



The Philippines: A Continuing Past

Renato Constantino, Letizia R. Constantino

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The previous volume, *A Past Revisited*, tried to show how the Spanish and American colonialists manipulated events and personalities and evolved policies to serve their own interests. That past assumed a new dimension when seen from the people's viewpoint. The present work undertakes to prove that the essence of these past relations has persisted in the present era. The authors have therefore chosen to call this period *The Continuing Past* in order to emphasize the fact that while there are apparent changes, the new refinements of external control and exploitation merely conceal the persisting subjection. The authors express the hope that their "re-examination of the Philippine neocolonial experience...and the brief focus on evolving American imperialist objectives and the techniques used to attain them may not only reveal this historical period in a new light but may help to provide the basis for new historic initiatives on the part of the people in the attainment of their final liberation."

As in the previous volume, events and personalities are subjected to stringent analysis from the point of view of the people's larger interest, thus giving the layman a better grasp of the forces that influence contemporary society. The process of demystification proceeds with greater intensity as sacred cows are re-evaluated in terms of the people's long-range objectives.

The Continuing Past is a very relevant work; and also irreverent as the previous writings of Constantino have been.

The Philippines: A Continuing Past Details

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Frantz says

“re-examination of the Philippine neocolonial experience. . . and the brief focus on evolving American imperialist objectives and the techniques used to attain them may not only reveal this historical period in a new light but may help to provide the basis for new historic initiatives on the part of the people in the attainment of their final liberation.”

Angelo Regalado says

Be prepared to be frustrated and pissed off plenty of times while reading this book if you're a Filipino. Ang pangalawang volume sa "The Philippines" history books na sinulat ni Renato Constantino at ang kanyang collaborator at asawa na si Letizia Constantino the Continuing Past picks up right where the first volume ends. Sa tingin ko mas na pahalagahan ko ang libro dahil hindi required reading ito samin noong college so I had time for everything to sink in and read at my own pace. Very Anti-Imperialist ang aklat therefore it comes off extremely anti-American, it details the role of the U.S. in developing (or under developing) the Philippines from the first day of occupation up until the book ends during the Macapagal's (the father) presidency. I cannot recommend the book enough, a must have in your library.

Karlo Mikhail says

A classic of nationalist and progressive Philippine historical narrative. A good starting point for a deeper investigation into the social cancer imposed on the Filipino people by US imperialism. A must read for advocates of national liberation alongside Amado Guerrero's Philippine Society and Revolution, Frantz Fanon's Wretched of the Earth, and Mao's writings on the Chinese revolution.

Katherine says

I remember this as our text book for our history class in college.

Maryam says

"Collaborators."
