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Ferdinand Blumentritt and the Philippines: Insights and Lessons for Contemporary Philippine Studies by F.P.A. Demeterio III

Book Notes

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on both sides of the Pacific. The end of the American colonial regime also spelled changes, with the Japanese occupation, the early Cold War period, and the nationalism of the tumultuous 1960s all exerting influence on the imagining of the Filipina. Given the transpacific vista, the author inevitably touches on the issue of the migration of Filipinos to the US, both in the colonial and postcolonial periods, as a factor that affects gender construction. The transpacific nature of the study demonstrates how gender cannot be fully understood within the confines of a single nation-state.

F.P.A. DEMETERIO III

Ferdinand Blumentritt and the Philippines: Insights and Lessons for Contemporary Philippine Studies

Manila: De La Salle University Publishing House, 2013. 238 pages.

Feorillo Petronilo A. Demeterio III, who is professor in the Department of Filipino at De La Salle University, surveys Ferdinand Blumentritt's writings on the Philippines, classifies them, and provides statistical and graphical information about them. Blumentritt's intellectual production is divided into four periods to which separate chapters are devoted. These periods and their corresponding number of works are reported as follows: Blumentritt's pre-Rizalian period (87 works produced at an average of 12.4 articles per year); Rizalian period (127 works, at 12.7 articles per year); post-Rizalian Spanish period (13 works, at 6.5 articles per year); and American period (18 works, at 1.4 articles per year). The themes covered by Blumentritt's writings per period are identified and discussed, and their percentage distribution presented. The discussion of each period ends with "general observations" on Blumentritt's Philippine studies. Appendix A lists all of Blumentritt's works on the Philippines, their original titles, the English titles, and extant translations; it also informs readers which of these works (equivalent to 40 percent of the texts) can be accessed in Metro Manila and where these are located. Prior to discussing each of the four periods, Demeterio furnishes readers with Blumentritt's intellectual biography. The book's conclusion summarizes Blumentritt's writings by period, enumerating major themes as well as lessons for contemporary Philippine studies based

on five “negative insights” (165), namely, Blumentritt’s Orientalism, his “proclivity to overestimate the Filipino character and strength” (174), his “overly politicized” scholarship (174), his “linguistic shortcomings” (175), and his “tendency to essentialize and overemphasize the differences among the Philippine ethnolinguistic groups” (175).

MIRIAM CORONEL FERRER

Costly Wars, Elusive Peace: Collected Articles on the Peace Processes in the Philippines, 1990–2007

Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 2013. 359 pages.

In 2012 Pres. Benigno Aquino III appointed UP professor Miriam Coronel Ferrer as head of the Philippine government peace panel in its talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). One of the reasons for her appointment is her deep familiarity with the Moro rebellion and the history of negotiations between the armed rebels and the state. Attesting to this expertise is her book *Costly Wars, Elusive Peace: Collected Articles on the Peace Processes in the Philippines, 1990–2007*, which provides a unique point of view for analyzing the intricacies of armed insurgencies and the quest for peace. The book is Ferrer’s collection of articles on the peace process, written and published before her 2012 appointment. The earliest of these essays dates back to 1990, when she was still a graduate student at the University of Kent at Canterbury. The book focuses on the two major insurgencies of the past three decades: the Communist armed struggle, led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, and the Moro rebellion, which has seen two major groups leading it: the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the MILF, which established itself as a separate group from the MNLF in 1977. The book consists of fourteen essays, divided into four parts. The first part looks at the general contours of the armed conflicts and shows the current state of the two insurgencies, as well as the measures the Philippine government has taken to address these conflicts. The second part analyzes the status of the peace process on the Communist front, while the third focuses on the institutionalization of regional autonomy in Muslim Mindanao. The last part dissects the crucial elements in building peace on