

philippine studies

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

An Approach to Shifting Cultivation The Study of Shifting Cultivation

Review Author: Frank Lynch

Philippine Studies vol. 13, no. 2 (1965): 390–391

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

society reveal that the lower income group are short of education, of skills, of health services, and of opportunity for advancement in life. Investments in such undertakings would therefore rate a higher priority compared to other fields of investment.

3. Urban renewal and investment in physical capital.

4. International field.

These investments may be financed through the issuance of growth certificates by the Federal Agency, something akin to the British Consols and the French *Rentes Perpetuelles*.

The author recommends that the fear of falling into debt should not be misconstrued for as long as such debt produces investments. Moreover, differentiation of the concept of a government debt from a private debt should always be remembered. The author states that while the United States government debt has been rising, yet it has declined as a relative portion of the gross national product. The author believes that even with the advent of disarmament the growth certificates can be made effective in other alternative areas for investment such as space exploration, tropic nutrition and medicine, birth control research, climate control and other projects.

The book is a very good challenge to economic thinking and discussion in the United States. It is a plan for promoting the advancement of American society and toward improving the pervasive benefits of a sustained growth of an affluent nation.

EUGENIO NIERRAS, JR.

AN APPROACH TO SHIFTING CULTIVATION

EL ESTUDIO DEL CULTIVO DE ROZA/THE STUDY OF SHIFTING CULTIVATION. By Harold C. Conklin. Estudios y monografías, XI/Studies and Monographs, VI; Washington, D.C.: Unión Panamericana, 1963. iii, 185 pp.

By the author's definition, shifting cultivation is "any continuous agricultural system in which impermanent clearings are cropped for shorter periods in years than they are fallowed" (p. 1). In the Philippines, the phrase most commonly applied to such a system is "kaingin farming," and it is with this kind of farming that Conklin's paper concerns itself.

After a brief discussion (pp. 1-9) of some of the problems involved in the study of shifting cultivation, the author presents a

suggestive, indexed topical outline to prompt further research, and a 1300-item selected bibliography (pp. 30-172). The paper closes with a geographically-arranged index to the bibliography (pp. 173-85). As the author himself explains, this publication is almost the same as his earlier article of the same title in *Current Anthropology* (Vol. 2, No. 1 [February 1961] 27-61). He has here updated the bibliographic entries through 1961, made some corrections, and added the subject index to the outline.

The bibliography and its index (pp. 30-185) are good, workmanlike productions, of the high grade we have come to expect of Conklin. They will be of immeasurable help to anyone desirous of consulting the literature on the subject. Useful and painstaking as they are, however, they cannot match in significance two other contributions the author makes in this paper. The first is his presentation—more accurately, adumbration—of an ecologically-oriented approach to shifting cultivation, illustrated by a helpful three-dimensional diagram (pp. 6-9). The second is the Topical Outline (pp. 10-22).

Of the two, I consider the approach the greater contribution. For if you understand the approach that Conklin describes (and know more than a little about shifting cultivation), you should be able to make your own outline. If you have not understood the approach, then his outline will be as useful, or useless, to you as pages out of Murdock's *Outline of Cultural Materials*.

Conklin makes the now familiar and regularly neglected point that the failure "to distinguish clearly between native environmental categories (and associated beliefs) and those used by the ethnologist, can lead to confusion, misinformation, and the repetition of useless clichés in discussing unfamiliar systems of land use" (p. 7). The case against ethnocentrism would have been much stronger if Conklin had given one brief comparison to show the uninitiated what is missed by neglect of the local categories of thought and action.

As the title indicates, the publication is bilingual: terse, accurate, English, and terse, accurate Spanish. It is a good paper.

FRANK LYNCH

THE EXPULSION OF THE JESUITS

PHILIPPINE JESUITS IN EXILE. The Journals of Francisco Puig, S.J. 1768-1770. By Nicholas P. Cushner, S.J. Rome: Institutum Historicum S.I. 1964. 202 pp.