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In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines

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thinkers have helped generate an atmosphere in which intentions have often replaced capabilities, in which potential riches have been counted before being discovered, and perceptions have overshadowed realities, thus breeding suspicion and animosity between bordering countries. This book does not reverse that condition.

JORGE SWETT
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Karnow, Stanley. *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines*. New York: Random House, 1989. 494pp. \$24.95

Given the political and economic uncertainty besetting Manila and the current state of U.S.-Philippine relations, this book could not be more timely. If one has a limited amount of time in which to become familiar with the long and complex history shared by the two countries, this may well be the best single volume available.

Stanley Karnow will be known to most *Review* readers for his earlier prodigious work on the Vietnam war. Like that book, *In Our Image* is a skillful and eminently readable blend of history, journalism, and occasional gossip. Also like his previous work, this book has a companion video history which was aired on the Public Broadcasting System. While they are not marketed as a package, the video series is a rich pictorial retrospective and a must-see for those interested in Philippine affairs.

Stanley Karnow addresses his book to three questions: what propelled the Americans into the Philippines; what they did there; and what has been the legacy of their role. In writing the book he has faithfully answered those questions, and the reader will be struck throughout that this is not so much Philippine history as it is American history. Mr. Karnow's journalistic roots (*Time*, *Life*, *The Washington Post* . . .) enable him to bring historical figures to life and thus imbue dusty history with freshness and vitality.

Much of the book is directed towards explaining the policies, ambitions, and emotions that led to the Philippines becoming an American colony and to the subsequent "special relationship" that has linked the two countries for nearly a century. In examining these issues the author is careful to become neither apologist nor revisionist, but rather to balance both countries' faults and virtues fairly and conscientiously. Students of more recent foreign policy decisions will certainly recognize the strategy and policy mismatches that occurred during the so-called Philippine Insurrection of 1898. The notable absence of leadership on the part of President McKinley is brought into sharp focus, as are the later actions (and inactions) of Douglas MacArthur.

It must be said that Stanley Karnow has definite personal views on certain issues and personalities—MacArthur being only one of many. But once recognized, this personalizing becomes one of the book's strongest

virtues. The author weaves together so many anecdotes, bits of gossip, and little-known facts that the reader cannot help but form a complete picture of the people and the times in which they lived.

In Our Image becomes even more fascinating toward the end, when the last twenty-five years of shared history become more familiar. Intimately acquainted with the Marcos' "conjugal dictatorship" and with virtually all the key players in the opposition movement which led to their ouster in 1986, Karnow provides fresh insights into the complex mixture of politics, corruption, greed, ambition, and idealism which culminated in Cory Aquino's victory. The chapter outlining the transition from Marcos to Aquino and the U.S. policy decisions relating to it are vivid and compelling.

The book touches briefly on the current insurgency, but, regretfully, was completed prior to subsequent coup attempts and the Philippines' present political malaise. Nonetheless, it provides such a measured and complete foundation that the reader cannot help but gain a firm grasp of the challenges and imponderables which now face Mrs. Aquino. Stanley Karnow has virtually created a genre of journalistic historicism; *In Our Image* is excellent from start to finish. Potential readers should not be put off by its nearly five hundred pages; it is a journey that is both enjoyable and worthwhile.

D.A. JAGOE
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Allen, Robert L. *The Port Chicago Mutiny*. New York: Warner Books Inc., 1989. 192pp.

The 1944 ammunition explosion at Port Chicago, California, is obscure today. It produced the most casualties of any U.S. domestic industrial accident connected with World War II. Yet Robert Allen's excellent book should help diminish that obscurity, for he discusses how the ramifications extended far beyond the actual incident.

On the night of 17 July 1944, two merchant ships at the Port Chicago pier exploded while crews of black navy enlisted men were loading ammunition for transportation to the war zone: the *E. A. Bryan*, a Liberty ship, and the *Quinalt Victory*, a brand-new Victory type. The accident killed 320 men, injured 390 others, and damaged or destroyed much of the ammunition depot. The Victory ship was broken up and hurled some five hundred feet from her berth while the Liberty ship was essentially atomized.

Perhaps the incident is so little known because naval history has traditionally concentrated on the strategic and operational aspects of wars. Logistics is far behind as a subject for study, but it is well to remember that Task Force 58, for example, would have been toothless in the Central Pacific campaign without the bombs, rockets, projectiles, powder, and machine gun bullets loaded aboard hundreds of merchant ships at Port Chicago, about forty miles east of San Francisco.

Dr. Allen has chosen to concentrate on the men and on the disciplinary