



THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PHILIPPINES

Overview

In order to have a better understanding of Jose Rizal's life, we need to uncover the prevalent conditions of the Philippines in the nineteenth century, where he lived and died as a martyr. In this unit, we will address the changing landscape of the Philippine economy and politics and explain how these changes have influenced the society in which Rizal grew up and was eventually recognized as the country's leading nationalist and hero. It begins by taking a greater look at the critical progress made in the late eighteenth century as a result of various historical events. This module will trace the impacts of these developments by looking at the various local and global events that have had an enormous impact on the policies of the Spanish regime in the Philippines as a colony.

The nineteenth century exposed the long-standing problems of landownership and land grabbing under the *encomienda* system. It is therefore also important to have a thorough understanding of how this problem contributed to the condition of the native Filipinos during that time. The Rizal family rented lands in the Hacienda de Calamba from the Dominican Friar Order. Lands belonging to religious orders throughout the Philippines have been acquired by various methods. Some have been mortgaged and eventually bought by the religious orders; some have been donated by Spaniards hoping for better fates in the afterlife; and some Filipino *principales* sold their lands and/or lent it to the church on their deathbed. Despite these various methods, the majority of our *Ilustrados* believe that these religious orders do not have titles to these lands and have acquired them through usurpation and other mischievous means. It is worth noting that the same lands in Laguna were ordered by King Fernando VI in November 7, 1751 to be investigated upon in his decree entitled "Usurpation of Indian lands by friars" where the Dominican Friar Order were reprimanded for grabbing the lands from the Filipinos. Marcelo H. del Pilar eloquently discussed about the predominance of the interests of these religious orders in lieu of the welfare of the people and of the government citing various cases in his book *Monastic Supremacy in the Philippines*.

Nonetheless, this unit will try to discuss the following economic, political, and social events of the 19th century: opening of the Suez Canal, opening of ports to world trade, rise of the export crop economy and monopolies, rise of the Chinese mestizo and the *Inquilinos*, liberalism, and the history of friar estates in the Philippines.

LESSON 3

The Philippine's Economic, Social and Political conditions during the Spanish Colonization until the 19th century as Rizal's context

Learning Objectives

At the end of this lesson the student should be able to:

- Locate Rizal's life in the Philippines within the broader context of the developments in the nineteenth century.
- Analyze the various social, political, and economic changes that taken place in the 19th century.

Course Materials

Condition of the country before the birth of Jose Rizal

During Spain's 333-year rule in the Philippines, the colonial territory was enslaved by policies that domestically abused the Filipino natives. The Spanish colonial policy was practically designed not only to keep Philippines under control but also to exploit its rich natural resources. The burdensome of tax system was imposed on natives to collect revenue ideally to fund public utilities. This policy was promulgated by the Indies Company of the Spanish Crown as a form of payment in recognition of the Spanish sovereignty over colonial lands. The arbitrary and unfair forced labor of *Polo Y Servicios* required all healthy and physically capable 16-60-year-old male natives to render forty (40) days of work without payment and food allowance. While the monopolistic galleon trade and strict agricultural policies that limit the Philippines from doing business and trading to other countries apart from the two nations, China and Mexico, have led to a one-sided and imbalanced economy. In addition, the *Encomienda system* has made a serious contribution to the issue of land grabbing and agrarian disputes between the farmers and the landowners.

Education in the Philippines was not open to all Filipinos during the Spanish era. There was absolutely no intention of the Spanish Government to train natives for eventual independence and self-governance. During this period, some schools were set up exclusively for the education of the Spanish nationals in the archipelago. They were only open to people belonging to the upper social and economic classes of the society. The Spaniards blamed the indolence inherent of the Filipino character, their inability to learn, and their perceived congenital inferiority of the policies they implemented in the colony.

However, by the end of the 18th century, political and economic changes in Europe had finally begun to affect Spain and thus, the Philippines. Colonial policies gradually changed and the overseas territories benefited. Of these changes, one was the abolition of the Manila-Acapulco Trade in 1815 and the separation of Mexico from Spain, which made it necessary for the Spanish Government to engage in trade relations with other countries. Manila was re-opened to world trade making the transaction between Asia and Europe easier. This also brings with it liberal ideologies that have influenced the middle-class society which the family of Jose Rizal, belongs. Nonetheless, these economic changes have an impact on the political climate in Spain and subsequently in the Philippines, as its only colony in Asia, has undergone tremendous changes in its social condition.

