

drawn here may now have to be modified, although the paper could still serve as a useful introduction to current Sabah politics.

Marvin L. Roger's first contribution on the "Electoral Organization and Political Mobilization in Rural Malaysia", gives a concise account of the campaign organization, strategies and tactics of the Barisan Nasional, Parti Islam and the Democratic Action Party in rural Malacca and Johor, in the 1978 general elections, with conclusions, however, which may seem obvious even to the non-specialist. His second paper, which assesses the patterns of change in Sungai Raya, a rural Malay community in northwestern Johor, is a much more solid contribution with penetrating conclusions. Likewise, the second paper by Shamsul A.B. on "The Politics of Poverty Eradication: The Implementation of Development Projects in a Malaysian District" is a fine work of sound scholarship providing us with invaluable insights on the dynamics of local politics in Malaysia, much more than his first, "A Revival in the Study of Islam in Malaysia", which is basically discussive. Notwithstanding this, some of his criticisms on the superficiality of Judith Nagata's treatment of the phenomenon of Islamic revival in Malaysia, which is also included in this volume, are not without good grounds. Judith Nagata's urban-rural dichotomy in talking about the *dakwah* movement is particularly suspect. Her rejoinder on "Islam in Malaysia", which tacitly acknowledges some of the limitations of her first paper, if anything, only serves to suspend the debate. Readers will have to look up her other works in order to fully appreciate her analysis of Islam and politics in Malaysia.

One sometimes wonders if great care has really been taken in the selection of papers to be included in this volume. Some of those selected, like Chandra Muzaffar's, and the debate between Shamsul A.B. and Judith Nagata, although interesting in their own way, do not seem to fit into the Malaysian politics bill easily. Lee Poh Ping's analysis of Malaysian foreign policy too, although concise, seems slightly out of step with the other papers which deal primarily and specifically with Malaysian politics. The same goes for the remaining two papers, but their problem is of a slightly different kind; there seems to be an overdose of concepts and jargon, which surely would not appeal to general readers.

It is also a pity that the Preface has not been cleverly used to tie up all the papers presented in this volume into something which would have a clearer focus and a more direct relevance to the topic of the book. A longer Introduction, rather than a brief Preface, would have considerably enhanced the quality and appeal of the book. With a little more work too, some of the minor inconsistencies in the use of terms such as "paper" and "article" could have been avoided. All said, this is still a handy copy for the specialist and the general reader.

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*Industrialization and Labour Force Processes: A Case Study of Peninsular Malaysia.* By T.G. McGee et al. Research Papers on Development in East Java and West Malaysia No. 1. Canberra: Australian National University, 1986.

This volume on manufacturing, labour and urbanization in Malaysia is billed as a set of "working papers", which should not be taken too seriously as the contributions by Australian

and Malaysian scholars here are more developed than that implies, and more coherent than many edited volumes. The six chapters explore themes of the international context of industrialization, the effects on urbanization and urban-rural exchanges in particular localities (largely Penang and the Kelang Valley), and on the labour force. This is done through a variety of approaches ranging from historical studies to firm-level surveys.

A number of points are of some importance to the current context of planned industrial change in Malaysia. Linge's emphasis on the complexity and uncertainty in the contemporary international context should give pause to framers of the Industrial Master Plan, while McGee's study shows that the semiconductor industry has rapidly absorbed Malays into the urban labour force, contributing to New Economic Policy goals in the context of labour creation dominated by the state and foreign firms. A central dilemma of recent industrialization emerges, in that it has offered advantages in terms of employment (for example, in Warr's examination of industrial enclaves), but produced a fragile and more externally dependent environment for labour (Missen), local firms, and the state and national governments (Kamal Salih and Mei Ling Young on Penang, Chi Seck Choo and Michael Taylor on the Kelang Valley).

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*Cory: Profile of a President.* By Isabelo T. Crisostomo. Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications, 1987. 323 pp.

Writing about the central personality in a revolution, when the values and consciousness of people are changing rapidly, is difficult. Writing history only days or months after events have happened, when the writer is both a close observer and participant of the events, is risky. However, writing about a woman president, popular around the world, of whom admiration and interest are still poured by the media, does have its rewards. In writing this book, the author has thus ventured in the difficult, the risky, and the rewarding.

The reaction to the book would depend on the reader. From the way the book has been written, it seems that the author is trying to address many kinds of readers.

Readers from outside the Philippines, intrigued by the circumstances surrounding the installation of President Corazon Aquino, would most likely find the book a rich source of information and insights hitherto unavailable in their countries. Undoubtedly, the book will contribute to the deepening of whatever appreciation and admiration the buyer of the book already has of the Filipino leader. It will give the outsider, who rarely reads about the Philippines, an opportunity to know and perhaps understand the nation she leads — its political processes, its élites, its predicament.

Academic researchers will have mixed feelings about the book. They will find the footnoting helpful. However, the author slides back and forth between narrative and interpretation. Scholars who are by habit expecting explicit separation between description and analysis, or between description and interpretation, will be disappointed. And yet, had