
RIZAL MOVIE TAKEAWAYS

1. Jose Rizal mirrors the oppression and the injustice in the Spanish Era through his novels.

His novels, *Noli me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, reflects the happenings of the society and the experiences of the Filipinos in that Era. With this, Jose Rizal seeks freedom and wants to end the tyranny of the Spaniards and seek reforms in a more peaceful way and without shedding blood. With this, he became a target for the friars since his novels pose a threat in their leadership and influence to the Filipino people. Moreover, his novels serve as a wakeup call for the Filipinos at that time to fight for their freedom to liberate the country and its people. Today, his novels are very powerful in terms of its essence and message since it reminded us of how we must protect and love our country and how our national heroes contribute to getting the freedom that we have now.

2. The limited number of Spanish officials is one of the main factors why Spanish friars often abuse their powers in towns and barangays.

There are several injustices and abuses that Spanish friars are responsible in that era. Women are often used as a sex slaves by some friars and other officials. Rizal also experienced this injustice since his mother is accused and imprisoned because of the alleged poisoning of her sister-in-law. This strengthens his sense of nationalism and to seek reforms from Spain. His brother, Paciano, also witnessed this injustice because of the execution of GomBurZa due to the false accusation of treason and sedition. Also, taxes and contributions are often used for their personal use and wants. With this, corruption is already evident in the country. This is detrimental since the budget that is supposedly used for the improvement of towns and barangays are used for the personal benefits of some corrupt officials. With this, Spanish friars wielded so much power and influence with their towns which resulted to corruption and abuse of power.

3. The Spaniards manipulated every possible information and evidence just to put Jose Rizal in jail.

Because of the novels and influence of Rizal to other Filipinos, the Spaniards are threatened and now making their move just to put Jose Rizal behind bars. With this, they fabricated documents and hire people that can testify to Rizal in the court. They also linked Rizal to the Katipunan, which is not true since Rizal does not favor bloody rebellion that can cost Filipino lives. Moreover, they tortured his brother, Paciano Rizal, just to gather evidences in the rebellious activities of Rizal. They even sent a spy in Dapitan just to know the plans of Rizal even if he is already incarcerated in jail.

4. Jose Rizal's journey in Europe aimed to seek reforms and changes in the oppression and injustice that Filipinos experienced in the Spanish era.

Rizal's journey in Europe not only aimed to finish his medical studies to help cure his mother's cataract but also to prepare himself to liberate the country from the Spaniards. In Europe, La Solidaridad was created which consists of many friends of Rizal. Moreover, the organization aimed to work peacefully for political and social reforms, to portray the deplorable conditions of the Philippines so that Spain may remedy them, to oppose the evil forces of reaction and medievalism, to advocate liberal ideas and progress and to champion the legitimate aspirations of the Filipino people to life, democracy, and happiness. However, the organization did not ultimately succeed in pursuing reforms for the country. Moreover, *Noli me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* were also written while he is in her journey in Europe.

5. Leonor Rivera played an important role in Jose Rizal's heart and to the development of his character.

Although her mother, Silvestra Bauzon, does not approve the relationship between Jose and Leonor, it can be noted that they truly love each other. It started with a simple glance between the two which sparks their interest to know each other. Also, to serenade Leonora, he even practiced singing which is one of the things that he does not want to do. Leonor is also the one who found Rizal in the street since he was beaten up by the civil guards while he was on his way home. Moreover, Leonor is also one of the main reasons why Rizal is not happy in going to Europe since he cannot bid farewell to Leonor because it can compromise their plan. While Rizal is in Europe, Leonor's mother convinced her that she should find another person since Rizal surely has another woman in Europe. However, Leonor chose to wait for Rizal to come back. Evidently, Leonor rushed to Calamba when she knew that Rizal came back from Europe. However, she did not succeed since her parents remind her that Rizal is soon to be arrested and it would be complicated if Leonor is with him when he will be arrested.

