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**Reaction Paper on Webinar entitled *“Rizal in San Francisco, Connections in Philippines-USA History”***

The webinar that was held on 21st of May, 2021 with the resource speaker, Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo. He introduced it with saying that “We have to look back in our history, to go on present”, and then discuss on how the San Francisco and Manila were sister cities on 1986, and it is the cities with a shared history. He also stated the magic of history, “It’s a finding connection between this jointed thing” and his experiences in Union Square in San Francisco. Rizal trip on America was on 28th April to 16th May of 1888, he went on San Francisco to New York by the trail to catch a ship to Rome and stayed on Palace Hotel. The speaker also said that Rizal are always travel in First Class and on May 4th to 5th when he is actually on land. He also expresses his complain thru the letter that he quarantines for one week due to cold.

*"... for here they are crazy about quarantine, they have strict customs inspection, imposing tax after tax enormous."* – On Jose Rizal’s Letter to Mariano Ponce

Rizal was not happy and he didn’t right much about during his trip in America and all about his quarantine there. On 1888, there’s an election in USA and the Official wanted to show that they need to protect themselves against Chinese, that’s why there’s a Chinese Exclusion Act that forbidding that Chinese to reenter the US after leaving. Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo said that it reflects today as there’s some very strong anti-Asians bias and many Filipinos are suffering in physical attacks and abuses.

*"We were in quarantine for about thirteen days. Afterwards only the passengers in First Class were allowed to land; those on the 2nd and 3rd classes -Japanese and Chinese- remains for an indefinite period."* – Jose Rizal’s Letter to Mariano Ponce.

The speaker pointed out that Rizal was travelling on first class not because he can afford it, but then he liked to think that Rizal was on First class because it’s one way that he would not be prejudiced or at least he will be treated much better. On the dairy of Rizal, he wrote about him waking up to a new place and his travel on New York City.

Rizal’s trip in America was during his second trip to Europe, he was going back home but then that he was forced to go back to abroad due to Noli Me Tangere was controversial. Rizal is a good traveler, and even make him love more to our motherland, because he misses his family and also the beauty of the Philippines. He travels not because of leisure but because to study. He learned different languages and writings and on his letter on Ferdinand Blumentritt it composes different languages per paragraph, but the speaker reminds that Rizal never forgot Tagalog, and he even took the book *Florante at Laura* by Francisco Balagtasduring his trip and read it.

*"I visited the largest cities of America with their big buildings, electric lights and magnificent conceptions. Undoubtedly America is a great country but it still has many defects"* – Jose Rizal’s Letter to Mariano Ponce

Rizal was not impressed and not advised to make trip on America. One of the defects is that there’s no real civil liberty but then the speaker wanted to make importance that we should not be ashamed on what they call us but then, use it as patch of courage. Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo quoted on the last part of the webinar before the question and answer that, *“History does not repeat itself, we repeat history.”* and *“We must know history, find connections, so that the future will not read like the past.”.* He said that the Rizal’s Trip to America wasn’t about his quarantine but all about the racial discriminations on America and then he ended the discussion with the real quote that Rizal made by himself.

“*I enter the future, carrying a memory of a past.” –* Jose Rizal’s El consejo de los Dioses, 1880.

On my reaction to the webinar entitled, *“Rizal in San Francisco, Connections in Philippines-USA History”* by Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo, it tackles not only the trip of Rizal in the America but on what are the importance of the history, and how we can use it to determined of our future. On his trip I get to know the situations and discriminations of Asians in America on 1888. Also, I get to discover the small things that happens in our history and how this thing relevant on our modern times like when Rizal was also quarantine during his trip due to cold. I also learned about on how Rizal really loves traveling and he get to learned different languages and cultures like learning Arabic, German, Greek and also Japanese. He wrote many books/literatures about a nation but then no one actually read it. I also discover that Rizal was actually travels in first class to avoid discriminations and treat him better, on the past there’s always a prejudiced about the Asians, like all us are mis conceptualize as Chinese because of our eyes. One of the things that I would like to learn more about or do research is the small details of our history that takes place on Rizal’s daily life. I want to know more about this smallest thing and relate it in our situations right now. I also want to discover more about the connections in other countries to the Philippines.

In the webinar it also discuss about the quarantine of Rizal in United States of America due to cold, it is one of the problems in our present-day world, because of Covid-19 all of us have to quarantine for 2 weeks and have a Covid-19 test before you actually go in your trip. Also, another problem is racial discriminations, there’s some of violent anti-Asian people to Filipinos and Asian, they suffer different kinds of abuses like physical attack such as stabbing. Rizal also saw the suffering of the Asians in America during his trip and its 1888, so in the time of Rizal there’s actually has racial discrimination. It made me realize that discrimination on different race are all the same in past and it’s still on-going in our present times.

This webinar really opens my eyes and increase the knowledge on what I learned in our history. It also changed my perspective that the history is really important for us know to go on our present and future. Just like Dr. Ambeth Ocampo said, *“History does not repeat itself; we repeat history.”,* we shouldn’t repeat the mistakes of our past but then learn it for future. What I felt during webinar is the eagerness to learn more about past and to travel around to world to know more about their cultures and ideas about everything.

Over all the webinar, it is informative and well explained, the resources are all there and it is easy to understand for the students or person that has little knowledge about our history, it was a great seminar. If I am about to recommend it to others my answer will be yes because its well organize and it’s easy to relate to the topics has been taught.

I will conclude this reaction paper with the saying that we should look back on our past to prevent its mistake on future, we as a Filipino has a responsibility on our history and it’s always between all of us if we choice to do same or to do better. The trip of Rizal in America are only brief but it carries the lessons of the past and present.