

go away with rising affluence. It shows, above all, that such a crisis is inextricably linked to the very economic “miracle” that many outsiders applaud so uncritically.

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The Dynamics of Metropolitan Management in Southeast Asia. Edited by JURGEN RULAND. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1996. xv, 260 pp. \$39.90 (cloth); \$25.00 (paper).

The rapid growth of mega-urban regions in Southeast Asia has emerged as a major policy and research issue in the decade of the 1980s. This collection of essays arose out of an initiative of the late Kernal Singh Sandhu, the former Director of ISEAS who played a pivotal role in the “indigenization” of research on Southeast Asia in the last thirty years. The focus of this collection is both interdisciplinary and policy orientated. Apart from the excellent introductory overview essay by Ruland, the other essays are case studies of the individual cities of Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore and Yangon (Rangoon for anti-SLORC types). The editor encouraged his writers to utilize Geertz’s ideas of “thick description” of each city, focusing on “a precise description of the urban, political and management cultures” (p. 21).

While not a totally neglected theme (see Marc Askew and William S. Logan, *Cultural Identity and Urban Change in Southeast Asia: Interpretative Essays*. [Melbourne: Deaken University Press 1994]), the study of the emerging “cultures” of Southeast Asian cities is important and curiously harks back to the ideas raised by Hoselitz and by Redfield and Singer in the 1950s (see B. F. Hoselitz, “Generative and Parasitic Cities,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 3, no. 1 [1954/55]: 53–73; R. Redfield and M. B. Singer, “The Cultural Role of Cities,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 3, no. 1 [1954]: 274–94). Rudick’s concern, however, is much more with the nexus between management and power as they affect the efficient management of cities rather than broader concerns about the role of cities in economic growth that had motivated these earlier writers. But it also true that the role that cities may play in economic growth is centrally related to the efficiency of their management.

This collection of essays is potentially of considerable importance. The result, however, is somewhat uneven. Most of the authors take “thick description” to be a rather careful description of the political structure, fiscal basis, and management organization of the cities they are writing about. Most of the essays lack that Geertzian quality of style which is based upon rich ethnographic detail and an underlying assumption that cities are “locales of complexity.” This said, the content of the book is a valuable addition to the growing documentation of the management challenge of Southeast Asian cities. Most essays have a careful documentation of the historical emergence of metropolitan governance, the fiscal basis of each city’s operations, and a focus upon central challenges to the cities’ administrators. These challenges, while having common features, have been variously emphasized. Thus, the almost comic opera efforts of the Bangkok administration to resolve the fundamental dilemma that “road space covers only about 7 per cent of the city land area—compared to 25–30 per cent in Western cities” (p. 53) in a situation where 2–3 million vehicles are growing at 9 per cent per year are carefully described. The “political culture” of Hanoi

is well illustrated by Dean Forbes and Le Hong Ke. The inability of successive Metropolitan Manila administrators to solve persistent problems of poverty are exposed. But the essays on Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Singapore, and Yangon are less critical and probing.

As a group, the essays have three limitations. First, there is insufficient discussion of the overall spatial context in these cities. Recent publications have documented the spatial spread of these city cores into surrounding areas, creating mega-urban regions (see T. G. McGee and Ira Robinson, *The Mega-Urban Regions of Southeast Asia* [Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1996]). The effect of this outward expansion on the city cores is considerable (as it has been in developed countries) and needs to be considered. Secondly, the political economy of these cities is not really engaged—the fact that these cities and their administrations are embedded in national administrations, which makes the task of administrators very different. In an age of continuing nation-building and global competition, these capitals become symbols of a nation's success. They are sites of ongoing regional and global meetings of "power elites" and thus while they may be inefficiently managed, they cannot appear to be inefficiently managed. This difficulty is further exacerbated by the fact that these cities generate a sizable proportion of their nation's wealth. Thus, Bangkok produced 50 per cent of Thailand's GNP in 1992 and Manila one-third. The growing wealth of these cities cannot be neglected because of their contribution to national revenues. At the same time, the political and economic elites are benefiting from this urban economic growth through land and real estate speculation and development. It is thus in their interests to keep local tax revenue at low levels. This is well documented in the cases of Bangkok, Manila and Jakarta. This conflict of interests is a major contradiction in developing more efficient cities in the region.

Finally, there is only limited attention in the book to the significant economic restructuring that is occurring as a result of the increase in manufacturing (particularly in the ASEAN cities) and the growth of the service sector, in particular tourism. In effect, the processes of globalization are greatly influencing the cities of this region and those processes are not really discussed.

I do not raise these omissions because they make the volume any less valuable but because a discussion of these issues would have greatly enhanced the arguments of the volume. This said, this is an immensely valuable collection of commentaries on the administration and management of Southeast Asian cities which is needed to reinforce the wider discussions about urban policy which are outlined in the book.

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The Philippine Temptation: Dialectics of Philippines–U.S. Literary Relations. By E. SAN JUAN, JR. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996. x, 305 pp. \$54.95 (cloth); \$19.95 (paper).

For a good many years E. San Juan has energetically and passionately written about Filipino—U.S. literary, economic, political, and social relations. *The Philippine Temptation*, his most recent effort on the subject, delves into the history of Filipino resistance literature; outlines its struggle to contend with the tactics and stratagems of a hegemonic ideology from the United States; and also, and with much enthusiasm, "endeavors to express a Third World perspective on the impact of Eurocentric power