Historical Background of the 19th century: Philippines and Spain

Jose Rizal's thought and ways of thinking could be best understood in terms of his time through the prevalent socio-economic and political conditions of the Spanish system in the Philippine colony. These changes had motivated him to contribute to the development of a national identity and become the country's leading nationalist and hero.

Rizal was born in an era of liberal ideologies, a development in Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when, thoughts concerning God, reason, nature, and humanity were blended into a perspective that increased wide consent in the West and progressive advancement in workmanship, theory, and legislative issues. In the Age of Enlightenment, the use of so-called intellectuals was important. It was the force that made people accept the world to understand and strengthen their own situation. The goals of these intellectuals were seen as a source of knowledge, opportunity, and fulfillment. This period, however, was both a development as well as a perspective. The term refers to a stage in Europe's intellectual history, but it also serves to describe reform initiatives in which strong intellectuals are motivated by a typical confidence in the prospect of a better future.

Meanwhile, Spain was in big trouble during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, especially when it was vanquished by France. When the government was re-established in 1814, Fernando VII returned to absolutism in order to control all important aspects of the government, such as political and theological principles. At the time of his death, the monarch was forced to bestow the crown to his new-born child, Isabella, under the rule of her mother, Maria Cristina. However, a civil war broke out when Don Carlos, the younger brother of the King showed interest in the seat of power. This resulted to a revolt between the Liberals who had favored Maria Cristina and the Carlists, the supporters of Don Carlos.

In 1886, when Isabella became the queen, an insurgency took place against her and she had to give up the crown. Alfonso XII of Spain became the king, who at last brought Spain into a time of stability and great reform. This was also the time when liberal ideologies began to influence Spain's political climate as it gradually adapting the new system of government under the Cadiz constitution and implementing a number of changes in the colonial policies that directly affected its overseas territories.

The political changes persisted until the latter part of the 19th century, when its overseas territories were influenced by the political, social and economic changes in Spain. Two of the colonies that sought an upheaval for absolute liberation were the Philippines and Cuba. Without a consistent strategy of advancing the Philippine economy, Spain had to face long local resistances in order to protect its matriarch from the indigenous people pursuing long-term reforms.

The Changing Landscape of the Philippine Colony in the Nineteenth Century

Numerous scholars in the field of history think of the nineteenth century in the Philippines as a period of drastic transition. Change, nonetheless, has its underlying waves in the early century. The Spanish government has experienced a shift in monarchy from the Habsburgs to the Bourbons, and under the new government; Spain has to recalibrate colonial strategies that had seriously impacted its economic and political affairs. In 1778, the new government sent Jose de Basco y Vargas to serve as its new governor-general. Soon, Basco set up the Royal Philippine Company in 1785 to fund agricultural projects and negotiate a new exchange between the Philippines and Spain and the rest of the world. However, these initiatives of General Basco confronted few protections and adversaries coming from the church and financial specialists who were all of the same time embracing the old economy of the Galleon exchange.

A product of liberal ideologies, General Basco has initiated radical economic and political reforms. He lifted restrictions on the Chinese traders that revitalized domestic exchange; set up an improvement in cash crop farming; relaxed specific approaches that enabled Manila to continue opening up its external business; and set up the Tobacco Monopoly to boost the development of a trade union. These new economic improvements under General Basco helped the Philippines succeed on the global export economy.

As far as political advancement is concerned, previous governor-generals struggled to adopt measures that would have advanced the progress of the colony. They have not able to actualize strong approaches to social and educational progress. Catholicism was more widely used as an apparatus for the enslavement of the Filipinos, and the friars were too powerful and abusive to influence the affairs of the colony. The imbalances between the social classes and the inequalities between Filipinos and Spanish citizens have been widespread and rampant. These shameful acts and social ills endured by the Filipinos turned into the subject of dissension by the propaganda movement and the revolutionary group, such as the Katipunan, which soon ignited the Filipinos on fire to begin the Philippine Revolution in 1895.

