the front jacket states that this book is a pioneering venture. Even as such, it is a commendable work of a Filipino educator. If this book is an index to the quality of the forthcoming locally published books on Philippine education, then these are worth waiting for.

*Aida C. Caluag*

**CHINA AND THE OVERSEAS CHINESE: A Study of Peking's Changing Policy, 1949-1970.** By Stephen Fitzgerald. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge Press, 1972. xii, 268 pages, bibliography, appendices.

Dr. Fitzgerald was recently named to serve as Australia's first Ambassador to the People's Republic of China (PRC). He earned well the title of number-one English-language expert on Peking's policy towards the Overseas Chinese by articles which he published in *The China Quarterly*, from October, 1969 onwards.

His book is a timely, scholarly chronicling of an historical turn-of-the-tide in the threefold relationships of China, the Overseas Chinese, and the nations of Southeast Asia. Awareness of this change of direction, and a

grasp of the reasons underlying it, are of utmost importance to policy makers of Southeast Asian governments and to Chinese community leaders in the countries of the region.

Upon coming to power in 1949, the Communist Party and the government in Peking tended to take over, uncritically, the assessment and policies regarding Overseas Chinese which the Nationalist (ROC) government had formed (and seems still to hold) from a heritage dating back to the last years of the Manchu dynasty and the heyday of colonial structures in lands washed by the South China Sea.

For the next few years, assumptions prevailed in Peking that the Overseas Chinese would furnish China with necessary revenue in forms of family remittances and nostalgic investments; perhaps it was also felt that they could serve as instruments of PRC foreign policy, while accelerating the collapse of the "rump" government in Taiwan. A declining curve in amounts of money remitted to China by her overseas clientele and inability to control even the not-so-large pro-Peking elements in communities of Chinese abroad led the top-level PRC authorities to adopt by 1957 measures meant to decolonize and even to desinify the 12 or 13 million people of Chinese descent in the south-seas diaspora.

Several factors showed the overseas Chinese to be more of a liability than an asset to Peking. Within China, dependents of Chinese breadwinners abroad were requiring, in access to rationed commodities, in facilities for schooling, and in returns on investments a set of privileges disruptive of the communization policies applied to the rest of the masses. A costly administrative network, the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission, was supposed to channel influence between their onetime motherland and the "sojourners" beyond its borders, and to manage the special situation of the emigrants' kinsfolk in Fukien and Kwangtung provinces. Returns from this bureaucracy scarcely justified the outlay in men and *jenminpiao*.

Internationally, any encouragement from Peking for the Overseas Chinese to remain China-oriented would prolong the odious colony-image of permanent resident Chinese communities during decades after the day of colonialism should have been ended. To re-inforce traits and institutions which made local Chinese groups appear as so many outposts of China, set apart from the life and interests of their host countries, served only to antagonize the Thais, Indonesians, Burmese, Filipinos and others among whom they lived.

To protect the Overseas Chinese by show or use of force when they were harassed or discriminated against, was proving an impossible task to perform effectively, and harmful to the cordial foreign relations China wanted to enjoy. The countries of Southeast Asia, jealous of hard-won postwar independence, and pulsing with a proud nationalism much too long repressed, kept wary, worried eyes on their Chinese residents as possible agents of subversion or foreign intelligence. Peking judged it the course of wisdom virtually to disown them, and encouraged them to lose themselves in a new allegiance and integration within the lands where they expected to reside the rest of their lives.

The PRC authorities learned that the Chinese of the diaspora lived

another kind of life than in China, and thought in independent ways; they were not inclined to heed appeals or instructions from Peking. The ratio of China-born to local-born in each country was decreasing notably from year to year. For many reasons the postwar generation of Overseas Chinese grew significantly and steadily different from the prewar set. Fitzgerald notes that the present generation became "far more inclined to regard itself as belonging to the countries of residence than to China." It might move slowly from language and cultural traditions, but it is willing and ready for economic, political and social identification with the peoples who received its immigrant forebears.

The peoples of Southeast Asia, in the two decades this book deals with, have manifested deep feelings of nationhood, a strong spirit of self-reliance, and a firm aspiration to maintain independent sovereignty.

This readiness of the leaders in Peking to relinquish traditional claims and to frame its policies in line with the realities of 20th-century international politics is in contrast, Fitzgerald says, with the Kuomintang's outdated and simplist view as to how far and how long the mandate of heaven to China's rulers extends over time and space. If Taipei fails to relax its grasp on Overseas Chinese institutions, and does not cease efforts to use the 'sojourners' as instruments of its foreign policies and economic development, it may alienate the sympathies of neighboring nations which still give it recognition and scarce moral support. Recent moves, this reviewer believes, reveal a growing acquiescence on this score in Republic of China leadership.

A chief merit of Fitzgerald's work is his abundant and apposite documentation of Peking's change of heart from Chinese periodicals. *The People's Daily* and the *Overseas Chinese Affairs Journal* are cited often, but 28 other periodicals contribute to footnotes also. Hitherto Western writers have generally treated such sources as inaccessible. The author likewise gives evidence that responsible statements from Peking have been followed up with consistent courses of action, even in spite of violent pressure for a change of policy during the cultural Revolution.

His evidence upsets the charges or insinuations of China "experts," e.g. Doak Barnett, Harold C. Hinton, and Robert Elegant, that Peking counted on the Overseas Chinese as a "fifth column" to serve in exporting revolution. To counter the prestige of such writers, Fitzgerald had to weigh his words well, and give the support of chapter and verse quotations to all his statements. The book therefore makes for heavy reading, but reading which close observers of the China scene will find highly rewarding.

Unfortunately, the American edition of the book is advertised at \$19.50, and the English edition at five pounds ninety.

Charles J. McCarthy, S.J.