

This book has many strengths. It gives a useful survey of existing Malaysian local level studies, provides a succinct account of major historical developments in Malaysia, and places local social and political developments against a thoughtfully researched economic background. The role of UMNO as a locus of political loyalty is chronicled as is the changing nature of political leadership at the village level. All of this is achieved with admirable clarity, without the leaden jargon so characteristic of some works of American political science.

The issue of scholarly value aside, this reviewer could not but enjoy the warmth of Marvin Rogers' evocative writing as he describes a village with which he has had a close relationship for so many years. The endearing qualities of *kampung* life with its personalities, ceremonies and coffee shop gossip are sensitively recounted. Yet despite his intimacy with the village and its people, the author avoids sentimentality. He does not shrink from describing some of the uglier aspects of the village's history such as Chinese traders cheating with their weighing scales or the slow acceptance of government exhortations to build water-sealed toilets.

Both the general reader and the student of politics will benefit from what is sure to become an enduring contribution to the literature on social, economic and political change at the local level in Malaysia.

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DEFORESTATION IN THE POSTWAR PHILIPPINES. *By David M. Kummer. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press (University of Chicago Geography Research Paper. no. 234). 1992. xvi, 177 pp. (Tables.) US\$17.00, paper. ISBN 0-226-46169-6.*

RARELY are the implications of one book so thoroughly depressing as those in this carefully compiled monograph. David Kummer methodically chronicles the loss of forest cover in the Philippines from primary rain forest to horribly eroded and denuded hillsides. In the process, he provides us with one of the most lucid pictures of how a myriad of forces come together to rob a country of its future. There is the rapacious pattern of export logging originating from the time of the early U.S. presence. There is the expansion of agriculture with growing population. Finally, there is the tremendous ecological impact of corruption.

The author begins with a comprehensive review of loss of tropical forest throughout the world and then considers the particular processes and pathways that allow for deforestation in the Philippines (figure 2, page 96). Central to the discussion is the relationship between forestry and agriculture in the permanent loss of forest. The year 1980 is identified as the first year that "expansion of agriculture became greater than deforestation" (page 90). Kummer does a particularly fine job of sorting through the difficulties presented in the statistics and in charting the various forms of land classification as related to forest types and indeed the presence of forest at all.

Along with agricultural expansion, corruption has had a central role in the loss of forest and is considered a form of “institutionalized looting” (page 71). The author goes on to reflect that

the process of deforestation, at least in those countries where the forests have a commercial value like the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, has greatly benefited a relatively small group of people. Although the process may appear to be chaotic, enough control has been exercised from the top to ensure a continuous flow of financial rewards. The process has been more manipulated than misguided. For those who have benefited from the process, it has served their purposes well (page 139).

For example, the rate of deforestation was highest in the 1970s under Marcos (page 143).

Another book on plunder, corruption and chaos is not a particularly important contribution in itself. But the care and the comprehensiveness with which this chronicle has been provided gives a small hope for setting better priorities of (interrelated) policies to counter deforestation. This is, however, where the book stops. There are few maps or island case studies so the book has limited utility for policy makers in the Philippines. Aside from this compilation of forest land use statistics, which is a useful model for other national studies, the book's example as an exploration of the pathways of deforestation leads us a step further to conceiving and organizing painfully elusive solutions.

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THE MAKING OF A NATION. Essays on Nineteenth-Century Filipino Nationalism. By *John N. Schumacher, S.J.* Quezon City: *Ateneo de Manila University Press*. 1991. 269 pp. (Price unavailable.) Paper. ISBN 971-550-019-6.

THIS IS A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS spanning thirty-five years of research into Philippine history. Slightly rewritten in the light of recent scholarship, they are, in the author's words, “a kind of intellectual autobiography.” Starting as a young scholastic trying to understand the country he had chosen for his life work as a Jesuit missionary, he is now an accepted authority on Philippine history.

Anyone familiar with his writings — as reflected, too, in this volume — will note the growth in his understanding of his area of specialization. And perhaps a gauge of his academic stature is the absence of serious adverse criticism of his work. On the other hand, this could also be an index to the state of Philippine historiography for which basic research still needs to be done to counter the insidious ideological propaganda that passes for scholarship, or the unbelievable ignorance of so-called educated Filipinos of their own country's history. People who do not know hardly ask questions.

The essays are a study of the development of a *sense* of the Philippine nationalist movement and revolution at the end of the last century. They do not analyze Philippine nationalism or the revolution itself, two complex issues that deserve more detailed study and which are in a sense tangential