Meanwhile, the significance of land-ownership is becoming apparent as the cash crop economy contributed to the majority of the settlement income. As the colony moved to cash crops, land ownership and management began to be a major concern of the government that led to the emergence of new social order. Local farmers were constrained to meet the specific needs of demand for products, while the *hacienderos* benefited solely from this development, resulting in the worst problems of land grabbing. What is more, as the growing concern about better land management arose in the new arrangement of economy, the *Inquilinos* or the land trustees assumed the essential role of local farmers, and made a critical contribution to the social delineation of the countryside as it widened the wealth inequalities between natives and the landowners originating from the *encomienda* system.

The demand for Philippine sugar and abaca grew rapidly, and the amount of exports to Europe increased even further after the completion of the Suez Canal in 1869. New innovations such as machinery and other goods which could not be supplied by Spain were also introduced by the development of this economy. During those days, the Filipino *hacienderos* of Pampanga, Batangas and other parts of the Philippines flourished because most of the products exported by the Filipinos were agricultural..

The growth of commercial agriculture resulted in the emergence of a new class alongside the land holdings of the Church and the land estates of the pre-Spanish nobles of coffee, hemp, and sugar haciendas, which were often the property of enterprising Chinese-Filipino mestizos. Some of these families, which gained prominence in the 19th century, have continued to play an important role in the economics and political campaigns of the Philippines in the years to come.

The Opening of the Philippines in the World Trade

Following decades of economic decline brought on by the Spanish monopolistic policies, the opening of the Port of Manila to foreign trade in 1834 led to immense socio-economic changes in the Philippine colony. Despite economic constraints, the success of numerous industries and institutions has prompted foreign investors to try their fortune in the Philippines. The Philippines opening up to international trade has resulted in a strong demand for export products such as rice and tobacco. This has given enormous profits to Filipino businessmen and Chinese immigrants in the country.

When the Royal Company of the Philippines or the *Real Compania de Filipinas* went bankrupt due to the mismanagement of the previous officials, the world turned its attention to the Philippines. In order to change the economic losses incurred by this event, Governor-General Felix Berenguer de Marquina proposed that the King of Spain open Manila for World trade.

Thus, after the breakdown of the Galleon trade due to Mexico's independence, the fall of the Real Compania de Filipinas catapulted the King of Spain to open Manila to the world trade. The company's privileges were abolished in a Royal decree issued on September 6, 1834, and the port of Manila was open to trade. Since Manila was a strategic harbor, it became one of the best trading cities on its shores, attracting merchants from America, Britain and other from Europe and Asia. As a result Spain's economic dominance has lost its position in the region, while more resources have been acquired by traders like the Chinese mestizos.

Modern production and transport methods, especially sugar mills and steamships, have opened up economic development in the Philippines. The colony started requesting agricultural products from the British, French, Dutch, and North American traders, including sugar, cigars, and abaca. The leading export crop has been sugar. These improvements were made possible by King Charles III of Spain. His aim was to make the trade goods increasingly more effective from the Philippines to Spain. And it caused the Spaniards to sell more goods to the other countries as world trade opened up to the Philippines. They used our money because the supplies came from the Philippines and did not compensate us because they sold more goods for their own benefit. The Philippines' economy has grown rapidly and its local industries have evolved to meet the increasing demands of Europe that was industrializing.

Liberal administration and Emergence of the Chinese and Chinese Mestizos

Carlos Maria dela Torre was sent to the Philippines to serve as governor-general from 1869-1871 as a consequence of the liberal victory in the Spanish Revolution of 1868. He was distinct from his predecessors and had initiated changes such as abolishing flogging as a penalty in the Spanish army for Filipino deserters abolishing press censorship, and encouraging freedom of speech. In education, a decree was passed in 1863 instructing schools in various places to be founded and mandating Indios to learn Spanish as the national language. Eventually the insulares, Chinese mestizos and indios have started to identify themselves as Filipinos, and this contributed to the creation of a national identity.

Meanwhile, the journey from Europe to Asia became shorter and faster leading to the influx of western liberal ideologies to the Philippines. The minds of the Filipinos in the Philippines have penetrated the ideas of independence, freedom and solidarity that have become the legacy of the French Revolution and the democratic ideals of the United States of America.

The sectors that benefited incredibly from the evolving economy were the Chinese and Chinese Mestizos. The natives of the Philippines have had trade ties with the Chinese since pre-colonial times. It was also during the Galleon trade that the bulk of items being traded were undermined by the Chinese goods. The flood of Chinese settlements in the Philippines made the Spaniards doubtful of the true intentions of the Chinese as trade merchants. These prompted the Spaniards to impose an unjust policy on *sangleys*, extending from higher cost, limiting the development and movement of their products in the Parian, to real arrangements for ejection.

