

China and the Philippines

Foregrounding the entangled history of China and the Philippines, Guingona brings to life an array of understudied but influential characters, such as Filipino jazz musicians, magnetic Chinese swimmers, expert Filipino marksmen, leading Chinese educators, Philippine-Chinese bankers, Filipina Carnival Queens, and many others. Through archival research in multiple languages, this innovative study advances a more nuanced reading of world history, reframing our understanding of the first half of the twentieth century by bringing interactions between Asian people to the fore and minimizing the role of those who historically dominated global history narratives. Through methodologically distinct case studies, Guingona presents a critique of Eurocentric approaches to world/global history, shedding light on the interconnected history of China and the Philippines in a transformative period. This title is part of the Flip It Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website, Cambridge Core, for details.

Phillip B. Guingona teaches Asian and world history at Nazareth University.

ASIAN CONNECTIONS

Edited by Timothy Brook, Engseng Ho and Iza Hussin

- 1 PRASENJIT DUARA
The Crisis of Global Modernity
Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future
HB 9781107082250
PB 9781107442856
- 2 EVELYN S. RAWSKI
Early Modern China and Northeast Asia
Cross-Border Perspectives
HB 9781107093089
PB 9781107471528
- 3 SU LIN LEWIS
Cities in Motion
Urban Life and Cosmopolitanism in Southeast Asia, 1920–1940
HB 9781107108332
PB 9781316647493
- 4 FAHAD AHMAD BISHARA
A Sea of Debt
Law and Economic Life in the Western Indian Ocean, 1780–1950
HB 9781107155657
PB 9781316609378
- 5 SUMIT K. MANDAL
Becoming Arab
Creole Histories and Modern Identity in the Malay World
HB 9781107196797
PB 9781316647493
- 6 DAVID R. AMBARAS
Japan's Imperial Underworlds
Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire
HB 9781108470117
PB 9781108455220
- 7 ELIZABETH A. LAMBOURN
Abraham's Luggage
A Social Life of Things in the Medieval Indian Ocean World
HB 9781107173880
PB 9781316626276
- 8 RONIT RICCI
Banishment and Belonging
Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon
HB 9781108480277
PB 9781108727242

- 9 MARIEKE BLOEMBERGEN AND MARTIJN EICKHOFF
The Politics of Heritage in Indonesia
A Cultural History
HB 9781108499026
- 10 TERENCE SEVEA
Miracles and Material Life
Rice, Ore, Traps and Guns in Islamic Malaya
HB 9781108477185
- 11 HYUNHEE PARK
Soju
A Global History
HB 9781108842013
- 12 MAGNUS MARSDEN
Beyond the Silk Roads
Trade, Mobility and Geopolitics across Eurasia
HB 9781108838313
- 13 YIWEN LI
Networks of Faith and Profit
Monks, Merchants, and Exchanges between China and Japan, 839–1403 CE
HB 9781009303101
- 14 RISHAD CHOUDHURY
Hajj across Empires
Pilgrimage and Political Culture after the Mughals, 1739–1857
HB 9781009253703
- 15 PHILLIP B. GUINGONA
China and the Philippines
A Connected History, c. 1900–50
HB 9781009359245

China and the Philippines

A Connected History, c. 1900–50

Phillip B. Guingona

Nazareth University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-35921-4 — China and the Philippines
Phillip B. Guingona
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009359214

DOI: 10.1017/9781009359207

© Phillip B. Guingona 2024

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2024

First paperback edition 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Names: Guingona, Phillip, author.

Title: China and the Philippines : a connected history, c. 1900–50 / Phillip Guingona.

