

Disciplining the Discipline: The History, Theory and Practice of International Relations in the Philippines  
 2017 Founding International Conference of  
 The Philippine International Studies Organization (PhISO)  
 08, 09, 10 March 2017, Far Eastern University, Manila

SUBMISSION

Theme (Individual)	Critical Unpacking of Philippine Foreign Policy
Title	The Security Predicament of a Weak State: Imprints of Colonial Legacy and Bureaupathologies in Philippine South China Sea Policy, 1987 – 2015
Abstract	<p>The propensity of scholars to provincialize the Third World in security studies reveals the dominance of Western orthodoxy in International Relations (IR). This study argues that in order to integrate the Third World, it requires a deconstruction of the Westphalian State via enquiry on state-making with focus on colonial legacy and bureaucratic politics. Using Ayoob’s theory of Subaltern Realism with the aid of the historical method, this study takes off from an observation which presupposes that the twin pressures of late state making and late entry to the international system are generative of Third World security predicaments. The study’s examination of Philippine SCS policy decisions under different leaderships since democratic transitions of 1946 and 1987 confirmed that the twin pressures operated in two general ways: (1) The imprints of US colonial legacy remain componential in the assessment and calculation of national security interests; (2) The cultivation of traditional-elitist democracy weakens bureaucratic mandate to constitute sustainable and credible policy. To overcome these problems, the solution lies in a sustained capacity building of policy institutions to withstand external and internal political realities. Furthermore, the Philippines’ experience in dealing with the South China Sea dispute offers unit-variable insights necessary for the indigenization of national security and foreign policy.</p>
Key words	Third World security, late state-making, colonial legacy, bureaucratic politics, Philippine South China Sea Policy
Author	Robert Joseph P. Medillo

<b>Biographical Note</b>	The Author is currently writing his thesis for Master of Arts in Political Science at De La Salle University in Manila and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs from De La Salle College of Saint Benilde. His research interests include foreign policy of developing countries, Third World security, international politics of the Third World, and Third World's foreign relations with major powers.
<b>Disclaimer</b>	The views or findings in this preliminary study do not reflect the views or position of the author's previous and current professional affiliation. Furthermore, this preliminary study, fully committed as a thesis requirement for the author's Master of Arts degree in Political Science at De La Salle University in Manila is submitted to the organizers of the conference for friendly discussion and feedback purposes only.