The Chinese, however, ended up being a fundamental part of the Philippine economy and society. Although the Spaniards were careful about the Chinese, they understood the significance of their contribution to strengthening of the economy. From the products stacked on the vessels to the improvement of the retail exchange, the Chinese have given life into the economy.

Manila, transformed into a melting pot of the export economy in the colony, has become a viable opportunity for individuals seeking a better chance or those who need to get away from the compounding condition in the farmlands.

Rise of the middle class

A middle class of Asian-Eurasian mestizos has arisen in the Philippine social class as a result of substantial economic shifts in the lives of the Filipinos. They founded the town of Principalia, an elite social community consisting of former governors, minor indigenous bureaucrats, decorated workers and school masters. In particular, the wealth of the principalia, the *inquilinos*, came from the income produced by land owned or lease.

The family of Jose Rizal was one of the *Inquilinos* in the Dominican's Hacienda de Calamba. Unfortunately, they were also among the Filipino families who had received unfair treatment from the abusive friars. By 1883, the family began to see changes in the way the Dominicans had lease. The dispute reached its heights towards the end of the 1880s, when the farmers wrote a petition to the government stating their complaints against the Dominicans and, as a result, the friars retaliated.

An increasing economy dependent on the exporting economy had changed by the middle of the eighteenth century, and a new economic structure considered to be the *Inquilinato* was constantly developed. Under the new scheme for a fixed annual amount, referred to as canon, an individual leased property over a period of time and it was also expected that the tenant would provide its owners with personal services. He may face eviction to fulfill these duties.

Summary

The Philippines, part of the wider Spanish empire underwent changes as the Spanish Crown adapted a new constitution that, due to the strong influence of liberal ideologies, limited the power of the monarch in the eighteenth century. These developments have had a profound impact on the political and social landscape not only of Spain, but also the overseas colonies like the Philippines.

In addition, the nineteenth century saw the rise of the *Mestizo* and *Principalia* classes, which would assert their relevance in the society. It is therefore not entirely surprising that men like Jose Rizal flourished in the nineteenth century. Born in the 1800s, Rizal grew up in a transition society. By the time he matured, he could reap the benefits of the changes had taken place. As he was exposed to higher education, he could realize that, just as economic development was a reality, so was the rising inequality and worsening of conditions for the majority of the population.

Assessment:

Instruction: Write down the changes and developments felt in the Philippines in the nineteenth century.

| | Change and Development |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Political | |
| Economic | |
| Socio-cultural | |

Note: Please do not write anything unnecessary on this instructional material. Use a clean sheet of bond paper in answering your activity/assessment task either in a type-written or hand-written format (please see the appendices for the sample template). When doing a hand-written work, make sure that your penmanship is **legible**.

References

- Abrera, Ma. Bernadette, et. al. Kasaysayan ng Bayan: Sampung Aralin sa Kasaysayang Pilipino. Pilipinas: ADHIKA ng Pilipinas at National Historical Institute, 2005.
- Agoncillo, T.A. History of the Filipino People. Lungsod Quezon: Garotech Publishing, 1990
- Constantino, Renato, A Past Revisited (Vol. 1), 1990.
- Obias, Rhodalyn W. et al. The Life and Works of Rizal. Quezon City: C & E Publishing, Inc, 2018.
- Gripaldo, E.M. et. al. Kasaysayan ng Filipino at mga Institusyong Filipino. Lungsod Quezon: Sentro ng Wikang Filipino, Unibersidad ng Pilipinas. 2003.
- Schumacher, John SJ. The Making of a Nation. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila Pres, 1996.

LESSON 4

The Case of Hacienda de Calamba: In Focus

Learning Objectives

At the end of this lesson the student should be able to:

- ☐ Analyze the developments in the issue of the Hacienda de Calamba as part of the wider social turmoil in the developments in the nineteenth century.
- ☐ Examine the Hacienda de Calamba issue as an example of agrarian conflicts in the country.
- ☐ Connect what transpired in the Hacienda de Calamba and its effect on the life of Jose Rizal.

