



Mining and Natural Hazard Vulnerability in the Philippines: Digging to Development or Digging to Disaster? (Anthem Environmental Studies)

By William N. Holden, R. Daniel Jacobson

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The archipelago of the Philippines is well endowed with nonferrous mineral resources, and in recent years the Philippine government, acting under the influence of the dominant and seemingly ubiquitous neoliberal development paradigm, has liberalized its mining laws in order to accelerate economic development. Yet the Philippines is also a country highly prone to a variety of natural hazards that have the ability to interact adversely with mining's potential for environmental degradation. Thus there are great dangers inherent in pursuing such a development paradigm: earthquakes can destabilize tailings storage facilities, typhoons can flood tailings ponds, and mine-pit dewatering can enhance the competition for groundwater resources during droughts. This study explores how these hazards amplify the environmental harm prevalent in mining, and reveals the substantial threat posed to the livelihoods of the archipelago's poor, as well as the inadequacies of the very institutions designed to protect their environment.

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Editorial Review

Review

“This text provides an exhaustive and engaging review of the literature surrounding issues of development in the Philippines. Holden and Jacobson leave no stone unturned as they uncover some of the most detrimental effects of modern mining practices on the surrounding natural environment and the human communities.”

—Professor Kathleen Nadeau, California State University, San Bernardino

“This book speaks well of mining disasters that are accelerated and amplified by natural hazards in the Philippines such as typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. I recommend this superb work to the general public and readers with a specific interest in mining, especially those with similar situations in their own countries.” —Dr Emelina Regis, Director of the Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research, Ateneo de Naga University

“Empirically grounded and theoretically informed, Holden and Jacobson provide a compelling and powerful study of the hazards of neoliberalism and of environmental politics more broadly.” —Dr James Tyner, Professor of Geography, Kent State University

About the Author

William N. Holden is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada and an inactive member of the Law Society of Alberta.

R. Daniel Jacobson is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada and a Switzer Research Fellow.

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