



International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Kataastaasan, Kagalangalang Na Katipunan Ng Mga Anak Ng Bayan: A History

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I. Introduction

The Philippines suffered under Spanish colonial rule for three centuries, during which time they were forced to serve as slaves to their oppressors. Due to the longtime of colonizing the Philippines, some of its culture was adapted by the Filipinos like their language. The Katipunan, also referred to as the KKK, was first established in the Philippines in 1892 as a revolutionary secret society called Kataastaasan Kagalangalang na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan. It gave significance to the struggle of the nation for independence during the Spain colonization. Andres Bonifacio, Teodoro Plata, Ladislao Diwa, and a few others with similar views founded it with the aim of bringing the Filipino people together and igniting rebellion against Spanish rule.

A sanduguan or a blood compact was performed by the Katipuneros as a symbol of their loyalty to the society, wherein they signed their names with their own blood. As time passed by, the secret society was discovered, then the tearing up their cedulas happened which is known as the "Cry of Pugadlawin" which officially marked the beginning of the Philippine Revolution against Spain.

The Katipunan was an important event in the history of the Philippines. Its nature not only emphasizes the situations under the colonization of Spain but also gives significance to the value of their sacrifices, and efforts in the fight for independence.

II. What made KKK start

The Kataastaasang Kagalangalangang Katipunan (KKK) originated as a clandestine revolutionary society, fueled by a great desire for independence, the harsh actions of Spanish rulers, and the global influence of nationalist organizations. The Katipunan, founded on July 7, 1892, by Andres Bonifacio and a handful of zealous patriots, played a critical role in molding the direction of the Philippine Revolution against Spanish rule.

The Katipunan's origins may be traced back to Filipinos' common desire for independence from Spanish colonial authority. Centuries of subjection had created resentment, and popular support for a sovereign Philippines grew. The yearning for self-determination and autonomy became a tremendous motivator for people like Andres Bonifacio to take action. The repressive rule of Spanish authorities in the Philippines stoked the flames of rebellion even more. Filipinos suffered at the hands of their colonial overlords from corruption, abuse of authority, and discrimination. The flagrant disrespect for the Filipino people's welfare and rights produced fertile ground for dissent and resistance. Moreover, Andres Bonifacio, a working-class Filipino with a vision of a liberated nation, was a key figure in the Katipunan's founding. His determination and leadership drew people from many backgrounds together to form a united front against colonial oppression. The call for revolution issued by Bonifacio resonated with Filipinos desiring a dramatic change in their conditions.

III. The start of KKK

The KKK, by Andres Bonifacio and other patriots, typified the late nineteenth century in the Philippines. Filipinos rallied against the repressive Spanish colonial rule that had existed for over three centuries, fueled by a strong yearning for independence. The Katipunan quickly gained support from people of all social strata, using covert tactics like recruitment and propaganda to rally Filipinos behind a common goal. Dr. Jose Rizal, a national hero, was executed in this century, encouraging a turn toward more forceful and revolutionary measures of resistance.

The armed phase of the Philippine Revolution began that same year, with Katipunan members confronting Spanish forces in numerous skirmishes across the archipelago. Internal Katipunan divisions, however, led to the arrest and execution of Andres Bonifacio in 1897. The Tejeros Convention splintered the

movement even further, resulting in the choice of Emilio Aguinaldo as the new head. Despite the proclamation of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898, the Treaty of Paris later that year transferred the Philippines from Spanish to American control, ushering in a new era in Philippine history marked by resistance to American colonialism in the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). This period of transition and instability provided the groundwork for the Philippines' ongoing fight for ultimate independence.

IV. Happening within certain years of KKK

On August 23, 1896, during the Cry of Pugad Lawin (also known as the Balintawak Cry), Bonifacio and his fellow Katipunan leaders courageously condemned their loyalty to Spain by tearing their cedulas (community tax certificates), indicating the start of the Philippine Revolution. Within Bonifacio's leadership as Katipunan Supremo (Supreme Leader), the association drew members from all socioeconomic strata, fuelling its expansion. Internal disputes developed, however, during the Tejeros Convention on March 22, 1897, resulting in the choice of Emilio Aguinaldo as president and sparking divides within the Katipunan.

