

Pangayaw and Decolonizing Resistance

Anarchism in the Philippines

Bas Umali

Editor: Gabriel Kuhn

The legacy of anarchist ideas in the Philippines was first brought to the attention of a global audience by Benedict Anderson's book *Under Three Flags: Anarchism and the Anti-Colonial Imagination*. Activist-author Bas Umali proves with stunning evidence that anarchist ideas are still alive in a country that he would like to see replaced by an "archipelagic confederation."

Pangayaw and Decolonizing Resistance: Anarchism in the Philippines is the first-ever book specifically about anarchism in the Philippines. *Pangayaw* refers to indigenous ways of maritime warfare. Bas Umali expertly ties traditional forms of communal life in the archipelago that makes up the Philippine state together with modern-day expressions of antiauthoritarian politics. Umali's essays are deliciously provocative, not just for apologists of the current system, but also for radicals in the Global North who often enough forget that their political models do not necessarily fit the realities of post-colonial countries.

In weaving together independent research and experiences from grassroots organizing, Umali sketches a way for resistance in the Global South that does not rely on Marxist determinism and Maoist people's armies but the self-empowerment of the masses. His book addresses the crucial questions of liberation: who are the agents and what are the means?

More than just a sterile case study, *Pangayaw and Decolonizing Resistance* is the start of a new paradigm and a must-read for those interested in decolonization, anarchism, and social movements of the Global South.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Bas Umali is a longtime organizer living in Metro Manila. He has been involved with digital and physical infoshops, mobile education initiatives, climate crises campaigns, natural disaster relief programs, and bringing solar technology to marginalized communities. Bas has worked for an NGO concerned with rainforest rehabilitation. Today, he provides technical assistance to marginalized fisherfolk and dreams of settling in the countryside with his family.

Gabriel Kuhn is an author, translator, and union activist. He has published widely in English and German. His texts have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

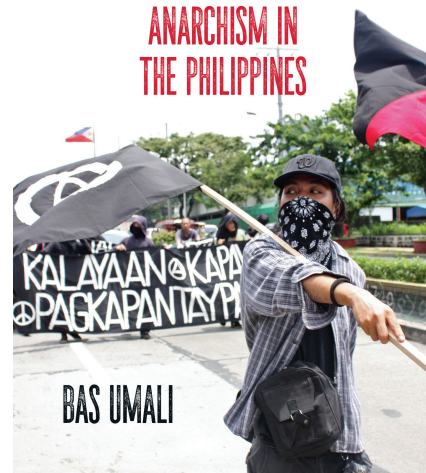
ACCOLADES

"Bas Umali gives us an in-depth explanation of the decentralized struggle for autonomy in the Philippines. He offers not just a reconstruction of the history, but also an example of what anarchists can do for building alternative political structures. 'Archipelago' is fertile."

—Keisuke Narita, *Irregular Rhythm Asylum*, Tokyo

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www.pmpress.org
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