

Editor's Note (Volume 8, Number 2)

We remember Jose Rizal on his death anniversary. He believed that learning and clear thinking can help us make sense of the world and improve society. This issue is about nation-building—how different efforts have shaped the Philippines. From climate action and road building to health campaigns, these efforts encountered challenges. Climate programs were guided by Western science, but they often did not match how local people make sense of the world. Farm-to-market roads are more than just infrastructure; they also represent different ideas of progress and leadership. Other articles look at the country's history, culture, and communities. We also feature book review on nation-building that adds new ideas to the discussion. We also highlight individuals like Fullon, whose role in the revolution is largely overlooked, demonstrating that building a nation requires examining both the past and the present.

In “Pagsasagip sa Modernidad: Pagbabago ng Klima, Agham at Kanluraning Imperyalismo”, JC Gaillard examines how the contemporary discourse on climate change is dominated by a single narrative dictated by Western science. This monolithic discourse leads to a unique approach to governing climate change. This form of government mirrors Foucault's governmentality or the modern form of exercising power that emerged and grew in Europe through the 18th century. It is grounded in the expectations of the Age of Enlightenment that people should be free from the threats of nature. As a result, the governmentality of climate change exerts strong control on society and the behavior of people who believe that their lives will be safer and more progressive. Our argument is not to dismiss the significance and relevance of climate change. Our concern is the rolling out of Western science and governmentality across the world, especially in places such as the Philippines, where they do not match local understandings of the world.

Josephine Teves, in her article “Paving the Neoliberal Path: Presidential Discourses on Farm-to-Market Roads in the Philippines (1946-1985),” examines Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) in the Philippines as both developmental infrastructure and political instruments across successive postwar administrations from 1946 to 1986. Drawing on document analysis of national development plans and presidential discourses, complemented by


expert interviews, the article interrogates how FMRs were framed, justified, and deployed within shifting economic ideologies from postwar rehabilitation and nationalist development to export-oriented growth and neoliberal restructuring. The central argument is that FMRs functioned not only as a technical solution to rural development but also as ideological artifacts through which presidents articulated visions of modernization, state presence, and national progress. The analysis identifies four recurring themes in presidential rhetoric: FMRs as symbols of development, as vital and inevitable interventions, as sources of political capital, and as instruments of nationalism and state-building. The article further illustrates how FMRs intersected with counterinsurgency efforts, particularly during the administrations of Quirino and Magsaysay, by extending the government's reach into contested rural areas. By situating FMRs within broader debates on infrastructure, neoliberalism, and political power, the article contributes to the historiography of Philippine rural development, highlighting how FMRs became both development pathways and symbolic terrains where competing visions of development and governance were created.

In “Reemergence of Smallpox in 1918 Manila: Causes, Characteristics, and Shortcomings of the Colonial Bureaucracy, John David Castro investigates the characteristics and causes of the reemergence of smallpox in Manila that year. Mortality rates of the disease declined after the 1905 vaccination campaign but rapidly increased in 1918 as smallpox became the second leading cause of death in the city. Using reports from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Health, Castro analyzed the demographic characteristics of the disease. Children born after the 1906 vaccination campaign were primarily affected by the disease, and the outbreak emerged during the dry season of 1918, from March to May. In analyzing the causes of this outbreak, Castro sought to explore the logistical challenges faced by the American colonial bureaucracy in its inoculation campaigns. The lackluster inoculation campaigns prior to 1918 failed to prevent the reemergence of smallpox. These challenges primarily revolved around the procurement of vaccines, the shortage of manpower, and inconsistent vaccination campaigns. The article presents these logistical challenges as caused by the American colonial administration. The shortcomings of the colonial administration, such as low wages given to its vaccinators as well as its inability to procure enough vaccines, present a more nuanced picture of the smallpox outbreak in contrast to colonial reports that typically blame Filipino hesitancy towards vaccination.

Araling Pang-erya at Araling Kabanwahan is an anthology of four articles and two commentaries, edited by Atoy Navarro, Mary Dorothy Jose, and Jerome

Ong, and published by the Department of Social Sciences of the University of the Philippines Manila. The book review, “Paglalayag nang may Direksyon: Isang Pagpapakasaysayan,” written by Mark Joseph Santos, is organized into three stages, corresponding to the three stages of a sea voyage: a. *Pagpalaot* (Going Offshore), b. *Paglalayag* (Navigation), and c. *Pagdaong* (Landing). In *Pagpalaot*, a brief contextualization of *Araling Kabanwahan* (AK)—Filipinized Area Studies/Cultural Studies—within the Filipinization movement is provided. In *Paglalayag*, the review discusses seven points of the book’s relevance: 1. It serves as an ideal introductory reading for AK; 2. It opens new directions for AK; 3. It emphasizes social justice within AK alongside cultural analysis; 4. It broadens the project of AK; 5. It is conversant with contemporary issues; 6. it challenges the accusation of exclusivism against AK and *Pantayong Pananaw* (PP) (“from-us-for-us” perspective); and 7. It serves as a model for the formation of an “autonomous discourse.” *Pagdaong* provides the closing remarks, which serve as a call to continue the book’s advocacy. Finally, I wholeheartedly recommend the book to researchers in the field of Area Studies. It is a valuable sourcebook for students taking university courses such as Area Studies, Regional Studies, International Relations, Foreign Service, and related fields.

In the book review entitled “An Appraisal of the Life of a Visayan General,” Juan Miguel U. Palero offered a meticulous and thorough critique of Aida Mirasol Ricarze’s treatment of the life of a distinguished yet uncelebrated figure of the Philippine Revolution, that of General Leandro Fullon of Antique. Ricarze’s approach to the heroism and eventual legacy of General Fullon was defined primarily by his military engagements, first against the Spaniards and later against the Americans, as the leader of the revolution in Antique. Less focus was given to his upbringing and life after his surrender to the American forces. At the same time, Palero underscored in his book review that there exists a myriad of methodological and textual issues that severely encumbered the ability of the book author to fully narrate a whole, truthful, and impartial account of the life of General Fullon. In the end, despite its shortcomings, Ricarze’s work became a fitting platform for introducing the figure of General Fullon, not only to his fellow Antiqueños but also to the rest of the Filipinos. *


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