Other titles: Connected history, c. 1900–50

Description: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2024. |

Series: Asian connections ; 15 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023027028 (print) | LCCN 2023027029 (ebook) | ISBN

9781009359245 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009359214 (paperback) | ISBN

9781009359207 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: China – Relations – China. | Philippines – Relations – China. |

China – History – 20th century. | Philippines – History – 1898–

Classification: LCC DS740.5.P5 G85 2024 (print) | LCC DS740.5.P5 (ebook) |

DDC 327.51099/2100904–dc23/eng/20230701

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023027028>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023027029>

ISBN 978-1-009-35924-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-35921-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-35921-4 — China and the Philippines
Phillip B. Guingona
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

To Ida and Ling

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xii
<i>A Note on Translation and Rendering of Names</i>	xiv
<i>A Note on What Is Missing</i>	xv
Introduction: Before a Vast Ocean	1
Part I Mirrored Diasporas	21
1 Shanghai’s Filipinos and Manila’s Chinese	29
2 Trumpets and Ledgers	44
Part II The Philippine Model	69
3 Achieving Modernity by Studying the Philippines	77
4 Achieving Modernity by Studying <i>in</i> the Philippines	92
Part III Nationalisms of the Founders	119
5 Capital Heroes and a Hokkien Nation	125
6 Seeking Salvation and a Chinese Nation	148
Part IV The Pivot	165
7 Coalescence: 1921, a Year of Promise	171
8 Possibilities: Meeting at Springfield’s Fields	187
9 Disintegration: The Triangle Offense	199
Conclusions: The Ghosts of the Present	214
	ix

x	Contents	
	<i>Appendix: Glossary of Names</i>	218
	<i>Bibliography</i>	226
	<i>Index</i>	271

Figures

0.1 Captain Honorio C. Evangelista, Shanghai Volunteer Corps	<i>page 22</i>
1.1 Members of the Philippine Company, Shanghai Volunteer Corps	30
1.2 Route of the world-famous president liners	38
3.1 Huang Yanpei and other tour members to the Philippines, 1917	78
6.1 Unchong Sycip, Alfonso Z. Sycip, Albino Z. Sycip, and Felisa S. Godinez	158
8.1 Foreign student group, Springfield College, 1920	188
9.1 Springfield reunion at the Japan Far Eastern Championship Games, 1931	207

Acknowledgments

It is certainly a challenge to acknowledge the countless individuals who have supported me and guided my intellectual growth over the years. I owe a debt of gratitude to so many people, and I know I cannot fit them all in this brief section.

First, I would like to thank Kristin Stapleton and Richard T. Chu, who have cheered me on from the get-go, offering sage-like advice time and again. My colleagues from the various departments to which I belonged, including Michael E. Groth, Jesse Spohnholz, Isabel Cordova, Matt Young, Timothy Kneeland, and many others, have provided many valuable insights on teaching, research, and work–life balance.

Many other talented individuals have helped me grow. Jennifer Gaynor, Roger Des Forges, Ramya Sreenivasan, Gail Radford, Susan Cahn, and others at the University at Buffalo introduced me to a more intricate world of history. Leander Seah, Shelly Chan, Desmond Cummins, Miriam Parnes, Huei-Ying Kuo, Kat Gutierrez, Liu Qiong, Lisandro Claudio, Erik Esselstrom, Chris Frondoso, Brendan Mold, Teresita Ang See, Patricia Welch, Jeremy Taylor, Steven Pieragastini, and Dan Shearer each in their own way provided timely support and valuable feedback, for which I am beyond grateful.

Archivists and librarians at the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor, the Shanghai Municipal Archives, the United States National Archives, the National Library of the Philippines in Manila, the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, the Tianjin Municipal Archives, the National Library of China in Beijing, and the Shanghai Library answered many research questions and helped me locate hard-to-find sources. Meah Ang See at the Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran Heritage Center and Library and Jeffrey Monseau at Springfield College were especially helpful.

Generous funding from the University at Buffalo Humanities Institute, the Nila T. Gnam Research Fund, the Plesur Lockwood Dissertation Travel Award, and ASIANetwork-Luce helped launch this project in its initial stages. I would also like to acknowledge the Freeman-ASIA

Acknowledgments

xiii

Foundation and Foreign Language and Area Studies Program for supporting my language training, and the World History Association and the New York Conference on Asian Studies for providing forums to share my work.

