

*Book Review*

Maboloc, Christopher Ryan. *Radical Democracy in the Time of Duterte*. Foreword by Wataru Kusaka. Cotabato City: Elzistyle Book Shop. 2022

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The book makes a critical appraisal of radical democracy under the Duterte administration. To this end, ten chapters form the work. What should be mentioned emphatically is that although many global media criticize the Duterte's rough political style, the book insightfully shows that the story of the radical democracy in the time of Duterte is not that simple. Rather, the book eloquently and informatively presents the deep structural, historical, and colonial background to Duterte's radical approach.

Though the idea that liberal democracy is in serious crisis around the globe is a predominant view, what remains underdeveloped is the analysis of how the asymmetric socio-political and economic structures and systems in which certain groups have enjoyed a privileged status, exploiting the system for their own interests. Mainstream analysis of democracy is still Eurocentric, meaning that the issues of democracy tend to be examined from Western democracy perspectives as a reference point that we are supposed to rely on.

However, while many countries adhere to democracy as a political system, examining democracy only from a Western vantage point will not reveal the real problems of democracy nor help us in understanding the challenges facing democracy in societies like the Philippines. Only when we penetrate into distinct socio-political and economic structures and colonial legacies, that we can understand the real challenges that face people. This book clearly demonstrates that.

With carefully and deeply structured chapters, this book successfully tells us what we should consider in understanding democracy in the Philippines. In analyzing democracy, it delves into

the socio-political background and the colonial legacy of the past that have made possible a radical figure to rise to power. The ideals of democracy tell us that it must be built not for the elites but for every citizen. It goes without saying that the book is of great importance not only to the Filipino people but to anyone who wants to learn what democracy truly is.