

# philippine studies

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## **Politics and Policy Making, edited by Meier**

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his observations on the Philippines and its culture are unique and rather profound, and did have a certain influence on other Japanese intellectuals. (He was not sent specifically as a member of *Pen* Corps. He arrived in Manila along with the second batch of the Propaganda Corps at the end of February, not in January as mentioned in p. 152. Rather, there were close to twenty writers including two female writers who had been sent for Pen Corps purposes, and they arrived in Manila in mid-December 1942 for a four-month sojourn.) Had the author added the views and impressions written by other Propaganda Corps members, it would have made this chapter even more interesting.

As the author states, the cultural policy of the Japanese Imperial Army was to impose Japan's own culture and ideology on the Filipinos. At the same time, however, it encouraged the development of Philippine indigenous and traditional culture, unlike the Spanish and American colonial powers. It was after all part of the propaganda scheme, for the objective of winning the hearts of Filipinos. Nevertheless, it gave some Filipinos an excuse to work for the Japanese, for the former's survival, physical and otherwise. It also gave them shields to protect themselves from being accused of being Japanese collaborators; they could say that they were proud nationalists who tried to protect Philippine culture.

This period is too complex to be treated in just one chapter. For that matter, a book can be written solely on how the Japanese, both military and the civilian personnel, viewed the Philippines and its people during the short period of the three-year occupation.

The above comments are simply some suggestions for future research on this and related subject matters. They do not in any way detract from the standing of *Japan Views the Philippines: 1900-1944* as one of the best written in this field. It is a must on the reading list of everyone with an interest in Philippine-Japanese relations.

*Motoe Terami-Wada*

**Politics and Policy Making in Developing Countries.** Edited by Gerald M. Meier. San Francisco: ICS Press, 1991. 369 pages.

Professor Gerald Meier has given us an excellent collection of articles, some of which directly address Philippine issues, on a new economic theory called "The New Political Economy." New Political Economy refers to a very exciting development in economy theory. It is the attempt to use the analytical framework of mainstream economics to explore the role of politics in

economic decision making. In the past it has been widely used to study such issues as industrial regulation and the rise of protectionism in the industrialized world. But only recently have economists attempted to use it to understand economic policies in the developing world. It is this new theory of political economy that has led scholars to better understand the constraints that prevent many developing countries from adopting economic reform programs. This theory has also been used to justify the use of conditionalities by the IMF and other international agencies in order to coerce governments to implement various economic reform programs.

Meier's book consists of three parts. Part 1 introduces this new theory of political economy with four articles by highly prominent academicians. Of particular note is the article by Professor Ronald Findlay of Columbia University which formally models several possible roles a government in a developing economy might pursue. In this simple model Findlay demonstrates how a government may distort an economy in order to achieve its own goals. This article is followed by an outstanding piece by Merilee Grindle, a political scientist at the Harvard Institute for International Development. While recognizing the value of the New Political Economy, Grindle provides us with an outstanding critique of its numerous deficiencies, primarily the inability to analyze the dynamics of political change. Part 1 is concluded by Gustav Ranis of Yale University with an article entitled "The Political Economy of Development Policy Change." In the course of this article Ranis compares the Philippines with Thailand in an attempt to understand what conditions enabled Thai policy makers to implement numerous economic reforms while Filipino policy makers were more often than not frustrated in their attempts at reform.

Part 2 of the book consists of five articles that apply the new theory of political economy to various economic policy issues—trade policy, land reform, poverty alleviation, privatization, and inflation. The article on land reform by Yujiro Hayami is focused on the Philippine situation and the need to design a politically workable land reform program. Another interesting article by Guy Pfeffermann on poverty alleviation also addresses a number of issues relevant to the Philippines.

The book is then concluded by several articles that attempt to critique this "New Political Economy" from the perspectives of political scientists and policy makers.

Outside of Findlay's and perhaps Ranis' articles the book is not technical and can be read by any well educated non-economist.

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