

In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines Study Guide

In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines by Stanley Karnow

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Plot Summary

The connection between the United States and the Philippines is both long lasting and complex. Since taking the Philippines as a "prize" in the Spanish American war, the U.S. has strayed from seeing the island nation as a conquest to be exploited, a guilty secret to be fixed, and a valuable strategic asset to be kept at any cost. The Filipino perception of the United States has also changed from occupying nation to protector over the years. Many famed historical leaders have found their lives inexorably linked to the Philippines. A partial list includes General Douglas MacArthur, William McKinley, William Robert Taft, explorer Ferdinand Magellan, and Teddy Roosevelt. The love/hate relationship between the two countries is explained in fascinating detail.

The Philippines are discovered by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 and claimed in the name of Spain. Magellan becomes entangled in a battle between native tribes and is killed. A small portion of his crew survives to circumnavigate the globe. Missionaries soon arrive in the Philippines and begin introducing the natives to Christianity. Over time, Spanish traditions are co-opted by the Filipino people. Trading gradually increases and some locals become educated abroad for the first time. An upper class, land-owning society grows and pushes for reform. The Spanish brutally repress any outspoken Filipinos. Unrest grows, along with a nationalist movement. Emilio Aguinaldo emerges as a leader of a Filipino independence movement. His forces battle with Spanish troops.

The United States drives the industrial revolution and emerges at the end of the nineteenth century with rival factions debating isolationism versus imperialism. Tensions mount over the Spanish occupation of Cuba, and the destruction of the U.S. warship *Maine* finally pushes the country into war. President McKinley reluctantly lets imperialist factions lead him along. U.S. Commodore George Dewey commands the United States naval fleet, which destroys the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. Aguinaldo naively believes Dewey's vague statements, thinking the United States will aid the Filipinos in their fight for independence.

American forces arrive at Manila, and the Spanish troops surrender to them instead of the Filipinos. Tensions mount as many planners in the United States are kept in the dark as to just how popular the Filipino independence movement is. War breaks out, and a two-year bloody campaign ensues. Filipinos resort to guerilla tactics and major atrocities become common on both sides. Enthusiasm for the war wanes at home in America, as more troops are killed. Aguinaldo is captured in 1901 and victory declared in the Philippines.

William Taft works as civilian governor in the Philippines to create a working legal system, standardize currency, and setup a public school system. Over the next twenty years, there are some successes. The literacy rate rises, and the death rate falls. Two notable figures emerge to lead the Filipino independence movement, Manuel Quezon and Sergio Osmena. Quezon works with Americans to draft favorable legislation for his people. Finally, a timetable is agreed on to give the Philippines independence. Quezon



becomes the first recognized president of the commonwealth and works with Douglas MacArthur to fortify his defenses against the imperialist Japanese.

World War II breaks out, and MacArthur holds out for several months with his limited resources. He flees to Australia and his troops surrender. The Bataan death march takes thousands of American and Filipino lives. The Philippines are occupied for over two years under the harsh direction of the Japanese. The tide of war soon turns, and MacArthur leads his forces back to finally retake the city of Manila. The Japanese are defeated, and MacArthur is prominent in selecting the new president of the Philippines.

Several corrupt administrations struggle through attempts to reconstruct the country and reform the political institutions. A communist insurgency takes root and spreads throughout the country. One of the Philippines most corrupt regimes comes to power in this atmosphere: the Marcos.' Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos loot the country while the society falters. Ferdinand declares martial law to extend his presidency illegally. The corruption and money schemes increase until one of Marcos' popular political enemies is gunned down. Ninoy Aquino becomes a martyr, and his wife, Cory reluctantly runs for office and wins a dirty, complicated campaign against Marcos. Cory takes on the problems of the country like the rising communist insurgency and need for social reforms.



Chapter 1, All in the Family

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The connection between the United States and the Philippines is both long lasting and complex. Since taking the Philippines as a "prize" in the Spanish American war, the U.S. has strayed from seeing the island nation as a conquest to be exploited, a guilty secret to be fixed, and a valuable strategic asset to be kept at any cost. The Filipino perception of the United States has also changed from occupying nation to protector over the years. Many famed historical leaders have found their lives inexorably linked to the Philippines. A partial list includes General Douglas MacArthur, William McKinley, William Robert Taft, explorer Ferdinand Magellan, and Teddy Roosevelt. The love/hate relationship between the two countries is explained in fascinating detail.

Originally a Spanish colony, the pseudo-Asian country of the Philippines has a remarkable history. Ferdinand Magellan finds the island chain much by mistake while looking for a spice route to the Indies. The Spaniards set up a trading post in Manila and missionaries begin the process of converting the locals to Catholicism. Spain isolates their new "possession" for more than three hundred years, keeping the country in a state of near suspended animation. In the 1800's, a liberal Spanish regime opens up trade, and the huge Philippine sugar trade begins enticing numerous other countries to the area. As Filipino's gain power and prestige, they strain against the Spanish bureaucracy. Young Filipino men are educated abroad for the first time and become a threat to the status quo back in their own country. Some rise to national fame and are executed by the Spanish for their dangerous longing for independence.

In this same time period, the United States is going through some huge growing pains of its own. The Industrial Revolution has thrust the previously isolationist-leaning country into a position to become a world power. Men such as Theodore Roosevelt and Henry Cabot Lodge work hard to put the United States in the world spotlight by aggressively grabbing overseas territory. The term "manifest destiny" is used to describe the need for the United States to project its power overseas for national defense. The very popular yellow journalist William Randolph Hearst amplifies this viewpoint. It is soon picked up by both Republicans and Populists across the nation. Teddy Roosevelt clamors for war and the world respect it would bring. Anti-imperialists argue for more domestic improvement and try to make people remember the horrors of the Civil War. Under conservative President Grover Cleveland, the isolationists remain in control. However, the next President, William McKinley shows himself to be manipulated easily by outside forces, like Teddy Roosevelt.

The U.S. warship "Maine" explodes in Cuba in 1898 under mysterious circumstances and is immediately used by the imperialists as a pretext for war. In an impressive show of force, U.S. Commodore George Dewey sinks the Spanish fleet off Manila, and U.S. troops soon occupy Manila. The debate then ensues as Americans decide what they want to do with their newfound territory. The clash goes on for years, as the United



States battles with local insurgents, who originally thought America would help them gain independence. After years of bloody combat, where thousands on both sides are killed, the United States starts negotiating for Philippine independence. This eventually happens, just after World War II.

The United States becomes even more entangled in Philippine policy after it becomes independent. Through popular ties that bind the two countries, American politicians have much clout in the Philippines. The nationalist movement seems two sided, as they want assistance, and also to be left alone. The American intelligent community also works to install and depose several flawed Filipino presidents, with mixed results. American foreign aid is also used as a "Carrot" to entice Filipino government officials to act correctly

Chapter 1, All in the Family Analysis

An intimate relationship between the United States and the Philippines has developed over the past hundred years. It is very ironic that the Filipinos import the bad parts of the American system, like corruption, superficiality, and political arrogance. Other elements, like higher education, true democracy, and class equality haven't taken off as well. Early Americans think lowly of the natives, and the natives soon learn how to act to please their new benefactors. The Americans dutifully report back the "progress" they have made.

The character development of the "arrogant" leader who doesn't listen to advise from his subordinates or the local population is to be revisited many times during the course of the book. Tragedies occur for many characters, such as Magellan, Dewey, Taft, and Douglas MacArthur who exhibit this trait. Many prominent figures that exhibit strength and leadership also unfortunately have blinding egos that go with it.



Chapter 2, In Search of Spices and Souls

Chapter 2, In Search of Spices and Souls Summary

European countries move out by sea and land to explore the unknown reaches of the world in what is known as the "Age of Discovery." Tales of remote and fabulous places gradually filter back to European countries through their far eastern contacts with the Arabs. Tales from Marco Polo speak of the riches in China and India. The Asian spice trade takes off in Europe and creates a demand for a viable route to the Far East.

Portuguese Prince Henry has a dream of his country's dominance in Far East trade. He aggressively works for forty years to send out sea voyages. His men create a type of light exploration vessel called the caravel. The Portuguese explore the West African coast and soon round the continent itself in 1487. Upon Columbus's discovery of America, Portugal reluctantly agrees to "share" half the undiscovered world with Spain. Portugal gets the lands east of Europe with Spain getting the lands west. Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama leads a successful voyage around the Horn of Africa and lands in India in 1498. From here, the Portuguese aggressively explore the surrounding areas in the next ten years, including Sumatra, China, and even Japan. Their global status is greatly enhanced, although most of the profits from the voyages filter back to other European countries.

Ferdinand Magellan sails for India with a Portuguese fleet in 1505. Young Magellan soon distinguishes himself in combat with Muslims in Malacca, where the Portuguese successfully capture the city after a six-week siege. Magellan explores the surrounding area and returns to Lisbon, where he is wrongly charged with corruption, then exonerated. Angered, Magellan defects to Spain, where he plans an expedition west, following in Balboa's footsteps toward South America. King Charles needs money badly and works to secure funding for the expedition. The five ships set sail with a diverse crew in 1519. Although having some trade items, most of the ship's cargo consists of food and drink.

The voyage is difficult from the start. After two months at sea, the ships reach Brazil, then winter near the southern tip of South America. Magellan is forced to put down a mutiny before setting off to round the treacherous "Strait of Magellan." It takes seven grueling weeks to reach the Pacific Ocean. After another mutiny, Magellan is left with only three ships, and dwindling provisions. Nineteen men die before they finally reach the small island of Guam. The men restock their supplies and sail on.

In March 1521, the crew gazes upon the Philippines for the first time. Magellan names the area San Lazaro and makes contact with the natives at present day Cebu. He realizes the significance of the area for trade and tries to convert the locals to Christianity. The chief, Humabon, pretends interest in conversion and Magellan is duped into attacking a local tribe. Arrogantly, Magellan refuses Humabon's assistance and leads an assault with only sixty lightly armored men. His troops are quickly



overwhelmed, and Magellan is killed while bravely defending his men in retreat. Humabon turns against the survivors, and they head for home with one remaining vessel. Most are captured by the Portuguese en route. Eighteen men out of the original crew of two hundred seventy finally reach Spain in September of 1522 to complete the first known circumnavigation of the Earth.

The Philippine archipelago consists of seven thousand islands stretching over one thousand miles. A majority of these islands are small and uninhabited. The terrain consists of jungles, mountains, and volcanoes. Everything is near the ocean. The torrential rains keep the vegetation lush with bamboo, palms and native flowers. The people themselves speak a variety of languages and have totally different cultures. There are the Tagalogs, who are considered the main group. However, there are also Muslim tribes, as well as a plethora of aboriginal groups. They are all thought to be ancestors of nomadic tribesmen traveling south from China. Trade with China flourishes before the Spanish arrive. The Chinese import many traditions and intermingled with the population. Muslim missionaries also import their religion to the area. Upon the arrival of the Spanish, the only "towns" are Manila and Cebu.

