

von Benigno Aquino, der, begleitet von ähnlichen Erwartungen wie einst Barack Obama, ins Amt gespült wurde. Immerhin ist „Noynoy“ Sohn des 1986 von Diktator Marcos ermordeten Volkshelden, dessen Namen er trägt. Doch die unter Präsidentin Gloria Macapagal Arroyo grassierende Korruption konnte nur teilweise gebremst werden. Die Menschenrechte werden kaum mehr geachtet als zuvor, da das Willkürregime der regionalen Potentaten von Manila aus kaum in den Griff zu bekommen ist. Und die neoliberale Wirtschaftspolitik blüht nach wie vor mit all ihren verheerenden Konsequenzen.

Die Literaturhinweise und Links zu ständig aktualisierten Websites am Ende der einzelnen Kapitel bieten dem Leser die Möglichkeit, sein Wissen zu vertiefen und auf den letzten Stand zu bringen. Leider fehlt ein Index, der das gezielte Suchen in dem sonst sehr übersichtlichen Handbuch erleichtern würde.

*Ralf Leonhard*

ARNDT GRAF / PETER KREUZER / RAINER WERNING (eds.), *Conflict in Moro Land – Prospects for Peace?* Pulau Pinang: Universiti Sains Malaysia Press, 2009. VIII, 229 pages, US\$ 12.00. ISBN 978-983-861-408-5

The conflict in the southern parts of the Philippines is one of the oldest and most violent conflicts in Southeast Asia. Mindanao was mainly settled by indigenous peoples (so-called Lumads) and Muslims (so called Moros) and never submitted to the Spanish. Due to US-American colonial politics and later the resettlement of Christians, the Lumads and Muslims became a minority in Mindanao. The oppression by the Manila-centered system led the Muslims in Mindanao to organize themselves and resist their rulers.

The volume edited by Arndt Graf, Peter Kreuzer and Rainer Werning gives a history of Mindanao, the conflict, the stakeholders and prospects for the future. “Conflict in Moro Land” dates back to a workshop on “Jihad in Moroland? Multiple approaches to the conflict in Southern Philippines” held at the University of Göttingen in Germany. Subsequently, a German-Moro research network was founded.

The book has eight chapters, starting with an overview of the resistance and oppression since colonial times. Rainer Werning, longstanding expert on the Philippines, describes the bitter legacies of the US counterinsurgency in the South. Following a chronological approach – US army, Christian settlers and Moro resistance – he explains the reasons for founding armed groups like the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). He puts these armed groups into a local and international context. Especially the US-American “war against terrorism”, in which the Philippine government is a willing supporter, is mentioned as one of the circumstances, why peace in Mindanao will be hard work.

In Chapter Two Epifanio San Juan Jr., sadly the only Filipino contributor, argues in favour of an independent Moro land. He has a radical leftist background. His thesis is that “genuine self-determination for the Moro nation cannot be realized under the rule of metropolitan and dependent capital”, because there is no equality between the negotiating parties. While he points out that the Moros have the right to secede and sees the struggle of the Moros as one example of the struggle for democracy, he denies the right of the Philippine government to territorial control and to maintain integrity of the country.

The analysis of Peter Kreuzer is one of the highlights of the book. He shows that there are many more than only two parties involved in this conflict. He argues for a shift from a binary to a multipolar coding of the local system of violence, introducing at several levels stakeholders or groups that might have interests in an ongoing conflict or hinder a peace process. The author discusses the local structures in detail and ideas for dealing with potential future risks. Even after a successful peace process violent conflicts can still occur and destabilize peace and the rule of law.

Kerstin Priwitzer and Patrick Ziegenhain give a political analysis of representation in the political system of the Philippines, focusing on the national level. The representation of Muslims in Congress through the party list system and congressmen is proportionate to their share of the population. Nevertheless, there is a lack of Muslim representation in the Senate. Since 1995 no Muslim has been elected senator. They also agree that the focus on numbers does not say anything about the quality of representation. Kerstin Priwitzer and Patrick Ziegenhain present several initiatives that Muslim representatives support, but they also point out that most of the Muslims in Congress are affiliated to political clans on the ground.

In Chapters Five and Six Arndt Graf and Carolin Liss focus on the role and presentation of the conflict in the international media. Arndt Graf focuses on Indonesia and the *Republika Online* magazine, Carolin Liss’s analysis is based on the hostage-taking of international tourists in 2000 by Abu Sayyaf. Arndt Graf concludes that the Indonesian media mainly republish the work of international media agencies like Associated Press, placing it within the context of general sympathy for the Moro Rebels, provided that Indonesian national interests are not affected. Carolin Liss criticizes the role of the media. First, the hostage-taking was blown up by the international media: through visits to the camps and interviews with and pictures of the hostage-takers, German, French and other Western media presented a distorted picture of the reality on the ground and the culture of the people from Basilan. Second, she even criticizes the media coverage for the fact that because the payment of large amounts of money led to the release of the hostages the kidnapping in Sipadan might serve as a model for future kidnappings.

In Chapter Seven Nicole Klitzsch discusses the religious agenda of groups like the MILF. Are they jihadists? The question alone raises the context of a

global fear of Jihadism after the terrorist attacks in September 2001. Guerilla groups like MILF were also seen in a different light after this event. Nicole Klitzsch concludes that because of the central programmatic points of the MILF – the “Islamization” of Mindanao, the introduction of the Moro people to religion, the teaching of Islam, and political institutionalization – the MILF is classifiable as a fundamentalist movement. Nevertheless there is no proof that the MILF – as sometimes stated in the media – is an organization rooted in jihadist ideology. The MILF is not calling for terrorist attacks on the government of the Republic of the Philippines. As pointed out in other articles in the book, the MILF focuses mainly on resisting and fighting back against the Armed Forces of the Philippines in what they call “their land”.

The book closes with an article by Sonja Grigat and her perspective on the future of the Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Here some of the research work has already been overtaken by history. While the MILF is actively and seemingly successfully negotiating a peace agreement with the Philippine government – assuming that my comment has not been proved wrong by subsequent developments –, it seems that the MNLF is becoming more and more marginalized and insignificant.

In summary, this book provides an excellent overview of the struggle of the Moro People and the resistance of armed groups. Its strength lies in the solid historical input and in highlighting the connection between history and the current situation. Despite the relatively fast progress in the peace process between the Philippine government and MILF over the last three years, this book is of interest not only to historians. Most of the authors have studied the Philippines for years, if not decades, and their contributions make clear their commitment to the country and the people.

*Michael Reckordt*

JOHN DEFRANCIS, *Die chinesische Sprache. Fakten und Mythen*. Übersetzt von Stephan Puhl. (Collectanea Serica). Sankt Augustin: Institut Monumenta Serica / Nettetal: Steyler Verlag, 2011. XVI, 379 Seiten, € 38,00. ISBN 978-3-8050-0582-1

Das 1984 in den USA publizierte Buch *The Chinese Language – Fact and Fantasy* von John deFrancis ist nun in einer deutschen Ausgabe erschienen. Diese ist wie das Original in vier große Teile gegliedert, denen ein Vorwort der deutschen Herausgeber, ein Porträt des 2011 verstorbenen Autors und sein eigenes ursprüngliches Vorwort vorausgeschickt sind.

Die Einleitung „Die Geheimsache Singlisch“ (S. 1–26) gehört aller Skurilität zum Trotz zum Thema des Buches. Die Geheimsache ist ein in der Toyobunko-Bibliothek in Japan „vergessenes“ Material, das dem Autor zufällig in die Hände fiel und das die Arbeit eines „Komitees zur Planung der englischen