



On Becoming Filipino: Selected Writings of Carlos Bulosan (Asian American History & Cultu)

E. San Juan

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A companion volume to "The Cry and the Dedication", this is the first extensive collection of Carlos Bulosan's short stories, essays, poetry, and correspondence. Bulosan's writings expound his mission to redefine the Filipino American experience and mark his growth as a writer. The pieces included here reveal how his sensibility, largely shaped by the political circumstances of the 1930s up to the 1950s, articulates the struggles and hopes for equality and justice for Filipinos. He projects a 'new world order' liberated from materialist greed, bigoted nativism, racist oppression, and capitalist exploitation. As E. San Juan explains in his Introduction, Bulosan's writings 'help us to understand the powerlessness and invisibility of being labeled a Filipino in post Cold War America.' Author note: Born in 1911 in the Philippines to a peasant family, Carlos Bulosan was one of the first wave of Filipino immigrants to come to the United States in the 1930s. After several arduous years as a farmworker in California, Bulosan became involved with radical intellectuals and started editing the workers' magazine "The New Tide". While hospitalized for three years for tuberculosis and kidney problems, Bulosan began writing poetry and short stories. Despite having little formal education, he saw his talent for writing as a means to give a voice to Filipino struggles, both in the Philippines and in the United States. He went on to publish three volumes of poetry, a best-selling collection of stories, "The Laughter of My Father", and "America Is in the Heart", the much acclaimed chronicle based on his family's battle to overcome poverty, violence, and racism in the United States. "The Cry and the Dedication" carries on Bulosan's passionate, satirical style. E. San Juan, Jr. is Fellow of the Center for the Humanities and Visiting Professor of English, Wesleyan University, and Director of the Philippines Cultural Studies Center. He was recently chair of the Department of Comparative American Cultures, Washington University, and Professor of Ethnic Studies at Bowling Green State University, Ohio. He received the 1999 Centennial Award for Literature from the Philippines Cultural Center. His most recent books are "Beyond Postcolonial Theory", "From Exile to Diaspora", "After Postcolonialism", and "Racism and Cultural Studies".

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