

Book Review

Labastin, B., Mansueto, M., Arambala, G., Bayod, R., and Balotol, R. *Radical Politics in the Philippines*. USA: Kindle Direct Publishing International. 2022.

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The first chapter of this book provides the contrast between the thoughts of Randy David and Christopher Ryan Maboloc as explained by Benjiemen Labastin. The basic point is that David sees democracy as formal while Maboloc delves into the more substantive definition of it using Chantal Mouffe's radical democracy as a paradigm. The second chapter of the book, written by Menelito Mansueto, discusses Chomsky's and Hermann's propaganda model using as a background case the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. The third chapter offers a unique perspective. Ruben Balotol employs the theory of Zizek in explaining the idea of political economy under President Duterte. The fourth chapter takes an environmental turn as Rogelio Bayod justifies the need for a strong will to protect the interest of the environment and Indigenous Peoples against those who exploit the same. The last chapter provides a unique comparison between Jovie Espenido, who cleansed Ozamiz of drug personalities and altered its politics by destroying the Parojinog dynasty, and President Duterte, who exhibits the same radical measures in his war on drugs.

The book represents the unheard and neglected voices of young scholars from Southern Philippines in contextualizing democracy. In the words of Wataru Kusaka, this radical democracy project by academics from the South aims to provide the voice for an underrepresented narrative. Interested readers might disagree with their views on Philippine politics, but they cannot ignore the urgency of their thinking as they propose an approach to democracy that highlights the role of citizens who are sidelined in the margins. Politics in the Philippines has always been dominated by the feuding elite and ordinary Filipinos become hapless victims of the elite's struggle for

state control. This book is a timely contribution to an understanding of Philippine politics from the perspective of young thinkers from the South who are keen to offer fresh accounts of the intertwining of such concepts as radical democracy, justice, environmental integrity, mass media and local politics. This is a must-read book if one wishes to understand the deeper issues hounding Philippine politics.