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Book Reviews

INDONESIA: The Possible Dream. By Howard Palfrey Jones. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1971. xix, 473 pages. \$12.95 cloth.

Howard Palfrey Jones is well qualified to speak on Indonesia. After two and a half years as Mission Deputy Chief at the American Embassy in Taiwan, he served as Mission Chief of the U. S. Economic Aid Mission to Indonesia for a year. He was recalled to Washington as Deputy Secretary of State for the Far East. Then for eight years starting 1958 he was the U. S. Ambassador to Indonesia during the period of Soekarno's peak and downfall.

The bulk of the book covers these crucial years. The few preliminary chapters written for persons unacquainted with Indonesia are perceptive and sympathetic. Topics briefly covered are: the first historical inscription of King Purnawarman in West Java in the fifth century, the period that produced the majestic Borobudur, the golden periods of the kingdoms of Sri Vijaya, Mataram and Majapahit, the 300-year period of the christening of Jayakarta into Batavia with all its burdens of servitude, the rise of nationalism that indigenized Batavia into Jakarta, the birth of the Republic at the end of the three year Japanese occupation and the obstinate attempts of the Dutch to recolonize Indonesia. Vivid and accurate descriptions are given of the people, both of the leaders and at the grassroots level, and of their temperament and way of life.

Soekarno, the charismatic leader, is credited with unifying the Republic which was in constant peril of being torn apart by civil war. He prevailed upon the quarrelling leaders to abide by the 1928 oath, i.e., one nation, one country, and one language, and to be guided by Pancasila or State Philosophy (1945). But in the end communists did gain power in all sectors of socio-economic and political life. This was fostered by such blunders of Soekarno as the sacrifice of socio-economic reforms to political ambition as manifested in the Crush Malaysia issue and the introduction of Guided Democracy. Jones reports on the role of General Nasution and of the Army in safeguarding the union of the Republic and in staunchly opposing the increase in power and influence of the communists. It is a pity that the treatment of the abortive communist coup of 1965 and its atrocities is too brief.

Conclusions are drawn on the possible role of the United States in

foreign countries. The actions of the U. S. that created military and economic dependency in the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand did not prevail in Indonesia. Any attempt to help was held in suspicion by all Indonesians. The failure of American policy in Asia in the period following World War II arose from the failure to understand the new nationalism in Asia and Africa. Nationalism was wrongly seen as the throwing off of the colonial yoke. Archaic societal systems also had to be overthrown if the aspirations of the common man had to be satisfied. America was not aware of the aspirations of Asian peoples. Another important and perhaps surprising conclusion is that "economic development is not economics alone — it involves the total socio-political and religious attitudinal web and structure of society."

The book is explicitly for Americans in the hope that her leaders may take the steps needed for Indonesia to become what she has the power to be, a great Asian country. Still it is recommended for those who wish to deepen their understanding of Indonesia and of Southeast Asia as well.

Subroto Widjojo

CRUZADA ESPAÑOLA EN VIETNAM: CAMPAÑA DE COCHINCHINA.

By Francisco Gaínza, O.P. Introducción y edición de Fidel Villarroel, O.P. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 1972. xxiv, 559 pp.

The relevance of this book to Philippine history, apart from the fact that its editor is professor of history and archivist of the University of Santo Tomas, is two-fold. The expedition of 1859—1862 to what today is Vietnam was carried out by joint French and Spanish forces, purportedly to obtain satisfaction for the execution of the Spanish Dominican bishop, José Ma. Sanjurjo, the latest of a number of Christians, native and foreign, martyred in the preceding years, and to obtain religious liberty for the persecuted Vietnamese Christians. The Spanish contingent of 1500 men from Manila was mostly made up of Filipino soldiers. Secondly, accompanying the expedition was Father Francisco Gaínza, professor of the University of Santo Tomás, and a major figure in the mid-century history of the Philippine church, particularly as the energetic and enterprising bishop of the diocese of Caceres.

Gaínza was a prodigious writer on many subjects, and in addition to his published books, left a number of unpublished works now found in the Santo Tomas archives. Among them is his chronicle of the first phase of the campaign, in which Gaínza was present. Because of his frank criticism of both French and Spanish officials, apparently the book was refused publication, whether by ecclesiastical or civil authorities is not clear. Father Villarroel has now published it as the heart of the book under review, annotating it where necessary and providing the necessary complements to the story. The first part of the book gives the background to the