

Preface to the Third Edition

The challenge we spoke of in 1964—to achieve planned national progress without coercion—confronts us still, looming larger than ever. Indeed, in the intervening years the experience of grave economic stress, political uneasiness, and widespread social unrest seem to have made the average educated Filipino more anxious than ever to find out who and what he really is. Greater numbers of the nation's leaders now press their search for that cultural fulcrum that will provide the best base for acceptable programs of social and economic development.

In the face of the problems that these reactions imply, it is easy, even convenient, to find fault with those who came before us, or to point the finger of blame at those who currently hold the greatest political and economic power in the country. But there is another tactic, another strategy, an approach which we have favored from the start of our own corporate research activities.

Given the historical situation in which we found ourselves in 1960, we at the Institute of Philippine Culture felt that our best contribution might be to seek knowledge about the Philippines and the Filipino and to pass that knowledge on to those who stood to benefit most from it—the planners and implementors of programs of social and economic change. *Four Readings* was a first step, as it were, in the execution of that self-appointed task, and at this time we are inclined to believe that that first step took us in the right direction. For today, after two revisions and half a dozen reprintings, students of Philippine culture—among them the planners and implementors we especially had in mind—still find the insights and partial findings of our social scientists fresh and relevant.

We should add at this point that while we feel we have contributed to the knowledge of our country and our people, we also feel, far more keenly and assuredly, a deep sense of gratitude to those many associates and friends who have kept intellectual touch with us through their criticism. It is largely because of the trouble they took on our behalf that “Social Acceptance” was reconsidered, “Reciprocity” rewritten, and “Manileno’s Mainsprings” and “Filipino Entrepreneurship” restyled.

For this edition, the authors were asked to rethink what they had earlier written, while we the editors strove to assure improved clarity of expression as well. But this was not enough. It was also necessary that the printed page be spruced up, as it were, to combine accuracy, orthodoxy of scholarly apparatus, a pleasant prospect for the reader's eyes, and language that would not intimidate the educated layman. Thus the innovations in format and the general typographical design, the latter made possible by typesetting the pages of this publication right on the IPC premises. For these changes, hopefully to the reader's taste, we relied on the technical competence and endless patience of our typesetters Paulita L. Casal, Fermina T. Dumaul, and Faustina V. Limgenco, and on the artistic eye and deadline-beating ability of our managing editor, Julian E. Dacanay, Jr.

Thus we present this new and enlarged edition of *Four Readings*, a practical restatement of our belief that there is a middle ground between what one writer calls "heartless social science and thoughtless social action." In these perilous times, there is no doubt that we must act decisively, but let it be with a measure of reflection and the saving grace of a sense of humor.

FRANK LYNCH
ALFONSO DE GUZMAN II

Quezon City
October 28, 1970