As internal rivalries reached an extreme point, Andres Bonifacio and his brother Procopio were tried and sentenced on May 10, 1897, amid the mountainous terrain of Maragondon. Despite this, the Katipunan persisted and played a key role in the Philippine Revolution against Spanish authority. The rebels, led by luminaries such as Aguinaldo, boldly declared independence on June 12, 1898, effectively ending Spain's despotic grasp on the country after 300 years.

With its aims of liberty and independence, the Katipunan played a crucial role in shaping Philippine history. Despite internal strife and external impediments, its legacy continues on as a symbol of the Filipino people's will to assert their rights and sovereignty. The Katipunan war laid the basis for the Philippines' eventual independence.

V. End of KKK

The end of the Katipunan (KKK) era in the Philippines represents a multifaceted historical juncture intertwined with internal struggles, geopolitical shifts, and the enduring quest for independence. The disbandment of the KKK, marked by internal conflicts including the execution of its leader Andres Bonifacio and the Tejeros Convention disputes, signified a turning point in the trajectory of the Philippine Revolution.

A new chapter in the revolution was marked by internal reorganization and the continuous struggle against Spanish colonial forces, with Emilio Aguinaldo taking command after the Tejeros Convention and Bonifacio's execution. Resulting from the persevering independence movement in spite of obstacles, the First Philippine Republic was declared on January 23, 1899.

The transition from Spanish to American rule following the Treaty of Paris in 1898 added another layer of complexity to the narrative. The Philippines, having experienced centuries of Spanish colonization, now faced a new colonial power. The ensuing Philippine-American War (1899-1902) became a continuation of the struggle for self-determination. The resilience of Filipino revolutionaries, coupled with the complexities of guerrilla warfare, highlighted the determined pursuit of independence against foreign domination.

The Filipino people's dreams of independence did not end with the KKK's dissolution. Instead, it propelled a complex historical landscape, prompting a reevaluation of identity and a renewed commitment to the ideals of the revolution. The legacy of the Katipunan endured in the collective memory, contributing to the shaping of Filipino identity, resilience, and the ongoing narrative of nationhood.

In essence, the end of the Katipunan era in the Philippines represents a phase characterized by complex historical factors, including internal conflicts, the shift to American governance, and the enduring strength of the Filipino people amidst changing circumstances. It established the foundation for an ongoing narrative of pursuing independence and constructing a nation, a storyline that echoes through the pages of Philippine history.

VI. Effects of KKK during their time

Renato Constantino's "The Philippines: A Past Revisited" thoroughly examines the profound impact of the Katipunan (KKK) on Philippine history. Formed in 1892 under the leadership of Andres Bonifacio, the KKK operated as a clandestine revolutionary society, uniting Filipinos from diverse backgrounds with a shared goal of independence and strong nationalism. The paper highlights the pivotal role of the KKK in leading a rebellion against oppressive Spanish colonial rule, exemplified by events like the "Cry of Pugad Lawin," which marked the beginning of widespread resistance against Spanish authorities. Internal conflicts within the Katipunan, such as the Magdiwang and Magdalo factions and the consequential Tejeros Convention, are discussed within the broader context of the Philippine Revolution of 1896 (Constantino, 1975). The work likely explores the repercussions of the subsequent Philippine-American War (1899-1902), investigating how the actions of the Katipunan influenced the dynamics between Filipinos and the United States. Moreover, Constantino's research is expected to emphasize the enduring legacy of the Katipunan in shaping a distinct national identity and inspiring subsequent generations of Filipinos in their ongoing pursuit of sovereignty.

Established in 1892, the Katipunan played a crucial role in the 1896 uprising against Spanish rule (Aguinaldo, 1899). Under the leadership of Andrés Bonifacio and later Emilio Aguinaldo, the Katipunan sought reforms for the Philippines and aimed to diminish the influence of friars. This clandestine society, exhibiting

Masonic tendencies, disseminated inflammatory literature, emphasizing mutual aid and opposition to religious extremism. Lasting approximately 14 months, the insurrection concluded in 1897 with the suppression of the society, marked by the Biak-na-Bato Treaty. But during the Spanish-American War in 1898, it came back to life. Following Manila's surrender to the United States, Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippine independence in 1899, sparking the Philippine-American War. Intertwined with the Philippine Republic, the Katipunan employed guerrilla tactics, including assassinations, against American forces. Despite its ruthless methods, the society's influence diminished over time, allowing Filipinos to embrace freedom and self-governance with the end of the Katipunan's dark era. The Philippine Commission played a pivotal role in this transition, championing liberty and extending rights and privileges to the Filipino people.