The Spanish find that both men and women wear woven tree bark garments and are ruled by a chief, whose relatives enjoy status. Women can own land, divorce, or even become a chief in the absence of male heirs. In the family unit, the women also handle the money. The chief and his elders disseminate information to the people using a town crier. They also act as judge and jury to keep laws. Some crimes are punished severely, but no more so than Europe at the time. Villages and clans often fight over any perceived insult. There is no political structure higher than the chiefs.

The Spanish under King Charles reluctantly hold Magellan's claim on the Philippines, their true goal is still the Spice Islands. Ships are chartered from the Spanish colony of Mexico under Miguel Lopez de Legazpi to sail for Cebu. The locals are hostile and Legazpi quickly overwhelms the village with cannon fire. Most of the natives flee into the hills. There are clashes with the natives, threats by nearby Portuguese ships, and food shortages. More supplies are sent from Mexico and Spanish settlers arrive. They soon discover the natural port at Manila and displace the local Muslims by force. Legazpi rules the new Spanish colony as governor.

Chapter 2, In Search of Spices and Souls Analysis

The first circumnavigation of the Earth is much less heroic than portrayed in many textbooks. Besides being a miserable voyage, many of the crew succumb to mutiny and disease. After narrowly traversing the southern end of South America and the great vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, Magellan's men are betrayed by a group of seemingly friendly native Filipinos. The leader, Magellan, is killed, and the remainder of the explorers narrowly escape with their lives. Less than 10% of the original crew returns to Spain in "triumph."



It is very ironic indeed that the culture of the Filipinos, viewed as "savage" by the great Spanish, has many progressive traits that will take hundreds of years for the rest of the world to adopt. The fact that women are allowed to divorce and take forms of leadership is revolutionary in the 1500's. The culture that has to be "fixed" to become more advanced like the Europeans turns out in hindsight to be one that should have been more closely studied and perhaps emulated in some ways.



Chapter 3, The Spanish Bond

Chapter 3, The Spanish Bond Summary

The Philippines stagnate under Spanish rule. Most of the soldiers and priests come from Spain second hand--through Mexico, where they find the Filipinos a welcome relief from the native Mexican population. They excitedly concentrate on collecting revenue and converting the population to Christianity. For the most part, they are ignored by Spain. With soldiers relatively scarce, the Catholic monasteries have a large amount of power over the natives. In a very real way, the country is ruled indirectly from the Vatican and Rome for three hundred years. A major split occurs over a policy of allowing Filipinos to be educated, but not allowing them to become priests. This creates resentment among the growing Filipino educated class.

Within ten years of Legazpi's rule, the country relents to Spanish rule. There are sporadic skirmishes in outlying Muslim areas, but for the most part, the Filipinos generally submit rather than fight. The Spaniards main threat comes from the rival English, Portuguese, Chinese, and Dutch nations. Although lighter than the atrocities in Latin America, the Spanish do import their "repartimiento" system, which creates badly treated labor gangs for civil service. Some men flee into the jungle to avoid "service." Soon, local chiefs are corrupted by the process and work with the Spaniards against their citizenry. The "encomienda" system creates a harsh feudal system, when it comes to land ownership and taxation. Underpaid Spanish troops commonly seize native property at will.

Some Spaniards resent the injustice and ask the royal family in Spain to speak against the policies. However, local bureaucrats protect the system. Still, in 1583, King Philip decries the "encomienda" system, saying the natives' treatment is "worse than slaves." Modest reforms do follow. This limits the power of the Spanish bureaucrats, but actually increases the power of the local religious orders, including Augustinians, Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits and Recollects. The locals are supposed to be self-ruling, but in reality, the Friars have total control. Archbishops have more real power than the Spanish governors.

Priests learn the language and culture, often abandoning their vows and marrying. The arrogant friars decide to not make it a practice of teaching Filipinos Spanish. Many do not learn to read in any language. Whole towns join in Sunday mass, and usually a band plays. Some friars allow native cultures to intermingle with Catholic ceremonies, which results in a bizarre combination of Catholicism and mysticism. Some of the Christian stories heavily influence the natives. Many are impassioned by the story of "The Passion of the Christ," where Jesus suffers before receiving salvation. Some early Filipino reformers and revolutionaries use this message to their advantage. Isolated Filipino leaders gain power in the 1800's, generally preaching independence with a Christian flair. Most are eventually executed by the Spanish. They become martyrs for the growing independence movement.



The limited but financial profitable "galleon trade" supplies the local Spanish government with needed revenue. The process involves Chinese cargo being imported and exchanged with Mexican pesos. Local bureaucrats receive kickbacks for their involvement with the yearly shipping event. The long voyage is extremely dangerous, but crews still clamor aboard for the chance at wealth. Manila prospers and grows in population under the influx of money. Spanish locals grow lazy and idle in the city, while rural areas are largely neglected.

This easy lifestyle is shattered, when the British briefly capture Manila in 1762. Some native resistance groups see this as a sign of Spanish weakness and make some futile attacks. The financial system also collapses in Manila. Some local friars hope to end the isolationist policy and open up the country to real foreign trade. A new liberal governor arrives in Manila in 1778 and allows foreign traders to land in Manila for the first time. This direct trade makes local sugar cane a very profitable enterprise. Philippine exports grow enormously in the following years. Unfortunately, plantations abound, distributing the profits to a very few. So-called "sugar barons" rise to power. A new class of Filipino educated professionals grows and espouses political reform. This movement intensifies throughout the 1800's.

The Spanish savagely quell a native uprising in 1872. Many innocents are rounded up and executed or imprisoned. A Filipino named Jose Rizal y Mercado rises to prominence preaching modest reforms and is executed after being associated with a peasant revolt. Local Spaniards brutally crackdown on any perceived insurgents. Summary executions abound. Aguinaldo y Famy, a Filipino Lieutenant of a popular insurgent leader rises to power in the 1890's, flees the country, and asks for America's assistance with his cause.

Chapter 3, The Spanish Bond Analysis

The Spanish speed their own demise to a large point by brutally repressing all native attempts at political reform. Early educated Filipino reformers who only want more reasonable economic freedoms are imprisoned and killed by the paranoid Spanish. This only aids the ultranationalist fringe groups at the expense of moderates, who are willing to work with the Spanish. Their creation of Filipino martyrs gives the people a focus to rally around. Spain's own religion, Catholicism, is actually turned around against its originators by Filipinos, who compare one of their martyred leaders to Jesus Christ.



Chapter 4, America Goes Global

Chapter 4, America Goes Global Summary

During the mid 1800's, the American desire to become a world power and be taken seriously grows. The war with Mexico shows this. However, the devastating Civil War sours the American appetite for outside expansion and turns the nation's interests inward. This isolationist view surpasses the expansionism view for most of the remainder of the 1800's. However, by the 1890's, the public's recollection of the Civil War recedes, and the expansionist/imperialist mood grows, fueled by outspoken proponents like Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt and is circulated by the yellow tabloid press. The term "manifest destiny" is used to mean the worldwide assertion of American power for the "good" of other civilizations. Again, some look for a reason to spread Christianity. Corporations clamor for "new opportunities" abroad.

Anti-imperialists also make strong points about the shortcomings of the expansionist movement. Mark Twain, Samuel Gompers and Andrew Carnegie find themselves oddly on the same side of this issue. Conservative President Grover Cleveland resists pressure to annex Hawaii and attack Cuba. The American naval fleet had fallen into disrepair following the pacifistic atmosphere after the Civil War. Only in the 1890's had it started being updated for modern warfare. Now, there are influential persons who want to use that technology. During this time period, Theodore Roosevelt starts his rise to power. He is a student of Mahan's "The Influence of Sea Power on History" and desires to make the United States a mighty nation.

When Conservative Democrat Cleveland is replaced by weak Republican William McKinley, the imperialists seize the moment. McKinley has no knowledge of foreign affairs. He states, "Peace is preferable to war in almost every contingency." He puts many friends in influential positions, many not qualified for their jobs. Under pressure, McKinley appoints Roosevelt as the assistant secretary to John Long, the secretary of the navy. Roosevelt quickly begins outshining his "boss."

A rebellion in Cuba gets much attention in the United States due to its proximity to Florida. Many U.S. companies have investments in Cuba. The rebels are savvy and publicize their plight in the United States media. The rebel leader lives in New York for a time and support grows. Plans for attacking Cuba are scrutinized. Long leaves Washington for the summer, and Roosevelt takes over as acting secretary. Roosevelt looks at means of overthrowing the Spanish in Cuba and the Philippines. He sees a need to possibly occupy the Philippines for some time. Roosevelt also connives to have a fellow expansionist appointed as the next Navy Commodore. He is reprimanded by Long when exposed, but his appointee is allowed to stand.

McKinley does not want war and tries stalling. He works through Spain to find a solution. Preferring not to take a strong stand against war for political reasons, McKinley waffles on several opportunities to make strong statements about internal issues. He



reluctantly agrees to send a warship, the Maine, to Cuba under the auspices of protecting American lives in Cuba. However, a Spanish diplomat insults the United States and passions enflame again. Then, on February 15, the "Maine" explodes in Havana harbor. Roosevelt leads the cries for war. McKinley still clings to restraint and is vilified in the media as his popularity plunges. "Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain!" becomes the war cry. The Spanish desperately negotiate, knowing they are in no position to take on the United States. McKinley suffers from the pressure, actually breaking down at one point. He still pleads for peace, and Roosevelt mocks him. McKinley finally relents and sends a very mild declaration "to take measures to secure a full and final termination of the hostilities," which congress interprets as a declaration of war.

Naval vessels move to blockade Cuba and Dewey's force moves towards Manila. U.S. Commodore George Dewey commands a group of ships, which decimate a fleet of Spanish ships outside Manila Bay on April 30, 1898. Americans at home are euphoric. Dewey becomes a celebrity overnight. McKinley is also happy, but still has difficulty finding the Philippines on a world map.

Chapter 4, America Goes Global Analysis

One of the most intriguing characters in the story is "wish washy" President McKinley. A man who loves the status quo, he is adrift and buffeted by a storm of strong personalities around him. His weak moral core is repeatedly challenged by public opinion. There are many instances when McKinley chooses a path based on convictions, then gives up when the going gets difficult. He also has the habit of explaining away flip flops by saying they were "out of his control." McKinley's ability to remain indifferent and ignorant to foreign affairs is also inconceivable, especially when contrasted to present times. The quote where McKinley has to be shown where the Philippines are on a map is revealing. More to the point, the fact that he doesn't care points out the "sleepy" place that America was at the time. This small country would rise to the level of global power over the next twenty years.



Chapter 5, Imperial Democracy

Chapter 5, Imperial Democracy Summary

With the Spanish fleet destroyed in Manila, McKinley appoints Major General Wesley Merritt to command the U.S. Army to take the city itself, still held by the Spanish. Counsel tells the president for the first time that it may well be necessary to fight the native population, as well as the Spanish. Staff disagrees on the occupation size and whether the occupation should be limited to just the city itself. When asked by Merritt to clarify the overall U.S. mission, McKinley gives very vague answers. There are inferences of giving natives autonomy and declaring martial law. McKinley's inauguration pledge to not seek to gain territory beyond the borders of the United States has been long forgotten. He seems to have no plan. He is just going along with popular opinion.

