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# Philippine Studies Historical & Ethnographic Viewbonts

### Historical Revisionism

Memoirs of Martial Law Bataan Nuclear Power Plant Filipino Height

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Ferdinand E. Marcos and his son, Ferdinand Jr.

Source President Ferdinand E. Marcos album, Presidential Museum and Library PH (2010-2016) photo collection, "A candid moment shared between father and son: Young Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. fixes a snag on his father's Barong Tagalog." Online, https://www.flickr.com/photos/govph/8073408322/in/album-72157631736574957/, accessed 18 Sept. 2018.

## The Pervert's Guide to Historical Revisionism Traversing the Marcos Fantasy

This article argues that historical revisionism is constituted by the Marcos fantasy, which (1) generates jouissance and (2) shields Marcos apologists and supporters from the traumatic Real through narrativization, the concealment of lack, and displacement. This fantasy can be dialectically undermined by pushing Marcos apologists and supporters to fully identify with their desire. Although many critiques of such distortions validly tackle factual inconsistencies, they ultimately miss the fantasy by which these perversions are framed. Hence, the article attempts a way out of this impasse by employing Žižekian philosophy and psychoanalysis, a mapping of this perversion's historical origins, and gesturing toward the necessity of a new political alternative.

KEYWORDS: MARCOS DICTATORSHIP · HISTORICAL REVISIONISM · FANTASY · PERVERSION · ŽIŽEKIAN THEORY

## Writing the Self and Exigencies of Survival Autobiography as Catharsis and Commemoration

This article discusses the autobiographies written by survivors of Ferdinand Marcos's martial law regime. Despite incarceration, torture, and the control of writing materials that sought to obliterate the self and the written word, political prisoners undertook great risks to record their lives. Interviews with these writers reveal the challenges that, years later, survivors faced in writing their experiences, resulting in the belatedness of autobiographical writing. But in writing and publishing their narratives these activists and political prisoners-turned-writers felt emotional catharsis and empowerment. The passing of their generation has made these survivors realize the acute need to preserve memories of martial law.

KEYWORDS: MARCOS DICTATORSHIP  $\cdot$  PRISON WRITING  $\cdot$  AUTOBIOGRAPHY  $\cdot$  MARTIAL LAW  $\cdot$  HISTORICAL MEMORY  $\cdot$  TRAUMA

RONALD U. MENDOZA, DONALD JAY BERTULFO, AND JEROME PATRICK D. CRUZ

## From Megaproject to White Elephant Lessons from the Philippines's Bataan Nuclear Power Plant

Drawing from recent literature on white elephant projects, this article examines the case of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP)—the paradigmatic example of a white elephant project in the Philippines. The BNPP megaproject had massive implications for the country's fiscal standing and long-term economic prospects, offering lessons for future projects of this size and significance. By revisiting the BNPP's problematic history as well as the continuing infrastructure governance challenges in the post-Marcos period, this study outlines the repercussions of such dynamics for the Philippine government's "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program, the most ambitious since the Marcos era.

KEYWORDS: BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT · INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT · MEGAPROJECTS · RENT-SEEKING · PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP)

# "Little Brown Brothers" Height and the Philippine—American Colonial Encounter (1898–1946)

This article looks at how scientific racism, biomedicine, public health, sports, and a nascent bureaucracy intersected in the making of height (human stature) as an important attribute of individuals and populations during the Philippine—American colonial encounter. In relation to the "tall" Americans, Filipinos were depicted and problematized as "short," and the attention to children's growth, the rise of sports, and the establishment of a bureaucracy all contributed to making height a measure of health and a parameter of inclusion (and exclusion) in various domains of society.

KEYWORDS: HEIGHT · ANTHROPOMETRY · PUBLIC HEALTH · COLONIALISM · PHILIPPINES