Course Material

Jose Rizal wrote an emphatic petition in January 1888 in compliance to the colonial government's demand of a report on the income and production of the lands due to the reason that they suspected that the Dominican Friar Orders were evading payment of taxes. Rizal's petition included a list of grievances against the Dominican Friar Orders who presumably owns the Hacienda de Calamba.

Rizal was deeply affected by the results of the Issue of the Hacienda de Calamba. The case was appealed in the *Real Audiencia* in Manila but was dismissed. They placed another appeal in the *Tribunal Supremo* in Madrid but was again dismissed. On August 1890, together with the other tenants Rizal's family was evicted from the lands.

Instruction: Read the Petition written by Jose Rizal in January 1888, and then answer the questions that follow.

Petition of the Town of Calamba written by Jose Rizal in January 1888

On 30 December an order from the government of this province was received in this tribunal whose content is as follows:

Gobernadorcillo of Calamba: - As soon as you receive this order, jointly with various principales of that town you will inform this office if the Estate owned by the Dominican fathers situated in that locality has **increased its products or lands during the last three years** in compliance with the wishes of the Central Administration of Direct Taxes communicated in an official letter of the 24th instant. – Santa Cruz, 31st of December 1887 – Emilio Bravo.

After thorough investigation, the following report was drawn up **signed by more than fifty residents, among them tenants and principales.**

Mr. Administrator: - The undersigned *Gobernadorcillo* and *principales* of the town in compliance with the preceding order have the honor to submit to you the following information:

The Estate of the reverend Father Dominicans is **not situated in this locality but in fact constitutes the whole town**, the Reverend Fathers believing that the boundaries set up by them these last years should be the limits of the Estate: On the north, the part of the lake until the Island of Calamba; on the south, until the Bigo Bridge, Olango, Santol, Mount Sungay; on the

east, until Los Banos in Bacong, comprising almost one half of Mount Maquiling; on the west, until Cabuyao and Santa Rosa, having an area of at least 700 quinones (a quinon is 2.8 hectares) of clean cleared lands.

1. From the declaration of the tenants interviewed, it turns out that the products of the Estate – if by products are to be understood everything that the land produces - have increased for the Estate and diminished remarkably for the tenants, not only in former years but also recently, in the last three, as the enclosed account proves. Such a statement needs to be explained.

The products increase to the benefit of the Estate:

1. Because the wild forests which are given to the tenants for a low rent at the beginning, according as the tenants clear and clean them, invest large capital in them, according as the fortune of the farmer becomes involved in them, the contract is arbitrarily altered by the Estate, the rent rises enormously, there being a case when 45 pesos became 900 in a few years through an annual forces imposition.
2. Because some lands pay twice for two harvests of rice, where some bamboo groves are found, the farmer pays for the land and for each bamboo grove besides, regardless of whether it is useless or it has been felled. In the lands where huts have been erected for the workers, one has to pay for the lots and the huts besides.
3. Because the rent of the town lots where houses or warehouses are erected increases every time an official or servant of the Estate measures them. There seems to exist either a supernatural power that invisibly extends the land or a natural power that shortens the measure of the official, who after all is neither an expert nor a surveyor, though he is very venal indeed. Without this trick, the rent is also raised when the tenant makes improvement in the lot as when he replaces the bamboo fence with a stone one, or builds a wooden house, for comfort and public embellishment; therefore, many do not improve their dwelling even if they have the means to do so. Even lots where public buildings are erected do not escape this honor: The cockpit for which the most well-to-do tenant is held responsible. The rent is raised by 16 duros (duro is a silver dollar) that was formerly 100, though it had not been enlarged nor has any improvement been made in it.
4. Because rice fields that are planted with only 5 or 4 cavanos (a cavan is equal to 75 liters) of seed, pay as if they have a capacity for 9.5 and 14 cavanos, on pain of being declared vacant and given to others. The Estate, not spending anything for the town's welfare, not contributing either to festivals or to schools, or to the development of agriculture, or to public improvements, has no other expense except a few cavanos of rice given to the workers during a locust invasion, a few thousand pesos invested in badly planned dikes and constructed under the direction of a lay-friar of the Estate, and some losses, like the debts of some unfortunate tenants who are unable to pay the enormous rentals.

The products for the tenants have decreased considerably, in spite of continuous labor; not only before but also these last three years as proven by the large number of ruined farmers, indebted and dispossessed of their property.