Many powerful individuals who had not previously considered the possible benefits of a U.S. colony in the Far East are now doing so. This has the effect of galvanizing the opinion that the United States should not "give up" the Philippines under any circumstances. Again, the forces of anti-expansionism clash and debate the imperialists. McKinley's unclear policy does set up the disastrous turn of events with the friendly native population that is to come

In the meantime, Filipino insurgent, Emilio Aguinaldo, is in Hong Kong, thinking that the Americans will help him free his country from Spanish rule. Up to this point, American envoys have agreed to let him fight the Spanish, but are more ambiguous, when it comes to discussing self-rule for the Filipinos. Aguinaldo assumes that the United States will guarantee freedom for the Philippines, as it has done in Cuba. He asks for support in writing from Dewey and receives only a message to come back to Manila. The U.S. consul, Spencer Pratt, works to keep Aguinaldo's hopes up without giving him anything concrete. From Washington, U.S. officials are told not to negotiate with the "insurgents."

En route to Manila, Aguinaldo finds out about Dewey's triumph against the Spanish fleet and is upset he hadn't been included in the planning, as well as the actual fighting. Dewey considers the Filipinos "a nuisance."

McKinley is having more difficulties working out the details of the Philippines. He does not want complications with the insurgents, but is still trying to reach a negotiated deal with the Spanish. Dewey has cut the telegraph cable out of Manila, which greatly slows down direct communication. McKinley reads in the newspaper about negotiations with the insurgents and contacts Dewey to caution against that course of action. By then, Dewey has already met several times with Aguinaldo, but he denies getting his hopes up concerning independence. Aguinaldo departs to the mainland to raise an army to fight the Spanish. Many Filipinos leave the Spanish army to join him. Filipino General



Luna quickly gets 30,000 troops to surround the city of Manila. They shut down the water supply to the city, making life difficult for the Spanish troops.

Aguinaldo starts seizing as much land as possible, hoping it will be a better bargaining tool with the Americans. Commodore Dewey's situation becomes more complicated, because the rebels are more difficult to ignore. Aguinaldo declares independence for the Philippines in a signing ceremony in Cavite. Dewey refuses to sign the document, later claiming he had no idea the insurgents wanted self-government.

Merritt is having problems with his 15,000-troop army. The logistics of waging a war so far from home are becoming apparent to him. His men are mostly volunteers with limited combat experience, mostly from western Indian skirmishes. Supplies and weapons are scarce for the new volunteers. It is very difficult to keep discipline. More units begin departing from San Francisco in May. En Route, they seize the Spanish possession of Guam, where the shocked Spaniards have no inkling of hostilities with Americans. Upon reaching Manila, the troops put ashore behind the Filipino lines and start experiencing the unfamiliar tropical weather.

Foreign correspondents praise the work of the rebels, saying that they have saved the U.S. troops from much heartache by trapping the Spanish. Dewey praises the Filipinos while stalling them at the same time not to attack. He doesn't want the Spanish to surrender to anyone but United States troops. Aguinaldo begins to distrust the Americans for the first time. General Anderson meets with him and warns Washington of their determination. His report never reaches McKinley. Conditions between Filipinos and Americans deteriorate.

Merritt tricks a Filipino commander into pulling out of an area nearest the city in order to let some U.S. troops occupy it. The problem is that U.S. ground forces have no access to the Spanish without going through the Filipino encirclement. The ruse works and Americans start negotiating for the Spanish surrender. Aguinaldo is embarrassed and outraged. Dewey works out a deal for a fake artillery attack to save face for a Spanish surrender. Unfortunately, there is confusion and real fighting breaks out. A cease-fire is declared as the Spanish negotiate with the Americans, ignoring the Filipinos. A treaty is worked out, making the Philippines a U.S. possession.

Merritt is replaced by Major General Elwell Stephen Otis. Aguinaldo seizes more outlying countryside, still hoping to bargain with the Americans. He finds it ever more difficult to keep his troops from riling the Americans. Otis asks the Filipinos to leave Manila and Aguinaldo reluctantly complies. Otis now gets some conflicting and incorrect information that insurgents want to be annexed by the United States and forwards it to McKinley who makes inflammatory statements. Both sides are actively preparing for war by early 1899.



Chapter 5, Imperial Democracy Analysis

The theme of ego and arrogance is revisited in this chapter. American leaders Merritt, Otis, and Dewey are shown to be guilty of ignoring facts before their eyes and leading the United States towards an unnecessary war. Leaders in the United States are making decisions based on skewed information being sent to them by these military leaders. Conflicting information is misdirected or conveniently "lost" much of the time. This leads to some drastic miscalculations, which in turn lead to the great loss of life on both sides of the war.



Chapter 6, Civilizing with a Krag

Chapter 6, Civilizing with a Krag Summary

The actual war is triggered over a small skirmish on February 4, 1899. It quickly escalates and within hours the Filipino positions in Manila come under heavy fire by U.S. warships. Much of the town is destroyed as U.S. troops charge forward. By the end of the day, some three thousand Filipinos are dead in what is later described as a massacre. Otis rebuffs talk of a truce with Aguinaldo. He states, "The fight must go on to the grim end." Americans overwhelm the nearby village of Caloocan and burn it to the ground. Northern and southern offensives are mostly successful in defeating superior numbered Filipino forces, but the U.S. commanders quickly realize they lack the manpower to hold ground. The insurgent forces gradually switch from a policy of direct confrontation to guerrilla tactics.

General Otis has control of the press, but still grows angry under negative coverage that has reached the outside world. More troops are requested. The army grows quickly to sixty thousand, then seventy five thousand within a year. The Americans press on, winning most skirmishes easily, as the Filipinos mostly refuse direct confrontation. Officers begin to doubt Otis' ability. Some openly question him in front of the press. Even though stubborn on the battlefield, General Otis does work hard in pressing for public improvements. In the spirit of "benevolent assimilation," he focuses army resources towards public education and rebuilding the legal system.

A civilian commission sets up offices in Manila under the pretext of getting the point of view of the natives. Unfortunately, the team only interviews Filipinos in the city itself, most who are there, because they don't believe in the independence movement. Therefore, the commission reports are very skewed in favor of the natives supporting the U.S. It recommends "enforced autonomy." It also deals with the conflicting concept, espoused by McKinley, of "benevolent assimilation." Dewey, eager to return to the United States, ignores the commission reports. The head of the commission, Jacob Schurman, negotiates a peace settlement with Aguinaldo's deputy. Schurman presses McKinley for a cease-fire, but under pressure from Otis, members of his own team desert him, and the settlement is abandoned.

A majority of natives still support the insurrection. Guerilla tactics increase. It becomes more common for Filipinos to surrender to American troops entering a town, then attack later. After a near catastrophic battle, Aguinaldo disbands his large armies into smaller units. In this way, he hopes to prolong the war, particularly past the upcoming U.S. elections. In the field, reports of American brutality continue. Many troops are becoming desensitized to the carnage. Guerrilla tactics used by the Filipinos add to their anger. It has become almost impossible to distinguish friend from foe. A U.S. captain is charged with ordering his troops to shoot prisoners. Most men are furnished with new Krag-Jorgensen rifles, and the slogan "Civilize them with a Krag," is repeated in song. At



home, American opinion for the war ebbs. The typical consensus is that they "hated the war and upheld its aims."

In mid-1899, a correspondent reports on the bad American outlook in the Philippines. He notes the failure of the army to be able to hold ground and its inconsistent course of action. These inconsistencies abound. Soldiers routinely burn and loot villages while others try and protect property from harm. The climate sickens many troops, and the rainy season makes it difficult to travel, since there are no updated roads. Back in the United States, McKinley travels around the country, defending the unpopular war. His enthused oratory does win over many objections. He celebrates the first anniversary of the sinking of the Maine and also successfully rides a surge of Dewey popularity as the "triumphant" Dewey returns home. Congress works to replace the Army in the Philippines with civilians.

Chapter 6, Civilizing with a Krag Analysis

Nationalism is a powerful tool that can and has been used to sway public opinion. It is a reoccurring theme in the story, both for Filipinos and Americans. American nationalism pushes many ex-isolationists to be proud of their new overseas "possession" and use any means necessary to keep it. The same type of nationalist fervor pushes many Filipinos to fight for the cause of freedom, against difficult odds. It is disappointing and sadly ironic that the fervor that makes many want to "fight to the end" against the rebel Filipinos blinds them to the fact that the struggle for freedom by the Filipino people is very similar to that of the United States, just over a hundred years prior. Calls for war and revenge drown out most voices that try to make that very point. Only when the casualties start to mount, and the battle mires in guerilla warfare, do many isolationists get to rebuff the expansionists. However, by that time, it is too late. The United States is already "committed" to the Philippines.

It is always worthwhile to note the distinctly American cynical sense of humor. This emerges most often in times of stress, like war. The term "civilizing with a Krag" typifies this humor. Krag-Jorgensen rifles are the modern weapons used by the U.S. army in the Philippines. Civilizing with a gun is a very sarcastic attitude that is taken up by U.S. troops after seeing how difficult their position is in the Philippines - especially in the face of guerilla tactics against them.



Chapter 7, Little Brown Brothers

Chapter 7, Little Brown Brothers Summary

In January 1900, President McKinley summons federal judge William Howard Taft to discuss the Philippines. He asks him to head the new civilian government to be setup in Manila. With aspirations of becoming Supreme Court judge, Taft reluctantly agrees. He departs for Manila to take the position of governor about the same time General Otis finally "retires" and is succeeded by General Arthur MacArthur. As military governor, MacArthur refuses to step down or even recognize Taft's authority over him. He has no intentions of giving up the hard fought military gains in the Philippines to a civilian. He scoffs at the idea of "winning hearts and minds" of the natives.

In mid-1900, Aguinaldo is still holding out hope that McKinley can be defeated in the upcoming U.S. presidential election. He retreats north and tells his men to completely abandon conventional warfare and harass American troops whenever possible. He also makes his commanders autonomous, so they can operate independently, without having to be in contact with him. The men resort to techniques later made common in Vietnam, like bamboo spear traps, and trip wires. Ex "soldiers" appear to be friendly villagers before ambushing Americans, when they have an opportunity. American prisoners are tortured and killed in gruesome ways.

American commanders and troops retaliate with a "no prisoners" policy, which claims many innocent civilians. This starts an escalation of atrocities on both sides. Americans wipe out whole villages, killing everyone they see, including women and children. Filipino death squads begin roaming the countryside, killing American collaborators. Filipino spies are everywhere, and it becomes ever more complicated for American troops to tell who the real "enemy" is.

McKinley easily sweeps the elections for a second term, with Roosevelt as his running mate. Aguinaldo is devastated. More of his generals desert and join the American leaning Federalistas. The Americans undertake a bold mission where pro-American Filipinos pretend to have American prisoners to deliver to Aguinaldo. The "Trojan horse" scenario works, and he is captured. Aguinaldo takes a pro-American oath and is allowed to retire on his family estate. Even after claiming victory, insurgents still continue to attack Americans for years to come. The American public begins to tire of the "pointless" war.

