

Editor's Note

A recurrent idea in articles in this issue of *Social Science Diliman* is the power of institutions as social mechanisms. The articles also take us to different historical settings, which is opportune as it so happens that 2010 commemorates 100 years of the establishment of the History department in the University of the Philippines.

Elizabeth L. Enriquez narrates how alternative mass media sustained an organized community of foreign internees in the World War 2 internment camp set up by the Japanese at the University of Sto. Tomas. Her study brings to light rare archival sources as well as personal testimonies gathered from some of the survivors and their descendants. What became known as “KGST radio” broadcast music, news, and implicit messages through a simple PA system heard throughout the camp. It eventually assimilated the print (mimeographed) media initiatives. Drawing on the professional, artistic, and entrepreneurial skills of the internees, these diverse media strategies addressed particular concerns, like health, and most importantly, kept up the spirit of resistance until the end of the war.

The second piece by Aliza D. Racelis investigates if the profitability of financial institutions may be linked to qualities of ‘strength’ and ‘adaptability’ in organizational culture within the bank, she concludes that this is indeed the case. Her article interprets the findings of a survey evaluating the ‘assumptions, beliefs, goals, knowledge and values’ among employees in 60 banks in the Philippines. She notes as well that financial performance also correlates with bank size; large firms are performing well. The suggestion is that this is not because of their large size but because they have more adaptable employees.

Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem examines elections and separatist movements in a comparative discussion of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Basque movement known as *Euskadi Ta Askatasuna* or ETA (Euskadi and Freedom). What emerges from her study is that engagement with electoral processes has worked better for the Basques than for the Moros. She links their divergent experiences with the distinct liberal democratic contexts of Spain and the Philippines (‘illiberal democracy’ or patronage politics in the case of the Philippines). Yet, for both cases electoral politics has so far not sufficiently addressed separatist aspirations.

The fourth article revisits a much earlier period when European states were competitively embarking on colonial ventures. Owen J. Lynch takes a look at how the king of Spain's colonization of Philippines was legally justified in a series of papal bulls (encyclical letters issued by the Pope). By 1556 with Philip II, interpretation of the bulls as primarily spiritual in nature by the preeminent legal scholars of the time came to be accepted, which meant that the Spanish authority encompassed Christian subjects who submitted to the Crown, rather than territory. Lynch notes that technically, Spain never acquired full sovereignty over the entire Philippine archipelago, but international and Anglo-American law in the 19th century was indifferent to these issues: Spanish sovereignty was simply taken as an assumption when Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States.

This issue also features a review by Ariel Cusi Lopez of a recently published two volume work entitled *Strange Parallels: Southeast Asia in Global Context, c. 800-1830*, by Victor Lieberman. Lopez cites these tomes for containing an ambitious and innovative perspective in the historiography of Southeast Asia in light of other recent writings on the region.

Finally, a commentary on plagiarism and the ethics of scholarship is included in this issue. Ana Maria Testa-de Ocampo reflects on highly current concerns of the university, especially in this day and age of information technology.

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