VII. Contribution of KKK in our generation

The "Supreme and Most Honorable Society of the Children of the Nation," or Katipunan, had a significant role in shaping Philippine history in the late 19th century. On July 7, 1892, Andres Bonifacio organized an organization of nationalist Filipinos known as the Katipunan, whose mission was to liberate the Philippines from Spanish colonial rule and persecution. The organization only lasted for a short time due to the onset of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, but its impacts are still evident in the nation today.

The Katipunan accomplished something undoubtedly remarkable: it launched the Philippine Revolution by opposing Spanish colonial rule. Beyond being a historical event, this movement fostered a strong sense of togetherness and patriotism among Filipinos longing for independence from the cruel tyranny of the Spanish. The Katipunan was more than just a group; it was a source of inspiration for many Filipinos to join the fight for independence. This influence shaped the course of history by marking a turning point in the battle for Philippine independence.

The Katipunan's fight was instrumental in shaping a shared identity among Filipinos. It instilled in its members a great sense of patriotism and nationalism by emphasizing a love for the motherland that still resonates in today's youth. This dedication to a shared identity and the shared ideal of liberty did not end there; it created the framework for the development of the Filipino nation. This legacy is still shaping modern Philippines, exhibiting a deep connection to the past and a shared vision for the future.

Nowadays, in order to understand the contributions of the Katipunan, students and other professionals explore historical accounts and scholarly works that would enlighten them as well as help going through the past to develop the identity as a Filipino citizen. Primary sources, such as the writings of Andres Bonifacio and other key figures in the Katipunan, provide valuable insights into the organization's goals and ideals. Additionally, historians like Teodoro Agoncillo and Renato Constantino have written extensively on the Katipunan and its impact on Philippine history, offering a comprehensive understanding of its contributions.

KKK or "Supreme and Most Honorable Society of the Children of the Nation" left an indelible mark on Philippine history through its contributions to the struggle for independence and the formation of a national identity. By examining historical documents and scholarly works, we gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of the Katipunan in shaping the destiny of the Philippines. KKK also makes this generation develop a strong alliance with each and every Katipunero that unites Filipinos into a solid nation.

VIII. Conclusion

Before arriving at their destination, the Katipunans—whom we revered as our heroes—had to endure a grueling journey with uneven roads and extreme weather. Although it required a great deal of blood, sweat, and tears, the outcome had a profound impact on Philippine history. It fostered unity and demonstrated the power of perseverance and selflessness.

Over the course of ages and generations, the KKK's legacy endures. It led to the foundation of a nation and the independence of the Philippines. The Katipunan served as a reminder of the Filipino people's tenacity and the choices and sacrifices they made in order to obtain the freedom that is still prized today.

The Katipunan, also known as the "Supreme and Most Honorable Society of the Children of the Nation," left behind a legacy that still permeates Filipino culture. The quest of social justice, freedom, and national identity is still influenced by the principles upheld by the Katipunan in the current generation. Modern Filipinos navigating contemporary issues might draw inspiration from the Katipunan's perseverance and spirit of patriotism during the fight against Spanish colonization.

Academic publications like Teodoro Agoncillo's "Revolt of the Masses: The Story of Bonifacio and the Katipunan" and Renato Constantino's "The Philippines: A Past Revisited" offer important insights into the Katipunan's long-term effects. These materials explore the late 19th-century sociopolitical environment and demonstrate how the Katipunan's struggle for independence served as a catalyst for the formation of a national identity. Readers can learn more about the Katipunan's ongoing relevance in forming the Philippines' identity by studying these publications.

In today's Philippine society, the memory of the Katipunan is still honored through festivals, educational initiatives, and cultural gatherings. The Katipunan's ideas of independence, solidarity, and love for the homeland are reflected in many facets of Filipino culture, from participation in civic life to artistic expression.

The start of the Philippine Revolution, which signaled the end of the Katipunan, is not just a historical event but also a timeless representation of the Filipino people's tenacity in the face of adversity and their dedication to the values of justice and independence.

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