Although believing in total victory over the insurgents, MacArthur is surprisingly more lenient than Taft in dealing with prisoners and non-combatant civilians. When Aguinaldo is captured and pardoned by MacArthur, strict Taft is appalled. He favors executions over compassion. Momentarily stymied by MacArthur, Taft sends his workers out into the field to gather information. He recommends U.S. sponsorship of Philippine civilian projects. Taft also states that for the most part, the rebellion is over. He starts enacting



laws and collecting duties. Soon, he manages to maneuver around MacArthur and diminishes most of his power.

Most of Taft's commissioners think of the locals Filipino's as uncivilized, but they work with them regardless. Taft enlists many senior ilustrados, members of the Filipino upper class, to help upgrade the country. A schooled Filipino named Pardo de Tavera allies with Taft and is selected as the front-runner in Taft's Federalista party. Taft contributes money to local races, gave them access to good jobs, and banned opposition parties. Not surprisingly, the pro-American Federalistas sweep to power, seriously tapping from Aguinaldo's thin resources. U.S. funds serve to further entrench the powerful Filipino families of the ilustrados in a plutocracy type political system.

Many changes occur in 1901. MacArthur finally tires of his futile power struggle with Taft and departs for the United States. He is replaced by Major General Adna Romanza Chaffee. Just into his second term, President McKinley is shot and dies eight days later. Theodore Roosevelt becomes president. General Miguel Malvar vows to continue the Filipino struggle after the capture of Aguinaldo. General Chaffee relentlessly pursues Malvar, again taking a "no prisoners" policy. He also uses Civil War tactics like "scorched earth," where he burns crops and kills farm animals, leaving the villagers no food resources. It does succeed, and Malvar is captured.

This campaign is in response to a massacre that occurred on the island of Samar the year before. U.S. troops had landed and occupied the town of Balangiga. An extremist Filipino leader, General Vicente Lukban, planned an ambush that took the Americans mostly by surprise. Many locals were guerilla collaborators, and the attack occurred as the American troops ate breakfast. Natives "appeared from everywhere," quickly overwhelming the astonished soldiers. Only half the unit managed to escape. When they returned with reinforcements, they found their comrade's bodies had been mutilated horribly. The massacre stunned the American public. It was compared to the Alamo. Orders were issued to kill everyone on the island over ten years of age.

Senate hearings on war atrocities are convened in the United States. Anti-expansionists express their dismay at the whole course of events. Some soldiers are convicted of cruelty, although their punishments are light. Roosevelt declares the war over on July 4, 1902, although native attacks go on for ten more years.

Chapter 7, Little Brown Brothers Analysis

The similarities between the American wars in the Philippines, Vietnam, and even Iraq are astonishing. The common denominator is an "occupying" power, fighting against a resistance with a cause. Telling good from bad is difficult, and the trend towards brutality is difficult to calm in the troops, who see their comrades being killed by sneak attacks. To American eyes, the natives and guerilla fighters all look the same (and are in some cases.) Atrocities occur and escalations, as the soldiers become desensitized to the horror around them. The more they see their friends killed, the more they are liable to take it out on the local population. This occurs in the Philippines in the early 1900's,



Vietnam in the 1960's and 1970's, and Iraq from 2003 on. There are evidences of massacres caused by Americans, and public hearings horrify the American public. Then and now, there are public cries of "why are we there?"

Taft naively starts a terrible tradition of using American money to back Filipino elections. This tradition becomes a habit, which only increases in the years to come. There is some foreshadowing to the problems this policy will have on the Filipino people. One thing is for certain. Filipino politics is changed in the process. All future elections are looked at as being somehow linked to the Americans.



Chapter 8, America Exports Itself

Chapter 8, America Exports Itself Summary

Boatloads of American teachers and civil servants start arriving in the Philippines in 1901. Although mixed in their motives, many have a sincere desire to help the Filipino people lead a better life. Indeed, compared to other "colonies" around the world like Britain and France, the Americans are determined not to be stuck with the "colonial" label. U.S. citizens are barred from owning large tracts of land and work hard to abolish the last remnants of the Spanish colonial system. The remaining estates owned by the friars are bought out after the president confers with the Vatican itself. A true judicial system is established, along with a centralized education system and widespread public works. The Americans also train Filipino troops to serve as regulars. It's a practice the Europeans have been frightful of.

A single currency is established for the first time, along with a tax system. Railways and roads are completed to attach the major cities. A single language is also taught in the schools to unite the population: English. This creates a point of debate among the local population. Some like speaking a popular language with the "American spirit," while others think they are losing their national identity. Other public works seriously benefit the country. Modern sanitation, as well as mosquito control and smallpox vaccination helps to cut Manila's death rate in half. The city is dubbed, "The Pearl of the Orient." Americans are amazed at how far their money will go in the newly modernized city. The nightlife gains momentum, although Filipinos cannot get into American social clubs.

Still, there are major problems with the attitudes the Americans have towards the Filipinos. Racial intermarriage is considered shocking, just as it is back in the United States. The major issue is a superior/racist view that the "little brown brothers" need coddling and are inferior human beings. With most ymigrys preferring to deal with the "enlightened" Filipino ilustrados, the poor suffers. U.S. trade also only helps to widen the gap between rich and poor. The emphasis is to create a mirror of the American system in the Philippines. Unfortunately, the Filipinos are very good at mimicking customs on the surface, and the American teachers are all too eager to believe what a good job they are doing. Superficially, they emulate Americans, but usually just go through the motions.

Taft leaves for the States, and appoints several educational administrators over the next several years. Unfortunately, each has their own agenda and policies are sporadic. Despite the shortcomings and unrealistic expectations, the Philippines quickly becomes the most literate nation in southeast Asia. By 1909, there are four thousand elementary schools and four hundred thousand pupils in the Philippines. There are issues with truancy and lack of graduates, but still the population benefits. Although educational policy is governed by Taft and his successors, economic policy in the Philippines continues to be dictated by the United States congress well into the 1930's. For better or worse, the Philippines' economy becomes interlinked with that of the United States.



Many of Taft's grand plans for improving the Philippines are bickered at in Congress and either downsized or eliminated altogether.

Mineral resources are explored and some mines make their owners millionaires. Many ex-American soldiers take out claims and make a good living growing rubber or other staple crops. For the most part, Congress bars large United States companies from getting a foothold in the Philippines. Taft becomes exasperated by the lack of U.S. investment in the area. Still, the Philippines enjoys tariff free trade with the United States, although it benefits only a select few Filipinos

Chapter 8, America Exports Itself Analysis

Although arrogant and bigoted, the United States policy of improving the Philippines does help many locals. There are definitely shortcomings, but compared to other "colonial" powers of the time, the United States is on the cutting edge of "nation building." The United States seems to "atone" for its previous aggressions by going all out to help the conquered nation of the Philippines. Americans are able to purge themselves of the guilt caused by the publicized atrocities.



Chapter 9, Stumbling Toward Self-rule

Chapter 9, Stumbling Toward Self-rule Summary

To his dismay, Taft finds that the Filipino people are not satisfied with U.S. rule - they still want independence. Two local figures rise to power during this time, Sergio Osmena and Manuel Luis Quezon y Molina. Very dedicated and hard working, Osmena works hard to rise through the ranks, becoming a provincial governor. Quezon, a former rebel, is befriended by a U.S. governor and found to be very skilled. Although both Osmena and Quezon are brilliant, Quezon has magnetism and more closely echoes American flamboyant politicians. Under American tutelage, Quezon works as a prosecutor for several years. His American elders help him climb the ladder of Filipino culture. He is the first Filipino to win a case against an American.

IN 1907, Osmena and Quezon form a political alliance and found the Nacionalista party which sweeps to power by taking over half of the parliamentary seats. Osmena becomes the speaker and Quezon the majority leader. Taft is disappointed as his old Federalistas (renamed the Progresista party) are marginalized. He warns that independence will only hurt trade between the two countries. Although severely limited in power, the Filipino parliament works to keep powerful U.S. interests out of the country. Under Osmena, it also slows a radical trend towards immediate independence. Still he worries the local American governor by asking for a pledge of "eventual independence," which is rebuffed.

Quezon shows himself to be a practical politician. While working publicly for independence to stay popular with the new nationalist fervor, he also works behind the scenes to stay as close to the United States as possible. Quezon goes to Washington D.C., as a Filipino representative. He quickly learns to work with journalists, and becomes fairly popular. He makes a mild plea for independence before the House of Representatives. When the House changes to democratic leadership in reelection, Quezon works with the new house leader, William Atkinson Jones. They complete a bill to grant Philippine independence in eight years. Now president, Taft works to maintain the status quo of U.S. "administration."

Woodrow Wilson is elected president and Filipinos prematurely assume their independence will be hastened. However, Wilson's consul, after studying the situation, tell him to give the Filipinos more power while keeping it short of actual independence. Still the shrewd politician, Quezon is involved in selecting the next U.S. governor of the Philippines, Francis Harrison. Unlike his predecessors, Harrison quickly assimilates to the Filipino culture and becomes popular with the locals. He speaks of Filipino independence to cheering throngs of people. Privately, Osmena tells Harrison to slow down and do things right. Quezon warns against a withdrawal that would make the country a target for Japan.



The so-called "Jones" bill is re-drafted in the House in 1914, giving the Filipinos sovereignty as soon as a "stable government" is established. The term "stable government," added at Quezon's request, proves to be difficult to establish later on. After more wrangling in the Senate, the bill is finally passed in 1916 with Wilson's signature. Although imperfect, the bill sets an example. The United States is the first western nation to cede power back to a "colony." The Filipinos celebrate and Quezon returns to great fanfare. He runs and easily wins the presidency of the Philippine senate. He vies for power with Osmena and eventually has him replaced.

In Manila, Harrison asks for a timetable to be set for independence, since the country is stable. A bank scandal following the crash of prices after the end of WWI causes Republicans in the Congress to mock this claim. Warren Harding becomes president and backs away from Philippine independence promises. He also demagogues Harrison and installs Leonard Wood as Philippine governor in 1921. Although secretly agreeing with the slow pace of independence, Quezon again cannily chastises Wood to gain nationalistic support. He stages a clash with Wood and appeals to President Harding for support. Unfortunately, Harding dies of pneumonia and is replaced by Calvin Coolidge in 1923, who warns Quezon not to antagonize Wood. The two deadlock, until Wood dies in 1927 during surgery.

The political debate about Philippine independence intensifies under Coolidge, then Hoover. Japan is growing as an aggressive force in the area, and the Dutch make vague threats at taking the Philippines if the United States withdraws. Quezon sends Osmena to Washington to push for the independence bill. The final debate gives the Philippines commonwealth status, with a ten-year timeline for total independence. Hoover vetoes the legislation, but is easily overruled. Realizing that Osmena will get the prestige for the landmark independence bill, he defiantly has the Philippine legislature reject it. Quezon then lambastes Osmena for the insulting legislation, then travels to the United States and meets with new President Roosevelt. Quezon has identical legislation resubmitted and takes credit for it to great fanfare back home. He wins the presidency of the new commonwealth in 1935 (beating Emilio Aguinaldo, who came out of retirement to claim his right.) Arthur MacArthur's son, Douglas, is also present at the ceremony.

