

**President Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr.  
Elected: Philippine Politics and Democracy**

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Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr. was elected as the 17th president of the Republic of the Philippines in May, 2022. Why did the Filipino people choose the son of the late 'dictator' President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., who had been ousted by 'people power revolution' in 1986? This question is examined with the focuses on the election campaign strategy by Bongbong Marcos, people's frustration at the social reality after people power democratization, and historical revisionism to refresh the negative memory of the past martial law regime. It also refers to the political orientation of the new Bongbong Marcos' administration.

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What Links President Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr.  
and Economic Technocrat:  
Where does the “Strong Politics” Lead “Fragile Economy”?

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Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. won the country's presidency. He secured over 30 million votes, which was around 60% of the vote in election giving him the strongest mandate for president. It is well known that his father, Ferdinand Marcos Sr. ruled the Philippines for 21 years and during that period he imposed nine years of nationwide martial law and brutally quashed political dissent. Why did people choose Bongbong Marcos Jr. as a new president? What are people expecting him to be changed present society?

This paper analyzes background for the restoration of strong politics from three economic point of view, inflation, supply-chain and migration. Under COVID-19 and ongoing Russian-Ukraine war, semiconductor manufacturing and global migration which are both main-driver of the Philippines economy has taken a big blow with intricately interwind with inflation hardly experienced ever before. In conclusion, although people might vote for strong politics as a new leader expecting to build strong economy, reinforced idea for development strategy, “Build, Build, Build” is one symbolic example aimed at upgrade in the global value chain in ASEAN economy, based on neoliberalism implemented by strong politics and economic technocrat will fall into even unequitable society. It does possibly lead strong growth in sight of GDP, but we should keep an eye on “strong economy” critically and specifically.

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# Mindanao Conflict and Peace Process in the Philippines: Decommissioning of the MILF Combatants and Security Problems

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Conflict in Mindanao region has intensified under the authoritarian regime of the president Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s. After democratization in 1986 and subsequent peace negotiations, which took long time and sometimes halted by sporadic armed crush, peace process has been making progress especially after 2010s.

One of the most important parts on the ongoing peace process is “decommissioning” of MILF combatants. Despite it is running behind schedule, the decommissioning process has been conducted step by step.

However, despite that the decommissioning process is inevitable for sustainable peace, there are still a lot of things that have to be done regarding security problems. Especially, it is indispensable to make a mechanism to solve clan feuds inside judicial system.

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## Offshoring and the Urban Space in Manila

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Offshoring around the world has caused the restructuring of many various spaces, both urban and otherwise. The implementation of neoliberal policies such as deregulation and free trade have accelerated offshoring since the late 1970s. While the offshoring creates many opportunities, generates new employment, revenue and businesses, it concomitantly involves the transformation of many urban spaces. In this paper, I explore how offshoring has affected the urban space in Manila, the Philippines, from the 2010s up to present, focusing on three cases. First, I argue the relationship between the rise of the Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing (IT-BPO) industry and the transformation of urban space. Second, I trace how the offshore gaming industry, which introduced from China under the Duterte administration, caused drastic rises and declines in the real estate market in addition to an increase in employment and taxes. Third, drawing on the case of offshoring of waste from Canada to a port in Manila in 2013, I examine the process of offshoring the waste and the conflicts engendered in the context of expanding global logistics.

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