

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

the author decided to adopt an academic format, his work would have lost its literary appeal, which it has. There are passages such as:

The President of the Philippines [Marcos] for the past twenty years must have taken a last lingering look at the Palace, its surroundings, its majesty and sedate splendor, for after all their separation would in most likelihood be final. He could only have experienced a heaviness of heart for it must have dawned upon him at last that the days of power and glory were over.

Without those passages, the book would have been an undramatic narration of very dramatic events. But to the historian and social scientist, they are not even valid descriptions of speech and action. They are verging towards mental construction, that is, towards pure imagination of the author.

The book, therefore, has definite utility as a historical source material, but the researcher must exert extra effort to screen fact from interpretation, and valid from invalid interpretation. For precisely the same reason, a reader with a literary eye would not be fully satisfied. To him, there may be too much of factual details, punctuated by refreshing insights and enthralling painting of events. If the author was aiming at both types of readers, he would probably not fully please both. But perhaps, he may not have been aiming primarily at these types of readers. The wide readership in and outside the Philippines may be his target, in which case the author will probably succeed.

A final note must be made. The world has yet to see almost six years of President Aquino's term in office. We have not seen all there is to know about this woman leader. Besides, the national events that swept her to the presidency are far from over. She will do more things; many things could still happen. In the mind of ex-President Marcos waiting in Hawaii, for as long as he is still alive, the game may not yet be over. To him, "the last days of power and glory" may not yet be, borrowing from the author's words. This is the risk the author takes: describing the forest when you are still too close to the trees, and to the changes still unfolding.

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The Search for a Negotiated Settlement of the Vietnam War. By Allan E. Goodman. Indochina Research Monograph No. 2. University of California, Berkeley, 1986.

This monograph is not likely to advance our understanding of the American role in Indochina very much — which is surprising since it is one of the first two studies in a new monograph series published by the serious-minded Indochina Studies Project at the University of California at Berkeley.

Allan Goodman's monograph is an abridgement of his 1978 study, *The Lost Peace*, published by the Hoover Institution. His analysis is based on interviews done in 1974–75 with more than seventy-five people ("virtually all of the U.S. and South Vietnamese officials who participated in the Vietnam negotiations") as well as the usual documentary research. The strength of the study comes from the interviews. Goodman details differences