Chapter 9, Stumbling Toward Self-rule Analysis

There is foreshadowing at the end of the chapter that Arthur MacArthur's son, Douglas is to play a part in the future of the Philippines. Ironically, Douglas suffers from the same egotistical problems his father has. The case can be made that Douglas is obsessed with his image. His father had been humiliated by Taft in the Philippines, and he is determined to "fix" that wrong.



Chapter 10, MacArthur's Mandate

Chapter 10, MacArthur's Mandate Summary

Douglas MacArthur, fresh out of West Point military academy, finds himself in his father's old stomping grounds in the Philippines. He is in the field for six months before getting an office job in Manila. MacArthur learns to adapt to local customs and takes the unprecedented step of socializing with the locals. During a dinner, he meets two Filipino law school graduates, named Quezon and Osmena. All in their twenties and early in their careers, the men become friends. During a survey of the Bataan peninsula, MacArthur gets a bad case of malaria and is sent home to the United States.

After recovering, he travels extensively through Asia with his father as an aide. The "dream" job takes them through India, Tibet, Singapore, and Bangkok. Colonel Douglas MacArthur distinguishes himself in the waning years of World War I with his courage, prowess, and brashness under fire. Sarcastically, his commander expects his lifespan to be short since, "there's no risk of battle that any soldier is called on to take that he is not liable to look up and see MacArthur at his side." Most of the glory goes to the young man's head. His sense of invulnerability grows.

MacArthur marries and is reassigned to the Philippines, much to his excitement. He commands a small brigade and reestablishes contact with Quezon and Osmena - now in positions of power. Since the end of WWI, America has returned to an isolationist policy, and the military is being severely undersupplied. Previous Americans had worked to fortify, "un-fortifiable" Manila Bay against the aggressive Japanese. MacArthur surveys the defenses at Manila and finishes his previously interrupted survey of Bataan. MacArthur then divorces his wife, takes a Filipino mistress, and returns to the United States, mistress in tow.

Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur is now acting as U.S. Chief of Staff, although his forces number only 130,000 troops. Anti-military sentiment sweeps the nation as the U.S. military reaches a low point between world wars. MacArthur is castigated for aggressively leading an attack against protesting WWI veterans and fights for his reputation, which he values greatly. After a falling out with his mistress, he also has an argument with President Roosevelt about military spending. MacArthur tries to resign, but his request is refused. He seizes upon a plan to return to the Philippines and assist his friend (and president) Quezon. He takes a job as military advisor and soon remarries. Despite their egos, the men get along quite well. MacArthur envisions a Swiss-style defensive system relying on small-armed squads. Other military strategists estimate that Japan could easily overwhelm the island chain within weeks.

On the home front, Quezon is having difficulty with growing unrest over the massive economic inequalities in his country. Nationalistic insurgent groups see Quezon as a tyrant and increase in temerity. A revolt briefly seizes Manila in 1935. Clueless as to the domestic unrest, MacArthur overestimates his defensive preparedness. His aide,



Dwight Eisenhower is much more skeptical of the situation. The men find themselves increasingly at odds. Eisenhower is confided in more and more by Quezon, who begins to realize the predicament he is in. To cover his bases, he takes a secretive trip to Japan in 1938 to negotiate Philippine neutrality in case of war. Quezon starts distancing himself from MacArthur and reducing his troops strength to not be seen as a threat to the Japanese.

The Japanese drive for conquest is primarily driven by the practical need for raw materials, lacking on the island itself. The military-thinking command is very far sighted, seeing the need for naval as well as air power. Their naval victory over the Russians has shown them the need for a modern, well-staffed navy. They plan theoretical attacks on the Philippines and Guam. Americans routinely underestimate Japan's capabilities. At the outbreak of WWII, Japan has thousands of seasoned veterans, having been trained in the war with China.

As Germany carves its way across Europe, quickly leaving Britain standing alone, Japan sees its opportunity. American military strategists realize they are ill prepared to fight a two front war and decide to give the emphasis to Europe. Roosevelt stops shipment of oil to Japan, which only hastens their planning for an attack on the United States. MacArthur is made commander of U.S. Army Forces, Far East. He is promised modern supplies, including B-17 bombers. Quezon switches allegiances again and embraces MacArthur. Most supplies never arrive, and MacArthur further exacerbates his cause by over inflating his troop numbers. He misestimates he will have until at least mid-1942 to prepare. Last minutes attempts at peace between the Roosevelt administration, and the Japanese flounder.

Chapter 10, MacArthur's Mandate Analysis

The "real" character of Douglas MacArthur is shown to be very flawed when seen in detail. This contrasts greatly with the public image of the "great" war hero. There are many instances where MacArthur screws up and somehow manages to escape blame. All in all, he was a decent strategist, but not a great one. His pre-war defensive planning with Quezon was inept and based on many overestimations. The choice to lobby President Roosevelt to use the Philippines as a "comeback" in the second half of the war is a self serving decision, not a strategic one. MacArthur's failure to mobilize his planes after Pearl Harbor is a glaring example of his ineffectiveness. While most high school textbooks point out the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, not many point out what shouldn't have been a "surprise" attach at Clark Field. Examining MacArthur's debacle in Bataan (caused by his failure to pre-plan) he still manages to turn this into a rallying point, which only increases his popularity.



Chapter 11, War and Redemption

Chapter 11, War and Redemption Summary

Pearl Harbor is attacked on December 7, 1941 and General Douglas MacArthur is woken up at 3:40am, December 8 (local time) and warned to prepare for an imminent attack. The main Japanese aerial wave is delayed by fog, and doesn't reach Clark Field (the major U.S. base) until noon. MacArthur's hard fought B-17's are still neatly arranged on the runway, with no signs of defensive preparation. They are easily destroyed by the Japanese planes. There is a short lived investigation where Pearl Harbor commanders are punished, but MacArthur is seen as too "valuable" for official inquiry - he blames others for this failure in communication. His loss of aerial power is to cost him dearly in the months to come, and the Japanese find they can attack with impunity.

The Japanese next sink two British battleships in the area and are aided by Germany and Italy. They all soon declare war against the United States, forming the "Axis" powers. The Japanese create a blockade of the Philippines, and badly needed supplies cannot reach MacArthur. In late December, Japanese Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma lands forty-three thousand troops in Lingayen Gulf, just two hundred miles north of Manila. He plans to capture the main Philippine island of Luzon (including Manila) in just fifty days. Even with superior numbers, MacArthur's badly trained Filipino army falls back as Homma lands more troops.

Realizing his position, MacArthur makes the fateful decision to abandon Manila and moves his forces into more easily defendable Bataan. Unfortunately, many of his supplies are left behind and although strategically well-placed, his troops soon find themselves lacking in food and water. On the island citadel of Corregidor, Quezon again debates negotiating with the Japanese for a truce before deciding to back the Americans "regardless of the circumstances." American troop morale drops drastically, and MacArthur is ordered to evacuate himself. He makes his infamous "I shall return" comment to the press in Australia. The American contingent suffers as they scrounge for food in the countryside of Bataan. Homma receives yet more reinforcements, and the Filipino and American lines crumble. U.S. Major General Edward King surrenders the force of eighty thousand on April 9, 1942 to the Japanese. MacArthur is furious, having previously ordered his generals not to surrender only days before. Corregidor then falls after a brutal, but short fight.

The prisoners are marched some eighty miles in what comes to be known as the "Bataan death march." The Japanese captors are merciless. Both Americans and Filipinos are beaten, starved, bayoneted, and shot. Some ten thousand prisoners die on the trek. Some Filipinos help troops, even under threat from the Japanese. The cruelty of the Japanese troops quickly turns even friendly Filipinos against them. The Japanese instill Jose Laurel as bogus Filipino president. Reserves of food and supplies are rerouted to Japan, and the Filipino economy crumbles, then collapses. Local guerillas



increase their presence and spread throughout the countryside. The Hukbalahap or Huk insurgency grows, with Luis Taruc in command.

Then the American tide turns at the battle of Midway and strategists look at bypassing the strategically unimportant Philippines in lieu of Taiwan. MacArthur flies into a rage and convinces Roosevelt to reconsider with promises of a quick victory. The plan is to strike at the lesser, southern island of Leyte. The invasion force lands with little resistance on October 19, 1944. MacArthur wades ashore, when the beach master can't spare an extra boat and unintentionally walks into pictorial history. He exclaims for the cameras, "I have returned!"

The Japanese naval chief cunningly lures away some of MacArthur's naval defenses, but under strong attack by American forces, his commander pulls back. The Japanese lose a large portion of their navy in the battle for Leyte. The reinforced Japanese dig in on the mainland, and the American troops are forced to fight hard for every mile of territory. The main thrust of their offensive takes two months, with four more months required to "mop up" resistance.

The American landings on mainland Luzon take the same path of the earlier Japanese invasion force, nearly three years earlier. Seeing little resistance on the ground, the Americans take severe damage from Japanese kamikaze suicide attacks. Fortunately for the Allies, the Japanese aerial fleet soon becomes depleted, and the Americans have dominance over the skies from then on. MacArthur pushes quickly for Manila, but is slowed significantly by a large Japanese contingent at Clark Field. His forces soon make it to the outskirts of Manila. The Japanese commander refuses his commanding officer's orders to declare Manila an open city and urban combat ensues. Soon, the flimsy bamboo huts are in flames, and the Japanese troops work themselves into a frenzy. They kill indiscriminately, then become purposely cruel. Many civilians are caught between the Americans and Japanese. American flamethrower crews work house by house to dislodge the Japanese over the ensuing weeks. The last groups of diehard Japanese soldiers don't find out until weeks after the end of the war that their cause is lost.

Chapter 11, War and Redemption Analysis

The early grudge between MacArthur and Eisenhower grows in intensity in the years leading up to World War II, when Eisenhower is rebuffed by MacArthur, when he tries to point out real errors in the Philippine defensive plan. This dislike turns to hatred, which continues beyond the war. While MacArthur gains glory in the Pacific theater, Eisenhower shows himself to be a great leader in Africa, and later Europe. As president, Eisenhower tolerates MacArthur, but the men still despise each other. When the Korean War breaks out in 1950, Eisenhower disciplines MacArthur numerous times for questioning his orders. Eventually, he relieves MacArthur of command.



Chapter 12, Dependent Independence

Chapter 12, Dependent Independence Summary

MacArthur works hard to get a new Filipino president into power. He quickly turns against his old friend Osmena and supports Manuel Roxas. MacArthur also creates much resentment by pardoning many high level Filipinos who had collaborated with the Japanese. Many Filipinos who had loyally resisted are appalled. Still, MacArthur's blessing goes far with the Filipino people, and Roxas easily unseats Osmena.

The Philippines become officially independent on July 4, 1946. The U.S. high commissioner, Paul McNutt lowers the United States flag, and the Philippine President raises the Philippine flag. MacArthur is of course present at the huge celebration. McNutt knows that many Filipinos are uneasy about emancipation at this stage and would have preferred to let the United States assist the reconstruction of the battered country. However, nationalistic pride keeps this opinion quiet for the most part. Over the following years, the Americans and Filipinos debate over America's continuing role in the Philippines. The American bases are declared "permanent" by Filipino leaders, and the Americans agree to protect the Philippines. They still play a strong role in the economy.

