

## Editor's Note (Volume 8, Number 1)

**T**his issue offers compelling articles on ecological discourses, plant pathology, natural disaster, local resistance during the Japanese occupation, and imperialism. Specifically, it features studies on the framing of ecological concerns with the Methodist discourse, the “institutionalization of plant pathology in the Manila hemp industry,” the 1880 Pangasinan earthquake, the resistance movements in the southern part of Zamboanga province during World War II, and the historical context of the American takeover of the Philippines. We encourage thoughtful reflection on these topics and welcome further discussion among our readers.

In *Environmental Action in Philippine United Methodist Church songs: Ecological discourse in selected hymnody of the 1989 United Methodist Hymnal*, Jericho Amisola Trio explains how Methodism is born from music and service. The agency of music is vital in the performance of religious rituals and the recruitment of language and symbolism. Music in religion serves as an avenue for the conception of social cohesion and the manifestation of group identity. As an extension of belief, it seeks to conciliate human tendrils to the transcendental realm of the divine. The 1989 United Methodist Hymnal of the Philippine General Conference of the United Methodist Church is an aftermath of the union of two Protestant traditions: the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren. Anchoring on the value of ecumenicity, the 1989 hymnal seeks to mirror the ethos of earth's life in its abundance and fullness. Under the social service category, five hymns of Methodist authorship were identified. Discourse analysis emphasized Methodism to frame ecological narratives as inseparable from pressing sociopolitical and economic concerns. Methodist hymnody sought to challenge the worship participant to enter the crucible of service, particularly to marginalized communities in urban landscapes, situated within hazardous and vulnerable conditions. For the Methodist Christian, heaven is not in the afterlife; it is within the burden of the church to restore Eden.

Chen V. Ramos's article aims to narrate the stages of institutionalization of plant pathology in the Manila hemp industry during the first half of the 20th century. Ramos' article points out that the Americans were successful in institutionalizing policies, programs, and research on plant diseases under the

leadership of BA, DPI, and UPCA. The role of Filipino scientists, such as Ocfemia, Buhay, Calinisan, etc., was also valuable in contextualizing pathological concepts and methodologies based on the needs and state of Manila hemp in the Philippines. However, these reforms were not publicized adequately to farmers and ordinary Filipinos, which caused some plant diseases to spread further in the provinces where it is grown. This study/stage in Philippine history reflects that not all scientific and agricultural projects of Americans in the Philippines during their leadership were successful, especially since they did not consider the cultural and financial conditions of the sector/Filipinos at that time.

In *Ang Karanasan ng Pangasinan sa Lindol sa Luzon Noong 1880: Mga Epekto, Tugon at Interpretasyon*, Kevin Conrad A. Ibasco delves into the significant impact of a major earthquake on the province of Pangasinan, the colonial government's response, and the local folks' reactions. Ibasco assesses damage to key structures like churches and government buildings and natural impacts such as ground cracks, landslides, and changes in water flow resulting from the seismic event. After the earthquake in Pangasinan, the alcalde-mayor quickly sent reports via telegraph to Manila about the damage to buildings like churches and tribunals. However, the reports took time to reach Manila, which worried the provincial government. When the colonial government in Manila got the letter, the officials planned to visit the provinces hit by the earthquake, including Pangasinan. Out of fear, the local people responded to the earthquake by believing it was a sign of God's anger and praying for it to stop. Others recognized the earthquake as a natural event that required careful study.

The article by Ryan D. Biong, Nova T. Altoveros, Deciarly H. Salatan, Ma. Julianne F. Tagaytay, and Jergin A. Acasio focuses on unrecorded resistance movements in the southern part of Zamboanga Province during World War II. It highlights the experiences of those who stood against the Japanese aggressors—voices that have long been absent from books, journals, and other academic literature. The researchers highlight their courage and determination by drawing from the personal stories of individuals who lived through and took part in the war. These local resistance members faced immense challenges, including emotional strain, physical hardship, constant danger, and a lack of resources and formal support. Interviews were conducted with individuals from towns such as Pagadian, Dumalinao, San Pablo, Ipil, Kabasalan, Siay, and Malangas. The study identified key resistance groups such as the Scouts, Masa, and Dalangpanan, who played vital roles in opposing the Japanese occupation. Despite limited supplies and recognition, they used effective strategies to resist and protect their communities. These groups actively monitored Japanese

movements, defended their towns, and worked to drive out the enemy. Through the stories of these unsung heroes, the study helps us better understand the Filipinos' fight for freedom, the resistance against invaders, and the resilience of Filipinos during the war, while also enriching the historical understanding of guerrilla forces in the Philippines within the broader context of national history.

*Why America Took the Philippines* by Jonathan C. Foe provides a background to the political situation in the USA before Dewey and the Battle of Manila Bay. It was an openly racist society that condemned anyone who was not white. The anti-imperialists were a mixed bag of capitalists, labor activists, farmers, intellectuals, and idealists. The yellow press drove the nation into a war frenzy engineered by Republican party leaders. The Philippine sugar cane industry sweetened the lure of the tropical land. Early quick victories by the American Navy and then the Army silenced the anti-war opposition. Hopefully, this article will provide educators with a valuable background in discussing the American invasion of our land.

The issue concludes with a book review of *Philippine Army, 1935-1942* by Ricardo Trota Jose (1998), where Kevin Philippe C. Santos notes that preparing for war requires political and economic factors, not just military strength, and that patriotism alone cannot protect the Philippines in modern conflict. \*

  
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