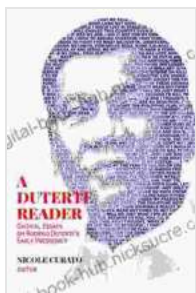


A Comprehensive Critique of Rodrigo Duterte's Early Presidency: Unraveling the Controversies and Assessing the Legacy

Rodrigo Duterte, the former President of the Philippines from 2016 to 2022, marked his early presidency with sweeping changes, controversial actions, and a polarizing legacy. His administration was characterized by a blend of accomplishments and scandals, leaving a lasting impact on the nation's political and social landscape.



A Duterte Reader: Critical Essays on Rodrigo Duterte's Early Presidency

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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File size : 3376 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 348 pages



The War on Drugs and Human Rights Concerns

One of the most defining aspects of Duterte's presidency was his aggressive anti-drug campaign, which resulted in thousands of deaths and raised significant human rights concerns. Police operations often resulted in extrajudicial killings, sparking domestic and international condemnation.

The administration's disregard for due process and the rule of law eroded public trust and undermined the country's democratic institutions.

Infrastructure Development and Economic Policies



Despite the controversies, Duterte's presidency also witnessed significant infrastructure development, including new roads, bridges, and airports. These projects aimed to stimulate economic growth and improve connectivity throughout the country. However, questions were raised about their sustainability, environmental impact, and potential for corruption.

Foreign Policy Shifts and China Relations

Duterte's foreign policy was marked by a departure from the previous administration's strong ties with the United States. He pursued closer

relations with China, aligning the Philippines with Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. This shift raised concerns about the Philippines' strategic autonomy and the potential for increased Chinese influence in the region.

Political Polarization and Erosion of Democratic Norms

Duterte's presidency contributed to a growing political polarization in the Philippines. His inflammatory rhetoric, attacks on critics, and disdain for democratic institutions further widened the divide between supporters and opponents. The erosion of democratic norms, such as freedom of the press and judicial independence, raised concerns about the long-term health of the country's democracy.

Social Welfare Initiatives and Poverty Reduction

Alongside his controversial policies, Duterte also initiated social welfare programs aimed at poverty reduction. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) expanded, providing cash assistance to poor families. The administration also implemented free tuition and scholarship programs for students. These initiatives had a positive impact on many Filipinos, particularly those in marginalized communities.

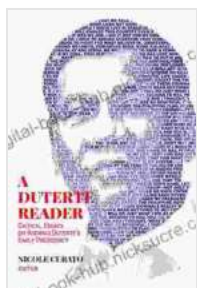
Assessment of Duterte's Legacy



Rodrigo Duterte's early presidency was a period of profound change and upheaval in the Philippines. His controversial policies, particularly the war on drugs, left a lasting scar on the nation's human rights record. However, his administration also made progress in infrastructure development and social welfare, providing tangible benefits to many Filipinos. The long-term impact of Duterte's legacy is still being debated, but it is undeniable that his presidency marked a significant turning point in Philippine history.

Rodrigo Duterte's early presidency was a complex and controversial period in Philippine politics. His actions and policies left a profound impact on the country, both positive and negative. While it is too early to fully assess his

legacy, it is clear that his presidency will be remembered for years to come as a time of both great promise and deep division.



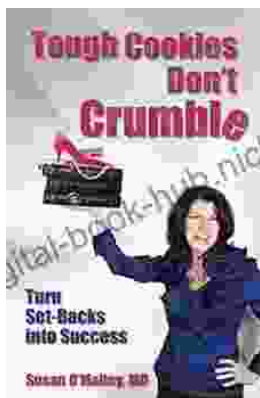
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