President Roxas denies seats to eleven opposition members of the Filipino Parliament under questionable charges in order to pass wanted legislation. Some of these slighted members are ex-Huk guerillas and begin planning a revolt. Luis Taruc, the leader of the Huks, harbors many animosities with the pro-U.S. Filipino government. United States soldiers had previously disarmed a Huk unit during the war, then stood by while it was wiped out by a rival faction. Roxas cracks down on the Huks in an attempt to overwhelm them with force, but he only manages to alienate many local villagers. Roxas dies of a heart attack and is replaced by the lackluster Elpidio Quirino. He tries to open truce talks, but both sides are very distrustful, and the talks break down quickly. Americans suspect the Huks are allied with the Russians, although this isn't the case. In 1950, the Huks overwhelm many small towns and brutally attack a government garrison. Quirino's ineptitude only helps to strengthen the opposition movement. He rigs the following election in his favor.

Appalled by the corruption and abuse taking place in the Philippines, the American intelligence community decides that Quirino must go. A pre-CIA organization selects Ramon Magsaysay, who quickly rises through the Filipino legislative ranks. Magsaysay cunningly creates a "carrot and stick" approach where he gives rebels the option to surrender, but attacks mercilessly if they decline the offer. He creates smaller, more mobile units to pursue rebels more efficiently than with cumbersome army units. He also offers land to Huks who pledge to stop fighting. His plan is a success for the most part. The remnants of the Huk army are forced to eke out an existence in the mountains. Magsaysay unseats Quirino in the 1953 presidential election.



Luis Taruc requests a truce and a young reporter named Benigno (Ninoy) Aquino is allowed to interview him. The interview gives Ninoy's career a great boost and Taruc ends up serving a fourteen year jail term. President Magsaysay ends up sliding back into the typical Filipino doldrums after the rebels are no longer a threat. He is a "yes man" for the United States, but not interested in serious reforms for his country. Magsaysay dies in a plane crash in 1957, and the CIA contact in Manila is told to "Find another Magsaysay."

Chapter 12, Dependent Independence Analysis

U.S. government meddling in foreign countries affairs has been the subject of much debate. Often, decisions are made out of expediency that turn out badly in the long run. Unfortunately, the long run can be decades after the initial tampering takes place. The choice to pick "winners" in the Philippines makes for bad leaders more often than not. There is some foreshadowing to this policy also spilling over into Vietnam, where a few choice leaders turn against the United States and later have to be killed. The Shaw of Iran is another excellent example of a "good guy" hand picked (at the expense of the democratic process,) who becomes very corrupt and is eventually deposed by militants.



Chapter 13, Conjugal Autocracy

Chapter 13, Conjugal Autocracy Summary

Ferdinand Marcos is born September 11, 1917 in northern Luzon. He excels at the University of the Philippines Law School and scores remarkably high on the bar exam. He becomes a minor celebrity after being accused of killing a political competitor at the age of twenty-one. He has an insatiable quest for power. Marcos serves as a lieutenant in Bataan during World War II, but other claims he makes about commanding a large group of guerillas are later proven to be fraudulent. He becomes the youngest member of the Philippine legislature and soon moves up to the senate. He leaves a relationship (where he had produced four out of wedlock children) to marry Imelda Visitacion, a purely political move. After several tough years, Imelda gets fully behind her husband, actively campaigning in the 1964 election. Marcos insults the memory of President Quezon while campaigning, a daring move at the time. The Marcos' sweep into power in 1965.

Imelda quickly becomes enamored with "the finer things in life," as she becomes an expert at wining and dining foreign dignitaries and stars. Her expenses escalate drastically, and her spending sprees are decried as the Filipino economy goes deeper into debt. Marcos becomes expert at manipulating U.S. administrations. He and Imelda befriend the Johnsons, Nixons and Reagans early on. Marcos artfully negotiates a "ghost" regiment of Filipino troops to serve in Vietnam for a large amount of U.S. federal aid. Although some reform takes place in the mid 1960's, the majority of aid money goes to Marcos' pet causes or directly into his pocket.

In 1968, another insurgency group forms in northern Luzon. This time a bona fide communist group, it soon spreads to surrounding areas as the Philippine economy deteriorates over the following decades. The blatant corruption of the Marcos' bolsters the movement. As Marcos debates how he will sidestep the Philippine constitution to start an illegal third term in office, the local press perceptively worries he "might become a megalomaniac, drunk with his own importance [and] even consider enthroning himself as lifetime president or dictator." Marcos jails one of his most outspoken critics, a young senator named Ninoy Aquino.

The press worries are soon proven to be well founded. Marcos seizes on local unrest in 1971 by purposely escalating the situation with "fake" incidents in order to declare martial law. Some Filipinos are pleased as Marcos takes total power and crime plummets. Nonetheless, the Philippine financial crisis worsens in the mid-1970's, as sugar prices collapse. Marcos' financial schemes bring in more sleazy partners as his ventures gain him vast fortunes many times over. Meantime, his country spirals out of control. The Catholic Church, in the form of Cardinal Sin, becomes one of his most vocal critics.



Chapter 13, Conjugal Autocracy Analysis

It is very interesting how the Marcos' dupe many U.S. presidents as well as celebrities into thinking they are good people, even when evidence comes to light showing their criminality. Instead of being ahead of events, the Reagan administration is the last group to know that Ferdinand Marcos is a lost cause. In fact, Reagan's reluctance to turn against a "friend" gives Marcos more time in power. The ability of good officials to back evil men, is common in history. For example, Hitler won over many westerners, even after his treatment of non-Aryans began to come to light.



Chapter 14, Martyr and Madonna

Chapter 14, Martyr and Madonna Summary

Jailed throughout most of the 1970's, Ninoy Aquino becomes a popular "victim" of the atrocities taking place under the Marcos regime. His wife, Cory is allowed to visit him only sporadically, and he is threatened by Marcos repeatedly. American leaders, particularly the presidents, turn a blind eye to the abuse, concerned mostly with the status of the military bases. Marcos coolly uses the bases as bargaining chips for yet more foreign aid to try and stop the financial hemorrhaging of his country. Marcos comes to resent Ninoy's hero status and after threatening to have him killed, finally allows him to leave the country over health concerns. Ninoy pledges to return to the Philippines. He is upset by Ronald Reagan's close ties to the Marcos.'

In 1983, Ninoy makes the fateful decision to return to the Philippines in the face of the Marcos' declining popularity. Imelda Marcos pleads with him to postpone his journey, and others warn Ninoy about the dangers of returning. Ninoy takes several members of the press along for his return flight, both for news coverage and for safety. The plane lands in Manila and three soldiers immediately board and forcibly take Ninoy outside. He is gunned down in the airport. The Marcos' desperately try to pass the blame.

Ninoy's funeral only helps to strengthen his martyrdom. Yellow ribbons and emblems, signifying his cause, appear throughout the country. Some American legislators threaten to withhold foreign aid until the assassin is captured. The intelligence community is worried the country might collapse, with the communist insurgency filling the vacuum. Upper level leaders in the United States are slowly convinced to abandon Marcos. They eventually wear away at Marcos' last supporter, Ronald Reagan. Marcos desperately tries to maintain power by holding a "snap" presidential election to show the "democracy" of his country.

Chapter 14, Martyr and Madonna Analysis

Whatever hand the Marcos' have in the brutal killing of Ninoy Aquino, it only hastens their undoing. By this time, they are so out of touch with the reality of the true Filipino that only brute force will keep them in power. There is no way to hide all the lies which have been told over all the years, and they come flooding back in a deluge that washes away any credibility they have. The great exaggerations about Ferdinand's war record only showcase his pathological tendency to say anything. They never dreamed all the wild things they said over the years would catch up to them.



Chapter 15, Revolution and Restoration

Chapter 15, Revolution and Restoration Summary

Cory Aquino reluctantly decides to run against Marcos in 1985. She has backing from influential Filipinos and Americans, who educate her on how to deal with the press. Cardinal Sin also works behind the scenes to assist Cory. She is ambiguous about the removal of U.S. bases from homeland soil and talks of negotiating with the communist insurgents. Many high level Filipinos switch their loyalty from Marcos to Cory Aquino. The Reagan administration is still highly reluctant about her.

The February elections show Marcos winning by a small margin and allegations of fraud immediately come to light. Filipinos start coming forward saying they had helped to fix the vote for Marcos. Reagan reluctantly refrains from recognizing a Marcos victory at his staff's request. He eventually admits the majority of the fraud is from Marcos, but Cory is already livid. She stages a civil disobedience rally in Manila.

In late February, with tension mounting and the government in turmoil, Marcos' defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile stages a coup to overthrow his president. From a military compound in Manila, his efforts slowly gain strength. Cory is out of the area and is told by Cardinal Sin that it may be a good thing. The United States assists the newfound rebels, allowing them to use Clark Field to refuel their helicopters. The CIA also helps the rebels in a disinformation campaign designed to confuse Marcos' troops. The two groups are in stalemate and bicker over the telephone and even on TV.

In the United States, a long state department meeting takes place. Reagan is slowly convinced that he will have to abandon his "friend." Marcos is informed as he sees a majority of his troops defecting to the rebels. He and Imelda are airlifted to exile in Hawaii. The amount of "loot" found in Marcos' palace in Manila is staggering. Slowly, some of his dubious criminal enterprises come to light.

Cory Aquino comes to power under immense pressure to reform the broken Philippine system. A conservative interested more in returning the country to pre-Marcos rule, she diminishes expectations about her. Cory's initial momentum ebbs and many skeptics deride her indecision and inaction. The communist rebels continue to operate, mainly due to the terrible economic conditions in the countryside. She signs an agreement to continue the lease on U.S. bases in exchange for American aid, of course.

Chapter 15, Revolution and Restoration Analysis

Cory Aquino is the victim of unrealistic expectations. She has no chance of living up to the reforms that many think she is capable of. While making some progressive changes, Cory mainly tries to "de-Marcosize" the country. This results in her merely trying to reinstate old ways that have already proven to be flawed. She merely replaces Marcos' cronies with her cronies, in many cases.



Characters

Douglas MacArthur

Douglas MacArthur was the son of General Arthur MacArthur, born in 1880 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended West Point Military Academy and served first military in the Philippines, where his father had served as military governor. He returned to the United States after becoming ill and served in World War I, where his arrogance and bravery became apparent. He rose through the ranks to become General during the quiet military period between the two world wars.

MacArthur came to love the Philippines. He was one of the few Americans in "colonial" times to be perceptive enough to associate with the local natives. In doing this, he befriended both future Philippine leaders Manuel Quezon and Sergio Osmena as a young man. About the same age, their careers progressed, and they stayed in touch.

At the start of World War II, General MacArthur made several mistakes in strategy, which cumulated in the infamous Bataan death march. Many American and Filipino soldiers were killed or captured. Very egotistical and paranoid, MacArthur increasingly ignored information, which told him what he didn't want to hear. He was ordered by President Roosevelt to flee the Philippines, but made his famous utterance, "I shall return," which he did just two years later. He led his forces to victory after a hard fought campaign to take back Luzon and Manila. MacArthur presided over Japan as governor after the war and was involved in post-war planning in Manila. He died in 1964.

