philippine studies

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

Mobility and Employment, by Costello et al.

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Philippine Studies vol. 38, no. 3 (1990): 404–405

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http://www.philippinestudies.net Fri June 27 13:30:20 2008 This is minor. More importantly, I would suggest a "radical" edition of only one master text, with proper annotations to indicate where the two copies complement each other. This would facilitate the study of the synod much more than would leaving scholars to keep comparing the two texts side by side. I would also integrate the nine introductory chapters into one essay, thereby avoiding unnecessary repetitions and often difficult reading, perhaps due to rather frequent long quotations from the sources.

In several points, as in the brief analysis of the problems faced by Governor Gonzalo Ronquillo de Peñalosa (1580-1583), the author has given information not easily available. There are a number of typological errors which can be easily corrected in a second edition.

Dr. Porras has done Philippine historians a favor. From now on, his edition of the acts of the first synod of Manila will be the point of departure for all who wish to study it.

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MOBILITY AND EMPLOYMENT IN URBAN SOUTHEAST ASIA: EXAMPLES FROM INDONESIA AND THE PHILIP-PINES. By Michael A. Costello, Thomas R. Leinbach, and Richard Ulack. Boulder and London: Westview Press, 1987. 191 pages.

A major problem caused by industrial growth is the inability of many urban centers in the Third World to absorb the large numbers of migrants coming from the rural areas. Faced with a demographic explosion cities such as Manila and Jakarta often find it impossible to maintain adequate public services. One possible solution to the problems caused by rapid urbanization is to divert potential migrants away from the nation's principal city to smaller intermediate-sized cities.

Costello, Leinback and Ulack in their study examine five intermediatesized cities in Indonesia and the Philippines. These five cities are Cebu and Cagayan de Oro in the Philippines and Medan, Pematang Siantar, and Tebing Tinggi in Indonesia. The study is divided into eight chapters. The first three introduce the reader to the problem of urbanization in the Third World, the study methodology, an overview of the five cities to be examined, and the social and economic characteristics of migrants and nonmigrants in these five cities. Chapters 4 and 5 explore the reasons migrants have for coming to these medium-sized cities and how they are absorbed into the labor market. Chapter 6 evaluates migrant and nonmigrant perceptions of their level of satisfaction with their current residence and their preferences to move to other areas. In chapter 7 the authors discuss briefly the issue of temporary migration. Finally the book concludes in chapter 8 with a synthesis of the study's major findings and their policy implications.

Before I review the major findings of the study, I would like to point out one item I found particularly interesting. Since this book is a cross-cultural study it can enable us to better understand what is unique in each society. What caught my attention was how differently Indonesians and Filipinos value education and land. Comparing the Philippines with Indonesia the authors found that a widely educated population was a far more important social value in the Philippines than in Indonesia. Statistically among their sample groups the authors found that Filipinos in general had a relatively high level of educational attainment. In contrast only a few Indonesians had achieved similar educational levels. But when it came to land, the situation was reversed. Comparing Indonesians with Filipinos the authors found that land ownership was widely dispersed among the Indonesian general population. In contrast we are all too well aware of the successive failed efforts at land reform in the Philippines. Both land and education are productive assets capable of providing incomes for their owners. Education, however, is something that a person carries within. It is this fact that must explain why, compared to Indonesians who are tied to an immobile asset-land,-Filipinos are not only more mobile within their country but throughout the world. Could it be that the unequal distribution of land in the Philippines created a need for Filipinos to acquire an alternative asset in the form of education to substitute for the lack of land ownership? If so, the fundamental cause of Philippine migration would then be the skewed distribution of land in the country. Testing this hypothesis empirically would be an excellent extension of the work begun in this study.

In the concluding chapter the authors synthesize the key findings of their study. Let me now address just three of these findings. First, there is the finding that migration has an individualizing influence. A key debate in development is how economic decisions are made. Some argue, the most famous being the Nobel Laureate Sir Arthur Lewis, that in a developing society there exists a traditional economy in which decisions are made on a communal basis, which can yield inefficient outcomes and the need for government intervention. There are others, the most famous being the Nobel Laureate Theodore Schultz, who argue that economic decisions in developing as well as developed societies are made for the most part by individuals acting rationally, which would yield efficient outcomes and undermine the justification for government intervention. Based primarily on the pattern of remittances, which are few and far between, the authors argue that a migrant's economic decisions are based primarily on his or her personal and immediate family needs and are not primarily based on the needs of a larger communal grouping which would include relatives still residing at the migrant's original residence. This evidence compiled by Costello, Leinback, and Ulack would appear to add additional empirical weight supporting Professor Schultz's contention on this still highly debated issue.

A second significant finding of this study is the conclusion that the informal sector in these cities plays a positive role. Often governments have tried to hamper if not at times crush the informal sector. The authors find that the informal sector can yield similar income levels for workers, are a vehicle for upward mobility, and serve as a last resort for employment when all else fails.

Finally, I should conclude with what I believe to be the authors' main finding, namely that there exists a strong basis for designing policies to deflect migration streams away from either Manila or Jakarta towards intermediatesized cities. This conclusion is based on the authors' surveys, which find that migrants who have gone to an intermediate-sized city report an improvement over their previous situation. But more significantly, these migrants also report that they prefer living in their medium-size city over either Manila or Jakarta. Deflecting migration streams away from the principal city in the country to smaller provincial cities would provide, argue the authors based on their attitudinal surveys, a number of potential migrants with a higher level of satisfaction. In addition, such a policy would relieve to some extent the demographic pressure on the principal city. The authors also suggest that these smaller cities, less burdened by overcrowding, can be an important source of innovation and economic expansion for the entire nation. In essence the book argues forcefully for a national policy which would heighten the importance placed on intermediate-sized cities in developing countries.

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SAN AGUSTIN, NOBLE STONE SHRINE By Pedro G. Galende, OSA. Metro Manila: G.A. Formoso Publishing, 1990. 176 pages, illus.

Fr. Galende has added another volume to his monumental study of Augustinian-built churches. San Agustin, Noble Stone Shrine is a monograph on the best known, best preserved and oldest of the Augustinian church-monastery complex. The volume is amply illustrated with black and white photographs, plans and sketches; in fact, the slim volume is more of a picture book than a critical art text.

Galende's competently researched text is intended for popular consumption, as the absence of footnotes and the chapter headings demonstrate. The text is divided into seven chapters: The Birth of a City; The Monastery; The Church; Important Events; Facts and Legends: The Museum; San Agustin in the Year 2000. A short bibliography is appended to the text along with a list of acknowledgments.

The text explodes a few myths about the church. For instance, that the present structure was designed by Fray Antonio de Herrera "a lay brother, one of the master builders of El Escorial, son of the principal architect of that