

# philippine studies

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

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**Mindanao, by Turner et al.**

Ghislaine Loyre

*Philippine Studies* vol. 43, no. 2 (1995): 274

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Fri June 27 13:30:20 2008

*The Week of the Whales and Other Stories* is an uneven collection. While the stories do not completely repel—some like “Coming Home” are almost touching—they are marred by excessive sentimentality and a style commensurately unsubtle. The insights these stories declare fall short of genuine profundity and sound somewhat trite, though not totally untrue. One recognizes echoes of Joyce, Anderson, Brillantes, and Arguilla, masters all of the genre, but perhaps these are too faint and feeble, not too well played, to make one feel their full power. It remains to be seen whether Deriada would write to be a master like them, but like his own Dario, one can dream that he would.

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**Mindanao: Land of Unfulfilled Promise.** By Mark Turner, Lulu Respal and R.J. May. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1992. 268 pages.

I have the pleasure to greet the publishing of a book on the Southern Philippines after a number of years. By its diversity and quality, this will become one of the most precious reference books on the topic. It is difficult to comment fairly on 17 scholarly articles, since they cover various aspects of contemporary Mindanao, from demography to economy and sociopolitical aspects. The lowland settlers, the indigenous tribes and the Muslims are also considered in this book.

Most of the articles show from very different angles the extreme complexity of the situation in Mindanao. In this land of promise, divergent forces of opposing purposes collide, leading to violence. The struggle for power—in terms of politics, local or national or even international—underscore the various interests. The game of political men, the interest of the military, the assets of the economy (local and international), the agencies of the government (whether plantation, logging, mines . . .), the objectives of the ideologists (Muslim rebels and NPA) all compete for power and resources.

Into this view the various ethnic groups also try to defend themselves, sometimes with the help of NGOs, sometimes even by violence against all those forces. Articles such as those of D. Hyndman, L. Duhaylungsod and M. Turner show precisely the conflict of interest when some groups can gain so much power and money.

Certainly, the article of R. J. May brings a lot of data which until now had not been in the open. Thus, it helps us interpret the present situation of the Muslims in Mindanao.

Professionally, I was much more interested in the articles with an anthropological focus or link to my field of research, Muslim Studies. Some articles dealt with the delicate situation of the Maranaos and Maguindanaons of Mindanao from a structural point of view. G. Carter Bentley studies the

legal aspect while N. Madale tackles the Autonomous Region for Muslims in Mindanao and concludes that "the government needs to utilize the options and beliefs of the Muslim population in formulating and implementing future policies for Muslim Mindanao." N. Mastura opens for us the debates which took place during the Aquino regime. Thus, this book can help us understand the problems in the Southern Philippines, made more significant by the fact that the peace talks are going on.

These articles also open up so many questions which could inspire students and researchers into deeper analyses of the situation at hand.

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**Global Dreams: Imperial Corporations and New World Order.** By Richard Barnet and John Cavanagh. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994. 431 pages, notes and bibliography.

*Global Dreams* is a long-awaited sequel to Richard Barnet's and Ronald Muller's *Global Reach*, one of the seminal works on the ascendance of the multinational corporation, published in 1974. Twenty years have since seen Barnet's and Muller's vision validated, as multinationals (or transnationals as many prefer) continue to spearhead the growth and consolidation of world capital at the expense of the nation-state and other institutions of public life and culture. Like *Global Reach*, *Global Dreams* provides in well-written prose a trove of new facts and data on the operations and style of the world's business titans and their CEOs, much of it from the standpoint of the changes in the agencies of communication and culture. Barnet's co-writer, John Cavanagh, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, is a widely published author on transnational industries, and this latest collaboration is an intelligent and accessible study that is certain to attract a large campus following as *Global Reach* did earlier.

The book is organized into four sections plus a lengthy introduction that describes the foundations of global (what they call "imperial") corporations and the formation of world cultural industries. The United States remains the dominant and hegemonic player (though considerably more integrated with the capital of other countries) in the dissemination of fast-paced consumption goods and lifestyles through the global infrastructure of film, video, television, advertising, and other commercial and standard-setting icons that induce taste and desire. Barnet and Cavanagh carried out extensive research on and interviews with leaders of Sony, Bertelsmann, Philip Morris, Ford Motors, and Citicorp, among other transnational corporations.

Part One deals with the creation of world cultural and commodity industries, focusing largely on the empire-building efforts of Akio Morita of