- 1) By the discouragement of the farmers on seeing that the lands they have so laboriously cultivated and cleared are taken away arbitrarily for futile reasons or without reason, on seeing that they cannot trust the Estate itself. At times what the lay-friar manager orders, such as, making the farmer buy machinery, make improvements, and compelling him to make excessive expenditures, are later destroyed by his successor, who make the farmer pay for the expenses of demolition.
- 2) The absence of good faith on the part of the Estate discourages not a little. The land is looked after and appraised by the servant of the Estate, ignorant like the rest, mindful

only of flattering his masters. At times he imposes rental without measuring the land and when the farmer can no longer draw back, because he has invested in it his capital, a ghost of a measurement is done and excessive conditions are imposed. If this is settled, the rental will be raised again the following year, on pain of losing all the land, the toil, and the capital.

On the other hand, the desperate ones who wish to return a parcel of land that is unproductive will not be allowed to do so and the face ruin as they will be threatened of being despoiled of all their other parcels. It arouses suspicion that they do not want to write in the receipts the amount paid as rental and the total absence of any record, especially in these last years

- 3) For the public calamities, like locusts and the fall in the price of sugar. Many, being unable to pay the rental, were promised a reduction of 15% or a little less, a promise which was fulfilled in some cases but not in many. On the contrary, the rental of others was raised exorbitantly, or their sugar crop was confiscated by force and afterwards sold, according to them, at a price lower than the prevailing one.
- 4) For the responsibility of the well-to-do tenants to pay the rental lots of the indigents and for the flood – the waters do not guarantee them against such an obligation.
- 5) For the increasing shortage of capital, for the people are exhausted, the land that is opened every year is not all planted and if it is planted it yields no profit. In these last years, a much less enthusiasm and less activity than ten years ago are noticeable.

In view of this, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to state the following for the government's consideration:

"The town of Calamba has given proofs of having been and is one of the most industrious and farming towns of the province. Proof of this is the cleared forests; the land on the mountain sloped cleaned in a few years, the machinery and the mills turned by animals and its extensive rice-fields.

"If, despite all this, agriculture declines, the people is impoverished, the capitalist is ruined, and education is backward (before there were more than 20 men students and three girls, now there are no more than three of the first and one of the latter); should we look for the cause only in the fall of the price of sugar when other sugar towns do not experience the poverty in which we are found? Several farmers abandon the Estate and go elsewhere and if they are not followed by all, it is because the others lack capital or they are indebted and have unvested much in the lands of the Estate. An imminent evil threatens this poor town, if the government does not stop it. The people who place their cause in its hands hope either for a serious, formal contract between the Estate and the former, or the sale of these lands to those who have made them tillable under government auspices and according to a standard that may be fixed; for all the pretensions and titles the Estate can claim cannot be more valid before the tribunal of the nation than the remonstrances of an entire people, always submissive indeed, but already tired of so many injustices. – Calamba, 8 January 1888."

As the report was done in the Tribunal and was signed besides by three officials of the Estate itself, it reached the ears of the lay-friar manager of the Reverend Dominican Fathers. He took it ill and he threatened several tenants with raising their rentals, if, because of this report, the Administration of Taxes should collect from the Estate the ten percent real estate taxes corresponding to the number of tributes. He said to the others that he would like to make the *gobernadorcillo* responsible for any pillage or theft that the Estate might henceforth suffer, when

in this sense he cannot in any way complain against the people in the least. Estate officials proclaim that for having told the truth in this report, the people would drag chains because the corporation is rich and proposes to spend ten thousand pesos to win the suit. In short, they have shown a copy of a letter of the Treasury which threatened the tenants who have testified according to facts and not according to the wish of the Estate. Such threats, inexplicable and suspicious though they might appear, have not disturbed the peace of this town, being confident in the justice of its cause and the rectitude of the government that has provoked the conflict upon asking them to tell the truth.

But, lately it seems that they want to carry out these threats, for they have tried to deprive some tenants of their lands, to suspend their work through force and the like.

In the face of these unreasonable pretensions, alarmed, the people appeal to the Government asking for its prompt and direct intervention in order to prevent incalculable evils.