6. A bloody revolution is not always the answer to seek reforms and justice.

While in Europe, Jose proved that writings and articles about the abuses of Spaniards in the Philippines can also be used to make reforms. In his speech in The National Exhibit of Fine Arts in Madrid, it serves as a strong affirmation that someone is finally taking a stand to the abuses of Spaniards. Some people were impressed by his speech while some people also get mad, especially Spaniards in Madrid. Evidently, their works reached the Spanish officials in the country which makes them furious because of the statements of Rizal and his colleagues. With this, his fellow *Ilustrado* becomes motivated to work on their arguments and writings to seek reforms from Spain. However, Rizal is not satisfied with publishing newspapers to expose the abuse and injustice in the country. He preferred to work for a novel that will narrate all the happenings in the country in the past 10 years.

7. Jose Rizal's journey in Europe is truly challenging.

Even if Rizal graduated in his medical course in Europe, he still cannot go home since he already made some enemies, specifically Spanish friars in the country. With this, he is forced to stay a little while in Europe without financial aid from his brother, Paciano, because they are also having a hard time paying taxes for their properties in Calamba. Considering the situation that he is in, he flew to France and became a trainee for a famous Ophthalmologist, Dr. Wecker. He started to operate patients and started studying the different machines needed in an operation. When he finished *Noli me Tangere*, he started canvassing a cheap publishing house but he failed to publish his novel because of lack of budget. He also did not receive any help from his colleagues in Europe. With this, he started to get weak and eventually get sick in Europe.

8. The novels of Jose Rizal brought some serious repercussions not only to the family of Rizal but also to the Filipinos who have a copy of the novels.

The farmlands of Rizal's family and of the persons who have a copy of the novels were all burned down. Also, some Spanish officials used this opportunity to grab properties and stop some livelihood in towns. They also started arresting people that are allegedly considered as filibusters and people who are related and can provide information about Jose Rizal. Moreover, Spanish friars also made a list of filibusters that must leave Calamba within 24 hours. With this, the oppression is more likely more severe because of the novels of Rizal. Also, government officials are starting to get strict with the people in Calamba and start inspecting the cedula of every people in the street. Evidently, some people are also killed especially those who chose to stay even if the friars warns them to leave Calamba.

9. Our cultural heritage and ancestral domains are crucial in preserving our culture and identity as a Filipino.

In the video, the confiscation of lands by Spanish friars made an impact on me since I can see the frustrations and disbelief in the hearts of Filipinos that are working hard to have that small piece of land. With this, I believe that preserving the ancestral domains of some native tribes is important since it reflects our culture as a Filipino in this industrialized world. It will remind us that even though we are currently in pursuit of economic development and industrialization, we do still consider our indigenous people that will be affected in these changes. It is important since we cannot lose our identity as a Filipino just to have a better economy since we must also preserve what our predecessors have imparted with us. As a result, I can say that we must stop discriminating against these people just because they live in rural areas and we live in cities. We cannot afford to discriminate our fellow countrymen as if we are totally superior to them. After all, we are all Filipinos and we all do share the same history and identity.

10. It is very important to study and commemorate the life of Jose Rizal in the present generation.

I believe that studying the life and works of Jose Rizal is important to the youth since it does not only mirror the sad reality that Filipinos experienced in that time but also it reflects our culture and identity as a Filipino. This can be useful to the youth since some of this generation does have little to no knowledge about the history of our country in the colonization of Spaniards, Americans, and Japanese. Preserving our culture is one of the best gifts that we can offer to future generations since it is the symbol of our heritage and patriotism as a Filipino citizen. Moreover, it also helps us better understand ourselves since it also reflects the way of living and identity of Filipinos before that is also a product of how Filipinos behave and act today. Lastly, his ideals are a beautiful inspiration for the youth to practice patriotism and nationalism which collectively promotes our culture and traditions.