political project. De Leon's careful scholarship sheds light on the many important stories that shape the Philippines as a nation and homeland.

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Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows: The Making of a Mindanao Rebel. By Eddie L. Quitoriano. University of Wisconsin Press, 2025. xx+351 pp.

Eddie Quitoriano's *Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows* breaks new ground in the literature on revolutionary movements of the Global Sixties by offering an insider's view of the lived experience of cadres and the operational intricacies of the communist insurgency in the Philippines at its height in the 1980s. Combining the suspense of a spy thriller, black humour and retrospection, Quitoriano offers unique insight into the growth of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in Mindanao and into insurgent efforts to secure financial support, training and arms abroad.

Structured in two parts, the memoir first explores Quitoriano's coming of age in Mindanao, an island defined by deep social contradictions that produced both the Moro Muslim separatist movement and the CPP's Mindanao Commission (Mindacom), which became the party's most powerful territorial unit during this period. Quitoriano was born in Initao, Misamis Oriental, to relatively well-

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off farmers who were Christian settlers from Ilocos Sur. Part 1 is titled *walay sapatos*, which means "without shoes" in Cebuano, the lingua franca of the region. It refers to the barefoot guerrillas living according to the Maoist slogan "simple living, ardent struggle". The early chapters cover Quitoriano's radicalization at the San Jose de Mindanao Seminary of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, his activism in the Khi Rho Christian youth group and his joining the CPP's New People's Army (NPA) after President Ferdinand E. Marcos imposed martial law in 1972. Quitoriano is self-critical in discussing the excesses of this period's militant fervour: for example, the superficial reverence for Mao's *Little Red Book* and the zeal of a political officer named Ruben who told him to leave behind basic items after joining the NPA "to live like a peasant". Wryly, Quitoriano notes: "I was to use a guava twig pounded at the tip and salt for my toothbrush and toothpaste. He also ordered me to do away with my rubber shoes: we were to walk through the mountains barefooted. I had doubts about Ruben's advice. My uncles were farmers and they wore rubber shoes and used a proper toothbrush and toothpaste" (p. 50).

Like the Quimpo's (2012) family memoir, Quitoriano's book offers first-hand knowledge of the rapid growth of the insurgent movement in Mindanao, a topic discussed in general terms in Caouette's (2004) definitive study of the CPP. Quitoriano's experiences as a rebel commander give us a glimpse of Mindacom's efforts to build mass movements in towns and cities, organize urban guerrilla forces and create company- and battalion-sized guerrilla units that waged decisive battles against the Marcos dictatorship's military in rural areas. These gains were reversed after Mindacom launched Kahos, or the Kampanyang Ahos (Garlic Campaign), in 1985, one of several anti-infiltration operations by the CPP against suspected military agents in its own ranks that destroyed their own units. In the book's epilogue, Quitoriano looks back to these purges, which tortured and killed hundreds of party members, guerrillas and civilians. Fortunately, Quitoriano escaped this horror because he had been assigned elsewhere. He became aware of its extent only years

later: "The full story of Kahos and the other purges may remain forever buried" (p. 299).

The memoir truly comes into its own in its second part, which follows Quitoriano's promotion to the NPA General Command (NPA-GC) in 1984. The narrative moves from Mindanao to the shadowy world of international covert operations. Quitoriano details secret missions abroad to secure funding, diplomatic support, military training and weapons for the struggle back home. He reveals previously undisclosed collaboration between the NPA-GC and the Japanese Red Army led by Fusaku Shigenobu. The episodes described include failed arms smuggling from North Korea, logistical support from Muammar Gaddafi's Libya, meetings with Sandinista commanders in Nicaragua, using secret safe houses in Belgrade, and parleys with Palestinian armed groups in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Striking photographs of CPP delegations in Pyongyang and NPA cadres training in North Korea enrich the memoir's portrait of transnational underground work. Most importantly, the second part of the book reveals the scaffolding of a truly internationalist bridging of struggles across capitalist centres, the former socialist bloc and the Third World at the tail end of the Global Sixties.

Yet, ultimately, the peak of the Philippines' communist insurgency in the 1980s was overshadowed by its failure to deliver the final blows against the Marcos dictatorship during the EDSA People Power uprising of 1986. Contending assessments of this episode, along with the insurgency's shrinking base amid the anti-infiltration purges and persistent government counterinsurgency campaigns, formed the backdrop to the movement's split in the 1990s. Quitoriano had already been expelled from the CPP by 1990 when he became the fall guy for a botched counterfeit currency operation, two years ahead of the formal break-up. The memoir challenges the dominant narratives that emerged after insurgent factions calling for reaffirmation of the CPP's Maoist roots consolidated control and split with "rejectionist" cadres in 1993. Quitoriano's affinity with Mindacom leaders Romulo Kintanar and Benjamin De Vera allows him to present a more nuanced view of these controversial figures, who were later vilified in official "reaffirmist" party histories.

The publication of this memoir is a story in itself. Quitoriano delayed sharing his account because of trauma, concern for the safety of family and comrades, and criticism from friends who believed that his story threatened revolutionary myths. Following his brief imprisonment in 1994, Quitoriano quietly rebuilt his life outside the underground. His narrative now helps us understand the rise and fall of the CPP-led insurgent movement, whose decline reflects the ebb of what had been called the peasant wars of the twentieth century. *Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows* offers invaluable insights into the internal debates, moral ambiguities and real-life consequences confronted by those involved in underground movements.

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Small Revolutionaries: Participation of Children and Youth in the Vietnam War. By Mai Anh Nguyen. Cornell University Press, 2025. viii+206pp.

Small Revolutionaries explores the role of young people in the war in Vietnam from the 1950s to the war's end and beyond. Rather than simply examining the impacts of the war on children—death, disease, dislocation, hunger—the author looks at children who chose to participate in the conflict either as combatants or as support personnel. She is interested in determining their motivations for joining the resistance forces, either in the North or the South, and understanding the factors that shaped their decision. The book makes