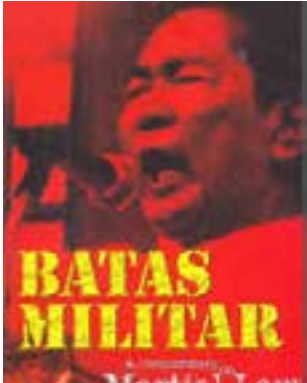




Batas Militar



PRODUCTION YEAR
1997

MTRCB RATING
VHS NTSC

LENGTH
1 HR 30 MINS

GENRE
DOCUMENTARY

AUDIENCE SUITABILITY
JUNIOR HIGH AND ABOVE

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Foundation for Worldwide
People Power

Credits

DIRECTORS

Mike Alcazaren
Jon Red
Jeanette Ifurung

PRODUCER

Kara Magsanoc

SCREENPLAY

Pete Lacaba

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Lauro Rene Manda

PRODUCTION DESIGN

Ronald Red

EDITING

Jeff de Vera

CAST

Soliman Cruz	Randy Punzal
Liza de Ocampo	Rolly Retirado
Jun Austria	Boyot Tolejano
Lyle Señeres	Raul Morit
Johnny Blanco	Ian Ervin Marquez

Module Objectives

- 1 To understand the issues regarding Martial Law and militarization
- 2 To know the role that Ninoy Aquino played in the struggle for freedom and democracy



SYNOPSIS

The dark years of the Marcos dictatorship may be over but tales of sufferings and testimonies of pain continue to haunt the present the present. In this comprehensive video documentary about the military dictatorship that ruled the country during the autocratic regime of Ferdinand E. Marcos, the reasons are brought into light. After Marcos declared Martial Law on September 21, 1972, the initial progress that was achieved early in his presidency spiraled into a dictatorship that closed down Congress, corrupted the justice system, jailed dissidents to the regime, muzzled the press, plundered the country's economy, and used the military to sow fear and torture among Filipinos.

In those years of darkness, struggle to regain democracy was waged but not just by the political opposition but also by the common people who had enough of sufferings. Ordinary students and peasants, labor leaders, and religious figures - they all contributed to the growing criticism against a conjugal dictatorship between Marcos and his wife Imelda. After 14 years, the protracted struggle turned into a phenomenal call for change when People's Power happened, brought about by the ascendancy of Cory Aquino after opposition leader, Ninoy Aquino was shot in 1983. IN order not to forget the struggle that brought back the country's democratic institutions, this documentary shows how a vigilant people can help bring back democracy and freedom even in the most desparate of times.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

On History

- 1 History has always been viewed as distant and remote, studied only in textbooks. How does this documentary offer a fresh glimpse of history with many of its personalities still living and who continue to affect contemporary history and politics? Who are the persons you can recognize and what are their views of history?
- 2 How is history told in this documentary? Whose voices do we hear and what testimonies are we told? Is there only one version to history or, as the documentary shows us, history may have several versions?
- 3 What role did Ninoy Aquino play in the struggle to attain freedom and democracy?
- 4 If you were to write history, how will you tell it? Take for example the presidency of Duterte, how do you think will its history be told? From what historical perspective will you bring to light to define his presidency, and what effects do you wish to generate with your version of history?

On Society

- 1 How did Martial Law corrupt the country's political system? The judicial system?
- 2 How did Marital law affect Filipino society?
- 3 Listening to people's testimonies what grave mistakes were committed against the Filipino people by the military regime and what forms of resistance were wages against such abuses?

On Martial Law

- 1 What is "Martial Law"? How is the country rules and who wields control under Martial Law?
- 2 What is Why did Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos declare Martial Law? Who benefitted from the declaration? Who suffered under its rule? "Martial Law"? How is the country rules and who wields control under Martial Law?
- 3 Why were the opposing views to the imposition of Martial Law? What basic human rights were suppressed?
- 4 Can you recount Ninoy Aquino's experiences fighting the military regime?
- 5 Is militarisation the answer to solve our country's problems?

On Documentary

- 1 How does the film differ from other film accounts regarding the subject of Martial Law and the Marcos dictatorship? Can you describe how the following devices are used to "know" the past and arrive at some understanding of the past: archival footages, television coverage, interviews, dramatizations, newspaper clippings, photographs, actual shootings, etc?
- 2 Based on what you have seen, what is your understanding of a "documentary"? How do you compare it with fiction film or animation?
- 3 How important are the concepts of "reality" and "truth" in a documentary? In what ways does BATAS MILITAR arrive at these ideal concepts? Does it achieve them in the end?

Source: Deocampo, Nick. (2008) *Sinegabay: A Film Study Guide*: Anvil Publishing



RELATED MEDIA

WEBSITE

[1 *Martial Law Museum*](#)

An online museum "that aims to counter historical revisionism by having an online presence that will feature works of art, lectures, essays, teaching resources, among others, curated from artists, experts, scholars, researchers, teachers and students,"

[2 *The Martial Law Chronicles*](#)

An undertaking by a non-partisan group of individuals against historical revisionism, particularly efforts to recast the late dictator, Ferdinand E. Marcos, as a hero.

BOOKS

1 *Conjugal Dictatorship* by Primitivo Mijares

This book reports on the best laid plans that paved the way to the Philippines' dark history: the imposition of martial law in 1972 and the schemes that built and held its infrastructure. Primitivo Mijares espouses the massive corruption and military abuses under the regime, which has left the nation in ruins.

2 *Desaparesidos* by Lualhati Bautista

A novel about individuals struggling to regain their lost humanity, their sense of family, their very souls. What was the price that these fighters had to pay? What personal pains outweighed even the most brutal of physical tortures?