Ferdinand Marcos

Marcos is a successful lawyer, who rises quickly through the Filipino political ranks after a personal murder trial (involving him) makes him famous. He makes claims about being a very integral part of the guerilla movement during World War II, which are later proven false. He marries Imelda, who becomes his political partner and assists him in capturing the presidency in 1965. With Imelda's assistance, the Marcos' become very adept at coddling the rich and famous of the world.

Marcos quickly shows he is corrupt and begins amassing a large personal fortune at the expense of his constituents. Still popular, he schemes how to remain in power past the constitutional two-term limit. Marcos concocts several "fake" insurgent attacks as pretence to declare martial law and take total power over the country. He jails one his foremost critics, Ninoy Aquino.

As his debt piles up, and the economy grows worse, Marcos continues his vast spending. Ninoy is assassinated in 1983 in circumstances that make Marcos look involved, and he quickly loses credibility and power. He desperately calls for a mid-term election and is defeated (after publicly rigging the election process) by Cory Aquino. Marcos is exiled to Hawaii with his wife.



Manuel Quezon

Quezon is a very adept Filipino politician, who rises through the ranks with the help of his political ally, Sergio Osmena. He works in the United States for several years as the Filipino representative. Quezon actually works with American politicians to draft legislation leading towards the independence of the Philippines.

Quezon becomes jealous of Osmena and works to undermine his former friend. After setting up Osmena, when independence legislation isn't "tough enough," Quezon later introduces the same legislation and becomes a national hero. Quezon runs against Aguinaldo to become the first President of the interim commonwealth in 1935.

Quezon hires MacArthur to set up his defensive plan for the nation, particularly against the ever more imperialist Japanese. Cannily plays both sides, when he works with MacArthur and has talks with the Japanese simultaneously. Finally, he sides with America during World War II. He dies in the United States, awaiting the outcome of the war in 1944.

Emilio Aguinaldo

Aguinaldo was the Filipino leader, who comes to power during the waning days of Spanish influence in the Philippines. Although initially only asking for increased rights, he is grouped in with more radical independence-minded rebels and reluctantly takes on the cause. Emilio forms a rebel army, which harasses the Spanish. Emilio flees to Hong Kong in the wake of an imminent American attack on the Spanish.

Aguinaldo is slighted by the Americans, when he is not included in landing plans in his home country. His troops encircle the Spanish at Manila, and he is tricked into letting the Spanish troops surrender to the Americans, instead of him. He becomes more bitter, as the Americans show no signs of recognizing him as leader. He is proclaimed President of the Philippines in 1899. Tensions mount, and eventually Aguinaldo's troops come into conflict with the Americans. The main fighting goes on for two years, with massive casualties occurring on both sides. Aguinaldo is eventually captured and pledges allegiance to the United States. He dies in 1964.

George Dewey

Initially appointed by Theodore Roosevelt to command the American Asian Navy, Dewey defeats the Spanish Navy in Manila Bay on May 1, 1898. He stays in Manila, but never gives much credence to rebel leader, Aguinaldo. Dewey is very dismissive to the thought of letting "savages" have their independence. He refuses to take a position during talks with the locals. As a consequence, the rebels think America will give them their independence. Dewey is later suspected of leading the rebel leader on and creating the situation that leads to the American war against the native Filipinos.



Dewey returns to America to great fanfare and helps McKinley reassure his reelection. He thinks of pursuing political office but quickly fades from limelight after his initial return home.

William Howard Taft

Taft was a federal judge, who was selected by President McKinley to preside as the Philippines first civilian governor. He almost immediately came to odds with Arthur MacArthur, the military governor who refused to relinquish power. He eventually used the legal process to undercut MacArthur's relevance.

Taft, like many Americans of the time, thought of himself as superior to his "little brown brothers." Still, he was responsible for modernizing many aspects of Filipino life, including a consistent judicial system, public schools, and modern transportation systems. Taft had a dream of "Americanizing" the Philippines. Taft was upset at the thought of an independent Filipino nation.

After leaving the Philippines for the United States, Taft continued to influence Filipino policy from afar, even as President of the United States. After his presidency, Taft goes on to be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. He died in 1930.

Benigno Aquino, Jr (Ninoy)

Aquino was a reporter, who gained national acclaim for negotiating the surrender of the Huk insurgency leader. Born in 1932, Benigno, known as Ninoy, later served as mayor, local governor, then senator. A very learned man, Ninoy came to be one of Ferdinand Marcos skeptics and was unjustly jailed in 1972, when Marcos declared martial law. Many under the corrupt Marcos regime saw him as the people's hero. In 1980, Ninoy was finally released to exile in the United States. Ninoy campaigned from afar against Marcos for several years before returning to Manila under much fanfare in 1983. He was gunned down before he left the airport, and his martyrdom served to hasten the decline of the Marcos.'

Corazon Aquino (Cory)

Cory was Ninoy Aquino's wife, who only reluctantly entered politics after her husband's death in 1983. She ran against Ferdinand Marcos and was eventually declared the winner after allegations of fraud against Marcos. Cory came to power during a military coup and was aided considerably by the Catholic Church.

Inexperienced, but strong willed, Cory had difficulties fixing many of the problems she inherited from Marcos. While starting some minor reforms, she has not made any major changes to improve the lives of the Filipino people. The communist insurgency remains an issue, and U.S. bases continue to be bartered for more foreign aid.



Ferdinand Magellan

Magellan was a Portuguese sailor, who came to notoriety fighting Muslims in the Far East. He later defects to Spain after a controversy and gets funding for an expedition west. Magellan reaches South America and, after an attempted mutiny, gets his fleet around the southern tip of South America and into the Pacific Ocean. His crew nearly starves before reaching Guam to restock. He finally reaches the Philippines and makes contact with the natives, but is tricked into attacking a native tribe and dies in combat.

William McKinley

McKinley was a weak-willed American President, who came to power at the turn of the century and was manipulated by many strong personalities around him. Originally in opposition to any war, then occupation, McKinley was a slave to public opinion, although his credo could have been "do nothing." He tried to slow efforts at going to war, but eventually his diplomatic efforts failed, and America went to war against the Spanish.

A very religious man, McKinley also used "god's will" as a reason to explain many of his actions. He was also not very schooled or interested in foreign affairs. At the start of the Spanish American conflict, McKinley had to be shown on a world map where the Philippines were.



Objects/Places

Yellow Journalism

Yellow journalism is the term for the tabloid journalism rocking the American media about the turn of the last century. Generally considered sensationalism or exploitive news.

Manila

Manila is the capital city of the Philippines.

Plutocracy

A plutocracy is a government that is run by the wealthy class.

Bolo

A bolo is a long machete used in the Philippines.

Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny is the term for the United States foreign policy where expansion is deemed "necessary."

Robber Baron

Robber Baron is a term used to describe "greedy" industrialists who wanted all the resources and power they could get, but gave little back to their employees.

Imperialist

Imperialist is the viewpoint of people who want to expand [American] power abroad, by occupying other countries if necessary. Also referred to as expansionist.

Isolationist

Isolationist is the term for a nation only working with issues inside its borders. In other words, this means anti-imperialist or anti-expansionist.



Bundoks

Bundoks is the Filipino term for the middle of nowhere, later Americanized to the word 'boondocks.'

Federalista

Federalista was a Pro-American Filipino political party promoted by Taft. With American funding, the Federalistas quickly swept to power with the American occupation. Within a couple years though, the party was seen as too closely allied with the Americans, as nationalism grew. It later split with the "pro-American" label to become a radical independence party.

Krag

Krag is the nickname for the modern, multi-shot Krag-Jorgensen rifles used by American troops in the Philippines.

Guerrila

Guerrila is the hillside town, where Franco's army makes one of its final stands against the Allied forces.

Nacionalista

Nacionalista is a popular political party that was formed between Osmena and Quezon. It swept to power in 1907 and remained influential.

Kamikaze

Kamikaze were Japanese suicide fighter planes, which were deliberately flown into American naval vessels to inflict the most damage possible. Although a useful terror tactic, it only served to quickly deplete Japanese resources.

Hukbalahap

Shortened to "Huk," Hukbalahap is the name given to the post World War II Filipino insurgency led by Luis Taruc.

Tagalog

Most common Filipino language, considered the "main" native language.



Ilustrado

Name given to upper class Philippines who were very influential in dictating policy.

Balangiga

Site where dozens of American troops were slaughtered by insurgents in 1901. The incident served to escalate atrocities being committed by both sides in the war for the Philippines.

The Maine

The *Maine* was a U.S. warship, which exploded under mysterious circumstances off the coast of Cuba in 1898. This incident sparked the Spanish American War.

Luzon

Luzon is the "main" Philippine island, the largest Philippine land mass and the site of the capital, Manila.

Leyte

Leyte is the lesser of the Philippine islands that was involved in a major land/naval battle between the Americans and the Japanese.



Themes

Understanding and Learning from History

Harry Truman's quote "Those who do not read and understand history are doomed to repeat it" is very pertinent to this story. The similarities between the Philippines, Vietnam, and even Iraq cannot be ignored. The common traits are: a country being occupied where natives yearn for autonomous rule, not being able to fight conventionally, public opinion waning, and mounting atrocities.

Major conventional "battles" soon cease to take place, because the lesser-armed force will not just stand up and fight as in typical battle scenarios. They use trickery and duplicity to terrorize troops who more and more can't tell friend from foe. Seeing their buddies killed in senseless acts of violence, the troops become desensitized to the situation, and the atmosphere for atrocities becomes ripe. The atrocities often escalate, as they did in the Philippines, Vietnam and Iraq. In all three situations, American soldiers were caught in the fervor or revenge. The public saw atrocities committed and American soldiers punished.

The condescending idea of exporting America is another trait of all three situations. Some countries don't want to be "America East." Others might want American improvements, but resent the way they are treated. The blatant racism and superiority are other common elements to the Philippines, Vietnam and Iraq.

Politics and Cronyism

Americans taught the Filipinos many of their customs and traditions, especially when it came to politics. The Filipinos learned all too well when it came to the bad habits of corruption, graft, and greed. Unfortunately, the Filipinos carried the American example to extremes that far exceeded anything that had happened in the United States. Small tyrants gradually eroded the Philippines idealism throughout the 1900's until the final extreme example of Ferdinand Marcos came on to the scene.

A true criminal, the Marcos' fleeced their people for personal gain. They were responsible for criminal schemes, deceiving other countries for finances, and outright killings of their enemies. Any sense of law disappeared when Ferdinand Marcos suspended martial law under the pretext of fighting communists. The system was rigged so bribes and friends were crucial to get anywhere. The Marcos' got in the habit of lying so much that they didn't know (or care) what was really the truth.

People who went against the system were generally ruined or killed (like Ninoy Aquino.) Mere favoritism soon deteriorated into a situation where a despotic leader controlled hit squads to remove his competition. Freedom of the press disappeared, like it did under martial law in 1972.



Culture of Lies

The morals of the Filipino were damaged severely by American and Spanish imports. The social hierarchy and graft system started under the Spanish, was merely amplified under the Americans. Filipinos saw an overall unfairness in their culture and let it become part of their lives. Foreign benefactors almost always worked with the rich, while the poor stayed out in the cold. This helped keep the Filipino rigid class system intact into modern times.

