

Readings in Philippine History



Kartilya ng Katipunan ni Emilio Jacinto

MEMBERS: II-AHM

Quintos, Lexilene E.
Molinyawe, Kristina
Beatriz
Cayetano, Faye
Almonte, Ken
Burgos, Alliah

Presented to: Prof. Ueseni Gabriel

BACKGROUND OF THE AUTHOR

Emilio Jacinto was born in Trozo on December 15, 1875, in Manila. His parents are Jacinto and Josefa Dizon. His mother worked hard to support his studies when his father died but later on he lived with his uncle, Jose Dizon. Emilio was given a good education and fluently speaking in both Tagalog and Spanish. He was transferred to Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros by his uncle for a short period of time.

Later on, Emilio transferred to the University of Sto. Tomas to pursue law. Emilio Jacinto is known for being eloquent and for being a brave young man. He is also well known for both the soul and the brain of the Katipunan in Andres Bonifacio's revolutionary organization. Emilio was 19 years old when he received news that the Spanish captured Jose Rizal, his hero. This news became the reason why Emilio quit school and joined Andres Bonifacio, and others to form Katipunan. He became the spokesperson of the Katipunan and the one who manages the finances. Jacinto wrote for the Kalayaan, the official newspaper of Katipunan. He also composed the official text of the crusade, the Kartilya ng Katipunan. At the age of 21, Emilio Jacinto became the general of the group's guerilla army and took the active role of fighting the Spaniards near Manila.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

One of the significant people that distinguishes the era during the time that the document was created was the author himself. The first edition of *Kartilya ng Katipunan* (Primer of the Katipunan) was written by Emilio Jacinto who was one of the highest ranking officers in Katipunan or “the Kataas-taasan, Kagalang-galang na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan”. At the age of 19, he joined the Katipunan and became an advisor and the secretary of Andres Bonifacio, the Supreme Leader of the Katipunan. Additionally, Andres Bonifacio wrote a revised decalogue titled as “Katungkulang Gagawin ng mga Z. Ll. B” (Duties of the Sons of the People) which he never published. Within the Katipunan, Emilio Jacinto and Andres Bonifacio developed a strong friendship with one another. They are two of the most prominent people during the era leading the Katipuneros to gain independence from Spain through a revolution.

The Late 19th Century or 1800’s is the golden era of the Philippine Revolution, an ending to a more than three decade of Spanish Imperialism in the country all thanks to the revolution of our early and bravest heroes. This fact alone suggests another significant place indirectly stated that specifies the era of the date of writing of the account, wherein it is stated that, “When these doctrines have spread and the brilliant sun of beloved liberty shines on these poor islands...”, proves that the Philippines, the general setting in common thinking, through the bloody revolt of our heroic ancestors, was yet to unify and face the end of a long-felt suffering under the hands of Spain.



CONTENT PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE IMPORTANT HISTORICAL INFORMATION OF THE DOCUMENT

Kartilya ng Katipunan is a set of principles that shows how Filipinos must live life through good values and it is a list of duties and responsibilities. It consists of thirteen lessons that were expected to be followed by every member of the organization. It also became an oath that every Katipuneros must follow to show their determination in being a part of the people who wanted a change. One of the significant phrases or principle in the document is “Do not waste time; lost wealth may be recovered; but time lost is lost forever”. It means that we should know how to live our lives without any regrets afterwards because we cannot bring back the past and all that we can do is to move forward and look at what we have in future. Kartilya ng Katipunan serves as our pride and reminder that our resilience was never an issue no matter how weak or small a revolution may be. Historical documents signify our country’s character and dignity, such as these not only inform us of what happened in the past, but it also educates us on **how it shaped our country and what drove us to fight for our patriotism.**

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CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORY

The first Kartilya ng Katipunan was written by the father of Philippine Revolution Andres Bonifacio and later Emilio Jacinto made revisions known as Decalogue that serve as a guidebook of the members of Katipunero. This literary works contents 13 teachings that reminds us the ordinance of the life and good morals that Filipino Katipuneros should be follow in order to fulfill our affairs, love, solidarity, respect and concern for our and country. The contribution of Kartilya ng Katipunan are equality of races, origin, educated and religion. Also, the woman and children need big respect and care and equal human rights that reflect to our Philippine core values and norms and this literary works mark as our Philippine History. The Kartilya ng Katipunan was the moral and intellectual foundation used to guide the Katipuneros and lays out the rules and principles that needed to be obeyed upon joining the secret society. It is one of the few recorded documents of the Philippine Revolution that survived today, and hence provides a perspective to modern generations on how this code contributed to understanding our history and how it shaped the present.



CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORY

The Kartilya ng Katipunan serves a guide book for new members of the organization, it is the moral and intellectual foundation that lays out the rules and principles that needed to be obeyed. It contains oaths and orders to be followed by all members and anyone who disobeys the commandments or Kartilya will be punished. Kartilya ng Katipunan embodied virtues, discipline and morality that we modern Filipinos portray today. Kartilya ng Katipunan made Filipinos aware that the Katipunan was a Philippine revolutionary society that aiming for independence of our country (Philippines) from Spain through a revolution. Through this Filipinos were aware that other way of fighting for the nation's independence is through intellectual and moral revolutionaries.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE

In Kartilya ng Katipunan. We learned how Spaniard control the Philippines as they colonize is back then. In Spaniard time they helped the Philippines to grow and expand the economic also Spaniards are very strict when it comes to the law and implementing it. And as Spaniards came there's another religion introduce to the Philippines in force the Filipino to follow the new norm. Since the Spaniard are strict when it comes to the law they also abused the Filipino and many Filipinos are against in what Spaniards doing in the Philippines that's why K.K.K came to collapse the Spanish government. They campaign for the equality with the other Spaniards by proposing to be a province of Spain despite if the distance. But their campaign was not given an attention and not implemented.

But after that in 1982 Deodata Arellani with Andres Bonifacio establish the mission to free the Philippines from the Spaniards and it was succesfull because also woth the help of other people. We also learned here how Filipinos endeavor all the hardships and Fight to free the Philippines.