Lucy Rhymer, Emily Plater, and Rosa Martin at Cambridge University Press have been generous with their time and wisdom, patiently answering numerous questions throughout the editing process. I am also grateful to the editors of the Asian Connections series, Timothy Brook, Engseng Ho, and Iza Hussin, for supporting the project, and two anonymous reviewers for their thoughtful feedback.

Thank you also to all the students who took my classes at Nazareth University, Wells College, Washington State University, and Marietta College. On an everyday basis you helped me flesh out ideas on topics ranging from anarcho-feminism to the Far Eastern Championship Games. You helped me keep my mind fresh through global catastrophes and everyday crises, and I always appreciate your energy and curiosity.

I would also like to acknowledge my family for, you know, everything. Papa and Laura, Mom and Karen, thank you for raising me and being genuine to yourselves and others. Vince and Sonya, thanks for being so caring in your own subtle ways. I am also grateful to Ba and Ma for welcoming me into the family, and Tito Joe and Tita Tina for lending a hand in the Philippines.

And, finally, I would like to thank Ida and Ling, to whom this book is dedicated. I appreciate everything, but mostly the small things, that you have done to challenge me and show me love over the years.

A Note on Translation and Rendering of Names

Unless otherwise specified, the translations are mine. The only recurring exception to this rule comes with Chinese or Spanish periodicals that included their own English title. The Jinan University journal *China and Malaysia* (中國與南洋), for instance, might be translated as “China and Southeast Asia,” or “China and the South Seas,” but the editors chose their translation partially because the term “Southeast Asia” had yet to enter popular parlance.

While Chinese pinyin romanization has proven to be a useful tool for standardizing pronunciations and promoting language learning in the People’s Republic of China, its widespread adoption postdates most of the events in this book. Furthermore, many Chinese people created and used unique romanized names that drew from regional, dialectical, and personal preferences. For these reasons, this book defers to the romanizations that people used at the time, but the first time new names appear, it also includes the Chinese characters and pinyin. For example, the first time you encounter Albino Z. Sycip (Xue Minlao 薛敏老), this is how his name will appear.

The book adopts traditional characters (繁體字) when referencing an original publication that used traditional characters and simplified characters (简体字) when the original publication used simplified characters. For all other Chinese terms that appear in the text, this book uses traditional characters because that was the predominant form for the place and period under study.

A Note on What Is Missing

This book deliberately reduces the presence of some figures in the history of Sino–Philippine interaction to counterbalance a historiographical abundance that has granted them outsized agency and influence. The legacies of imperialism and white supremacy live on in archives that abundantly preserve the perspective of the colonizers, in history books that privilege Americans, Japanese, and Europeans as agenda-setters, and in public discourses, which are steeped in the knowledge produced by said history books and archives.

Seeking to challenge imperial, orientalist, and globalizing ideas and narratives that continue to seep into our histories, this book highlights the roles of Filipino and Chinese figures in forming and fostering not just personal collaborations but also the institutions that allowed for those connections. For other, predominantly colonial actors from the so-called global north, it adopts a policy of purposive restraint. For instance, Chapter 7, instead of centering American Elwood S. Brown and his role in promoting the Far Eastern Championship Games, which has been the tendency in existing scholarship, centers Camilo Osias, John Mo (Ma Yuehan 馬約翰), Hoh Gunsun (Hao Gengsheng 郝更生), Regino Ylanan, and Chengting Thomas Wang (Wang Zhengting 王正廷).¹ Although none was a founding member of the Far Eastern Athletic Association, each played a critical role in directing and shaping the institution, and this book is designed to present their history.

This is not to say that Americans, Japanese, and Europeans do not belong in the history of Sino–Philippine interaction. Imperial, evangelical, educational, and other types of American, Japanese, and European interventions in Asia were undeniable. This book simply recognizes the reality that, for the most part, their story has already been told, often at the expense of Filipino, Chinese, and other actors.

¹ For more on Elwood S. Brown and his role in the Far Eastern Championship Games, see Stefan Hübner, “Muscular Christianity and the Western Civilizing Mission: Elwood S. Brown, the YMCA, and the Idea of the Far Eastern Championship Games,” *Diplomatic History* 39, no. 3 (2015): 532–557.