



RESEARCH ARTICLE | MAY 01 2000

The Philippines in the Asian Financial Crisis: How the Sick Man Avoided Pneumonia

Marcus Noland

Asian Survey (2000) 40 (3): 401–412.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/3021153>

Views  Share  Tools 

This content is only available via PDF.

Copyright 2000 The Regents of the University of California

Article PDF first page preview

[Skip to Main Content](#)

THE PHILIPPINES IN THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

How the Sick Man Avoided Pneumonia

Marcus Noland

For most of the past three decades, economic growth in the Philippines lagged behind that of its Asian neighbors, earning the country such sobriquets as “the Sick Man of Asia” and “the Latin American of Asia.” During the Asian financial crisis, however, the sick man proved more resilient than his neighbors. This was not simply a matter of being unable to fall out of the basement. On the eve of the crisis in mid-1997, the Philippine economy was forecasted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and private sector analysts to grow at more than 6% in 1998—a rate faster than both that of most other low-income countries worldwide and the Philippines’s own performance in recent history. When the crisis hit in the second half of 1997, those same forecasts exhibited less downward revision for the Philippines than for the other Asian countries, and in fact, the Philippines’s contraction was considerably less severe than those experienced by its neighbors.

The question naturally arises as to why the Philippines, with its reputation for weakness, fared better in the crisis than other countries in the region? To answer this, one has to have a theory or explanation of the crisis and then show how the Philippines differed from its comparators in the relevant dimensions. This article examines two non-mutually exclusive explanations for the crisis, weak domestic fundamentals and international contagion, and concludes that the Philippines endured the crisis relatively more successfully

Marcus Noland is Senior Fellow at the Institute of International Economics, Washington, D.C. The author is grateful to Hye Kyung Lee for useful research assistance and Stephan Haggard and John Williamson for helpful comments on an earlier draft. An earlier draft was released as an Institute Working Paper on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.iie.com/CATALOG/WP/2000/00-5.htm>>.

Asian Survey, 40:3, pp. 401–412. ISSN: 0004–4687

© 2000 by The Regents of the University of California/Society. All rights reserved.

Send Requests for Permission to Reprint to: Rights and Permissions, University of California Press, Journals Division, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704–1223.

You do not currently have access to this content.

[Sign in](#) to Main Content

Don't already have an account? [Register](#)

Client Account

Email address / Username

Password

Sign In

[Reset password](#)

[Register](#)

Sign in via your Institution

[Sign in via your Institution](#)

CITING ARTICLES VIA

Google Scholar

CrossRef (4)

Latest

[Most Read](#)

[Most Cited](#)

South Korea in 2023: Turbulent Yoon Suk-Yeol
Administration: Democratic Challenges and Global
Pivot State

China in 2023: Economic Recovery Remains
Challenging after COVID-19

Taiwan in 2023: Sandwiched between Local and
National Elections

Sri Lanka in 2022 and 2023: Things Fall Apart—Can
Sri Lanka Hold On?

The Philippines in 2023: Politics, Economy, and
Foreign Affairs under Marcos Jr.

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Email Alerts

[Article Activity Alert](#)

[Advance Articles Alert](#)

[Latest Issue Alert](#)

ASIAN SURVEY

[Recent Content](#)

[Advance Articles](#)

[Browse Issues](#)

[All Content](#)

[Purchase](#)

[Alerts](#)

[Submit](#)

[Info for Authors](#)

[Info for Librarians](#)

[About](#)

[Editorial Team](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Online ISSN 1533-838X Print ISSN 0004-4687 Copyright © 2024

University of California Press
1111 Franklin St
Oakland, CA 94607

STAY INFORMED

Sign up for eNews



VISIT THE UC PRESS BLOG

DISCIPLINES

[Ancient World](#)

[Anthropology](#)

[Art](#)

[Communication](#)

[Criminology & Criminal Justice](#)

[Film & Media Studies](#)

[Food & Wine](#)

[History](#)

[Music](#)

[Psychology](#)

[Religion](#)

[Sociology](#)

[Browse All Disciplines](#)

COURSES

[Browse All Courses](#)

PRODUCTS

[Books](#)

[Journals](#)

RESOURCES

[Book Authors](#)

[Booksellers](#)

[Instructions](#)

[Journal Authors](#)

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Journal Editors
Librarians
Media & Journalists

SUPPORT US

Endowments
Membership
Planned Giving
Supporters

ABOUT UC PRESS

Careers
Location
Press Releases
Seasonal Catalog

CONTACT US

Acquisitions Editors
Customer Service
Exam/Desk Requests
Media Inquiries
Print-Disability
Rights & Permissions
Royalties
UC Press Foundation

© Copyright 2024 by the Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved. [Privacy_policy](#) [Accessibility](#)