

PREFACE

Inequality is ubiquitous. It is found as much in the physical environment as in the animal kingdom and the human society. But the striking uniqueness of unequal human relationship lies in the fact that it is partly natural and partly man-made. One witnesses a perpetual struggle in the society by men-in-the-top to preserve the status quo, men-in-the-middle to equal or excell the immediate higher-ups and men-in-the-bottom to achieve upward mobility. This action, reaction and interaction processes through cooperation, competition and conflict can be observed at individual, group, regional, national as well as international levels. In this game of human struggle for existence as well as excellence, today's victors may be tomorrow's victims and vice-versa. But certain victims remain as they are for centuries (with a little cosmetic changes in their status) for influences beyond their control as well as due to commission of human follies and omission of appropriate action at appropriate time. Coming down to relations among nations the Republic of the Philippines appears to be such a victim. It was, for more than three centuries,

under the colonial domination of Spain which itself was a colony of Tyre at a point of time. In the aftermath of the Spanish American War of 1898, it came under the colonial administration of the United States which was also once part of the British colonial empire. The United States turned the Philippines into an independent country on 4 July 1946. But this changed political status did not result in any substantive qualitative transformation of the type of relationship the Philippines had with the United States. The colony just became a client. The present dissertation is a modest attempt to analyse and understand the pattern of relationship between the United States and the Philippines that gradually evolved over the years. It begins with a careful look at the history of the interactions between the two countries, proceeds to examine the local, bilateral, regional and global factors that influenced and shaped their relations in a completely changed environment of the post-war period and concludes with an attempt to scrutinize the policies of the United States to preserve the pattern of its relationship with the Philippines to the extent possible.

The focus of the study is on the American policies towards the Philippines. The period covered is upto the

end of Truman Administration. While the main thrust is on the strategic aspect of the American motivation, various other factors that played roles have been dealt with wherever necessary. Primary sources available at the National Archives in Washington D.C., and Harry S. Truman Library in Missouri have been extensively used to write the core chapters of the present work. Secondary sources available at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, Sapru House Library, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses Library, and American Centre Library at New Delhi; and the American Studies Research Centre Library at Hyderabad have also been made use of for writing other chapters.

The dissertation is an analytic history written by adopting the historical-analytical method. The present researcher has attempted to analyze and interpret the government documents of the United States and private papers and correspondence of American officials. While documents do not narrate the complete story, they do provide significant clues to understand the otherwise intricate relations among nations. People of different cultural and socio-political backgrounds are bound to perceive the same documents differently. The present work

is an attempt by an Indian student of political science and American studies to understand America's policies toward fellow Asians in the Philippines. Although no attempt has been made by the present researcher to build theories or construct models, historical and philosophical generalizations have been made at some places for better comprehension of the particular issues and events of international relations.

May I express my deep gratitude to Professor M.S. Venkataramani, my supervisor, teacher and mentor, who very kindly gave me access to some of his own research drafts and related materials to be appropriately used in the dissertation. I have always benefitted greatly from the analyses and interpretations presented by him in classes and in innumerable discussions. More important was perhaps the intellectual inspiration and emotional support that I derived from him during critical phases a researcher invariably goes through.

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