Filipinos dealing with Americans soon learned to pretend to accept what the Americans were teaching. They found that mimicking would get them rewarded quicker and make the eager Americans happier. This led to many claims by overanxious American teachers in the first half of the twentieth century. They saw the Filipinos going through the motions shallowly and assumed they had done their jobs. They allowed themselves to be played by the people that they were so much "better than."

Many Filipinos chose to ally themselves with the occupying Japanese to make things easier for them during World War II. Many others risked their lives and property to resist the Japanese occupiers. When MacArthur pardoned the "turncoat" Filipinos, this sent a terrible message to the loyal Filipinos, "why bother?" This attitude of merely looking the other way, because "everybody else does it" became pervasive in Filipino society after the war. This led to several corrupt and indecisive administrations and eventually opened up the door for one of the most corrupt regimes in the country's history: the Marcos.'



Style

Point of View

In Our Image is told in the second person. The point of view is taken from historical accounts and quotations that are analyzed by the author. The point of view is also taken from different cultures and countries. For example, some American leaders are looking to further their own interests (usually political careers) - usually to the detriment of Filipinos. Others are out to self righteously "save the Philippines"...even from themselves. Their perspective is also filtered through a bigoted mask. Even the good intentioned have a lower view of the locals than themselves.

The Spanish attempt to maintain their empire leads to their downfall. By being completely unyielding to any political reform whatsoever, they assist radicals in gaining control of the reform movement, rapidly turning it into an insurrectionist movement. This gives the United States the opportunity to swoop in and shelter the Philippines from the Spanish.

The Philippine view is two sided and often contradictory. They want to benefit from American "benevolence" so long as there are no strings attached. Many nationalist leaders secretly want to delay Filipino independence, although the pride of their constituents will not allow this. This relationship with the United States deteriorates into a situation where the president just holds the U.S. bases as a bargaining tool for more foreign aid.

Setting

The setting of this story takes place mainly around the archipelago of the Philippines, from the 1500's to the present. The Philippines are located approximately 5,000 miles west of Hawaii, 2,000 miles north of Australia, and 500 miles due south of Taiwan. The archipelago comprises approximately 7,000 islands - only a small portion of them inhabited-- stretching approximately 1,000 miles north to south. The climate is tropical to subtropical. Many foreigners have difficulties adjusting to the hot and humid environment. Malaria and other mosquito prone diseases are rampant until techniques are introduced by the United States early in the twentieth century to reduce them.

The main island, Luzon, is prominent in the story. Most of the action takes place in the capital city of Manila. The early settlement/village of Manila grows over the centuries to become a modern, world-class city. Damaged in the American Filipino war, it is virtually destroyed at the end of World War II. Rebuilt with many modern features, like airports and skyscrapers - Manila remains stuck in the past. The slum areas persist well into modern times. In some ways, the modern era makes more of a showcase between rich and poor. The smaller island of Leyte also becomes prominent when a major battle of World War II takes place there. Another island, Cebu is the landing place for Magellan.



Negros is a major producer of cane sugar, its prosperity tends to rise and fall with sugar prices. Mindanao is a southern island, known for its Muslim population. Other islands include Mindoro, Palawan, Panay, Bohol and Samar.

Several wars are also discussed that affect the Philippines in some way. The Spanish American war takes place mostly in Manila Bay and the capital city itself. The American war against the insurgents encompasses the whole country, although the main fighting takes place on Luzon. World War I does not directly affect the Philippines, but does shape the life of a character who does come into play, that of Douglas MacArthur. World War II devastates the Philippines and cements the relationship between the Filipinos and the Americans. Battle locations include Leyte, Manila, Bataan, and the Lingayen Gulf. The American base at Clark Field is where the Japanese take the defenses by surprise following Pearl Harbor. It is also one of the coveted bases that has been a subject of negotiation between the Philippines and Americans ever since.

Language and Meaning

The language and meaning of the story delve into the issues and events that have driven the history of the Philippines. There are tragedies and great deeds. Some events are orchestrated, and other events take place purely by accident. Sadly, a great many problems are caused by simple lack of communication. Much of this delves from a racist/supremacist view of outsiders towards the Filipino people. This makes it difficult for Spaniards and Americans to see the Filipinos as equals, deserving of real dialog. The "language" issue leads to many miscommunications, the biggest leading to the American "war" against the Filipino people under Aguinaldo. This lack of communication between the Spanish and Filipinos, Spanish and Americans, Americans and Filipinos, and even the Americans and the Japanese generally leads to the difficulties that ensue. The outsiders who did deal with the Filipinos on some level, only dealt with the educated, upper class. This gave foreigners a skewed perspective on how well the country was progressing, when in fact there was a huge hidden class of commoners just barely eking out a living.

Another sad meaning that comes across is the hard lesson learned by not studying a situation before making a decision. Many characters and groups find themselves in opposition to others, only because of a snap judgment based on not understanding the overall circumstances. This type of incident occurs from Magellan's discovery to present day. Operating from stereotypes or ego driven outcomes usually ends badly.

Structure

In Our Image is divided into fifteen chapters. Chapter One is an overview of the Philippines, from "discovery" to modern times. Chapter Two details the first Spanish contacts, as well as the initial Spanish governor of the Philippines. Spanish customs take hold in Chapter Three, as Christianity spreads and becomes a powerful political influence. Chapter Four describes the rise of the United States as an imperial power



and the forces that lead to the start of the Spanish American War. The United States takes Manila and is forced to deal with the issue of Filipino sovereignty in Chapter five. The United States fights the "insurgents" due to bad communication between the two groups in Chapter Six. Aguinaldo, the rebel leader fights for independence. The war is proclaimed "over" in Chapter seven as Aguinaldo surrenders, although guerilla attacks continue for years. William Taft is assigned to the Philippines to "civilize" them.

Chapter Eight details the American programs that are enacted with varying degrees of success. The rise of the nationalists is delved into in Chapter Nine, personified by Quezon and Osmena. A ten-year independence plan is signed, and Quezon basks in the limelight. Chapter Ten shows the close relationship between Douglas MacArthur and the Philippines. Under his instruction, the nation prepares for war. The effects of World War II on the Philippines and the world are detailed in Chapter Eleven. Chapter Twelve describes post-war reconstruction and the rise of the insurgents. The enigma of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos is studied in Chapter Thirteen. The collapse of the Marcos regime and Ninoy Aquino's assassination are explained in Chapter Fourteen. Cory Aquino defeats Marcos and moves on to an uncertain rule in Chapter Fifteen.



Quotes

"Damn the Americans! Why don't they tyrannize us more?" Chapter 1, pg. 16

"It's not what you are and what you can do, but who you are, your name and your connections." Chapter 1, pg. 22

"For a bag of pepper they could cut each other's throats without hesitation, and would forswear their souls..." Chapter 2, pg. 30

"They have a lively wit, and easily learn Christian doctrine." Chapter 2, pg. 42

"They first send in an interpreter, not with gifts or to speak of God, but to demand tribute. The people, never having been subjects of a king or a lord, are puzzled and shocked when forced to hand over their necklaces or bracelets, their only property....Some refuse, others submit reluctantly and still others flee to the hills, terrified by this strange new race of armed men." Chapter 3, pg. 50

"He is a mixture of abjectness and ferocity, timidity and wonderful courage, indolent laziness and slovenliness, industry and avaricious self-interest...superstitious, peaceful, respectful, heedless, distrustful and deceitful." Chapter 3, pg. 54

"I should welcome any war, for I think this country needs one." Chapter 4, pg. 89

"At this time I do not care to speak about it. In my position it were better that I say nothing now. Perhaps later I may have something to say." Chapter 4, pg. 91

"The United States government is a very honorable, very just and very powerful government." Chapter 5, pg. 112

"I attached so little importance to this proclamation that I did not even cable its contents to Washington, but forwarded it through the mails. I never dreamed that they wanted independence." Chapter 5, pg. 117

"Brave! Brave! Damn 'em, they won't stand up to be shot!" Chapter 6, pg. 146

"I'll never forget that big American soldier who first taught me how to read." Chapter 6, pg. 153

"They say I've got brown brothers here, But still I draw the line. He may be a brother of Big Bill Taft, But he ain't no brother of mine." Chapter 7, pg. 174

"I want no prisoners. I wish you to kill and burn, the more you kill and burn the better you will please me. I want all persons killed who are capable of bearing arms in actual hostilities against the United States." Chapter 7, pg. 191



"If people know what a thieving, treacherous, worthless bunch of scoundrels those Filipinos are, they would think differently..." Chapter 7, pg. 191

"I find this work very monotonous, trying to teach these monkeys to talk." Chapter 8, pg. 205

"Nothing will civilize them so much as the introduction of American enterprise and investment." Chapter 8, pg. 210

"...he can be extremely useful because he can get things done. The danger of using him is that each time you do so, you add to his power, which is a great power for evil as well as for good." Chapter 9, pgs. 232-233

"Every step we take will be taken with a view to the ultimate independence of the islands." Chapter 9, pg. 245

"A foul trick of deception has been played on a large group of Americans by a commander in chief and small staff who are now eating steak and eggs in Australia. God damn them!" Chapter 11, pg. 301

"When I was in the diplomatic corps, I noticed that nobody came to our receptions on the Fourth of July, but went to the American Embassy instead. So to compete, I decided that we needed a different holiday." Chapter 13, pg. 365

"Wow! In America, then they're rich they're really rich." Chapter 13, pg. 371

"This place is a hopeless mess. Power is so dispersed that nothing can be done. Graft and corruption are rife. The streets are unsafe. The Philippines needs a strong man, a man on horseback to get the country organized and going again." Chapter 13, pg. 380

"If you made me president of the Philippines today, my friend, in six months I would be smelling like horseshit. Because there's nothing I can do. I cannot provide employment. I cannot bring prices down. I cannot stop the criminality spawned by economic difficulties. I mean, let's face it. When people are hungry, you can bring Saint Peter down, and you won't get a stable government." Chapter 15, pg. 423



Topics for Discussion

Describe three instances of ego coming into play during the scope of the book that helped to make things go for the worse.

Why did the Spanish execute Filipinos who merely wanted more rights, not necessarily independence? How did this increase, rather than decrease calls for independence and weaken the Spanish position?

Typically, why didn't colonial powers teach their "subjects" to speak their language? Why did the United States break this trend?

Did the elitism and blatant racism practiced by the United States "emissaries" to the Philippines make their cause unjust?

Why was Douglas MacArthur so paranoid and insecure when it came to his image?

Describe President McKinley's habit of following public opinion. Was he a forerunner to modern, poll-driven presidents?

Was Douglas MacArthur a good strategist? Explain and back up with examples.

Cite some examples of the Marcos' use of manipulation to coerce the American government.

Why did Quezon turn against his former friend, Osmena?

Why was the Huk rebellion affiliated with the communists? Why were they unsuccessful?

Should Yamashita have been executed for war crimes stemming from the pandemonium, when Manila was ravaged in the last days of the war?

Was Ferdinand Marcos a compulsive liar? Did he really believe the things he said?

How did Ninoy's martyrdom speed the decline of the Marcos regime?