

# philippine studies: historical and ethnographic viewpoints

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## **Civil Society in the Philippines: Theoretical, Methodological and Policy Debates by Gerard Clarke**

Book Notes

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# Book Notes

GERARD CLARKE

## **Civil Society in the Philippines: Theoretical, Methodological and Policy Debates**

Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2013. 262 pages.

Gerard Clarke uses a quantitative approach in understanding nongovernment organizations and people's organizations in *Civil Society in the Philippines: Theoretical, Methodological, and Policy Debates*. Chapter one discusses the theoretical framework, especially the various conceptualizations of the term civil society vis-à-vis the ideas of democracy and equality. Clarke continues the theoretical discussions in chapter two as he turns to an analysis of civil society in light of new quantitative approaches in the social sciences. The empirical part begins in chapter three, where the author gives an introduction to Philippine civil society as it progressed from colonial rule to the period after the 1986 People Power. The emphasis of this chapter is how legislation and government policy formed civil society, complemented by an assessment of key episodes in state-civil society relations in recent years, such as the PEACe Bonds issue, the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and the violent repression of civil society groups from 1998 to 2010. Chapter four is devoted to a statistical analysis of Philippine civil society to understand its institutional core, major activities, spatial distribution, and financial resources. An in-depth historical narrative of the development of Philippine civil society is featured in chapters five and six: with the former looking back at the social origins of civil society from the dawn of Spanish colonialism

to the end of formal US colonialism, while the latter views its postwar consolidation. Clarke's point of departure is Samuel Huntington's political modernization thesis; Clarke puts forward his notion of the "modernization of civil society" in "new or maturing democracies" that denotes both "an expansion in the size and scope of civil society vis-à-vis the state and the market" and "a deepening of the social roots of civil society, so that it reaches a larger section of the population" (xviii).

EDNA ZAPANTA MANLAPAZ, CZARINA SALOMA,  
AND YAEL A. BUENCAMINO

## **Many Journeys, Many Voices: A Tribute to Filipina Overseas Workers**

Mandaluyong City: Anvil Publishing, 2015. 139 pages.

This homage to Filipina overseas migrant workers is a collaboration of three units at the Ateneo de Manila University: the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW), the Ateneo Art Gallery, and the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC). The ALIWW sought to generate texts from ordinary women to complement its archive of writings by published female authors. The IPC conducted a study in 2012–2013 to collect the life histories of thirty-three women who worked overseas from the 1950s to the 2010s. The Ateneo Art Gallery focused on the artworks of three female artists—Ofelia Gelvezon Tequi, Brenda Fajardo, and Imelda Cajipe Endaya; their works adorn this book and make powerful statements about migrant women. The first of the two formal divisions of the book discusses key findings from the IPC study, concentrating on family relationships and commitments. The second part, which is the heart of this book, presents the autobiographical narratives of ten of the thirty-three women who participated in the IPC study. The narratives are English translations of the transcripts of taped interviews conducted in the local languages, "edited to simulate the conversational flow of a Filipina overseas worker telling her life story in her own words" (xi). Their narratives do not tell a single story. For one good employer, there is always another who is just the opposite. One's problems may come from coworkers, rather than the employer. Eight of the ten women, whose migratory life is over, take stock of what transpired in their lives. There is no single answer to whether it was all worth it. Traumatized by sexual harassment and rape, Catalina says