In this impossibility of living henceforth in peace with the Estate, the people, placed in the harsh alternative of lying to the Government in order not to die or to be deprived of their land for complying worthily with their duty, in this very anomalous situation, they ask the separation of its interests, selling to them or transferring these lands to them who have made them tillable and have invested in them capital, labor, and toil. This measure is demanded not only by the good name of the Government, the prestige and dignity of the rulers, and the good relations between them and their subjects but also it is based on the following considerations:

1. The people, placed in the midst of apparently hostile interests, which are those of the Estate and those of the Administration of Taxes will surely be morally corrupted if in this struggle, initiated in the cause of truth demanded by the Government, they see that, as a result of their truthfulness, they gather hunger, vexations, and misery. This would not only hurt the people but also the Government, in the opinion of the people who in their difficulty might make a thousand offensive and sad surmises.
2. The capricious procedure, the leonine contracts of the Estate, the insecurity of the tenant do not permit the cultivation of other plants, more productive and with a future, which are coffee, abaca, and others, because before they flourish, the Estate may take the land away and give it to another.
3. The no less tyrannical conditions of the town lots smother the wellbeing of the people with regard to the town's embellishment and urbanization measure.
4. If it is said, and the Government can find out the truth, that the Estate paid real estate tax only for its irrigated lands, it can be concluded that only these constitute legally its estate. The dry land for which the people pay excessive rental by law does not belong to it. In fact, Mr. Asanza, who, they say, ceded this estate to the corporation in payment of his debt, could not be the owner of the whole town for not having bought it from any one, nor clean or cleared it.
5. The residents of Calamba in these last years are the ones who, through their efforts, money, and toil, have made these lands tillable and productive, the Estate having contributed nothing except in ruining this or that farmer.
6. The people are eager to make improvements and beautify the lands they cultivate if they had the assurance of being able to bequeath to their children the fruits of their labor. The present state of things smothers this desire and kills farming in this town, one of the most industrious of the province, because the Estate discourages and impoverishes the capitalist and places thousands of obstacles on his path. There are many considerations besides that the peoples leave to clear intelligence of their rulers, accustomed to put themselves in the place of their subjects in order to

understand better their needs. The people have suffered a long time, excessively, without complaining, without raising their voice. Now, being impoverished, exhausted, in a long and terrible crisis, and hearing that foreign governments favor agriculture and commerce of their respective countries at the cost of enormous sacrifices and heroic measures, appeal also to their own government, enlightened and full of paternalistic intentions, to a government such as they have dreamed of and desired in their misery. However, they appeal to it, not to ask either for subsidies or privileges or sacrifices, but only for light, justice, and equity to which they have a right as member of a nation known for its sense of justice and noble qualities.

Signed by more than 70 persons.

[Sourced from *Monastic Supremacy in the Philippines* by Marcelo H. Del Pilar, Appendix X]

Assessment

Instruction: Discuss the following items thoroughly. Write the question before each answer. Each answer should contain at least three (3) paragraphs of not less than four (4) sentences each. You may write your answers in Filipino. Do not forget to write your full name in the upper left corner of the paper and your course, year and section below it while the name of your professors should be indicated in the upper right.

1. Who are the personages mentioned and what is their relationship with each other?
2. Why was this document written? Provide evidences from the document.
3. What can you tell about life in the Hacienda de Calamba during the time the document was written?
4. What are the complaints of the tenants? Enumerate at least three.
5. What was the reaction to the complaint?
6. What were the final demands of the petition?

Note: Please do not write anything unnecessary on this instructional material. Use a clean sheet of bond paper in answering your activity/assessment task either in a type-written or hand-written format (please see the appendices for the sample template). When doing a hand-written work, make sure that your penmanship is **legible**.

Reference

- Del Pilar, Marcelo H. *Monastic Supremacy in the Philippines*. 1889. Trans. Encarnacion Alzona, 1958.
- Rizal, Jose. *Petition of the Town of Calamba*. In *Political and Historical Writings*. National Historical Institute, 1888.
- Roth, Dennis M. 'Church Lands in the Agrarian History of Tagalog Region'. In *Philippine Social History: global trade and local transformations*, Alfred W. McCoy and Ed. De Jesus (eds.), 131-153. 1982.
- Fernando VI. 'Usurpation of Indian Lands by Friars' by The King. In Blair and Robertson (eds.). *The Philippine Islands, 1453-1898 Vol. XLVIII (1674-1683)*.

