

“Reuben S. Seguritan’s ‘*We Didn’t Pass Through the Golden Door: The Filipino American Experience*’ is a welcome addition to the literature on the Filipino experience in America. That experience is one of the most unique in the world because it arose from the uniqueness of the American colonial experiment. From its inception American colonialism systematically sought the acceptance by the colonized of the correctness of their colonization, inculcating through the educational system and the American cultural hegemony it nurtured a sense not only of the power and wealth, but also of the magnanimity of the colonizer. Among its consequences was large-scale Filipino migration to the United States beginning in 1906, as Filipinos impelled by the vision of better lives in the colonial heartland itself fled the intensifying poverty of their native land.

“Seguritan chronicles the experience of both the early Filipino immigrants fleeing economic want in the Philippines as well as that of the political migrants of the martial law period, about whom little has been written, and who fled into exile in the United States Seguritan himself personifies this irony having been forced into exile in the United States because of his political activism—the very activism the Marcos regime, with U.S. support, was trying in the seventies to uproot from the countryside and cities of the Philippines.

“The political exiles of the seventies who chose to remain in the United States have, since that period, made the United States their home. They have contributed their skills and talents to that country. But most of all have they brought to the Filipino struggle in America the determined battle for empowerment that the economic migrants had only fitfully waged for many decades. Seguritan’s book should be required reading for everyone concerned with understanding the new chapter in the Filipino experience in America that the political exiles of the seventies have started.”

LUIS V. TEODORO

Dean, College of Mass Communication

University of the Philippines, and

Editor, *Out of This Struggle: The Filipinos In Hawaii*