

The most significant and immediate result of Rizal's death was a rise in nationalist feelings among Filipinos toward the country's independence cause. His passing increased the idea of sacrifice and, for many, fully realized the dream of independence. Ultimately, then, it was a victory that strengthened the desire for people to stand up and resist the leaders and forces of colonialism. In the Philippines, December 30 is now recognized as Rizal Day, a national holiday honoring Rizal's life and legacy. There are several methods to celebrate it, including as parades, poetry readings, and rituals that highlight his contributions to the independence movement and as a citizen. Thus, Rizal is not just a national hero but also a representation of the strength, intelligence, and patriotism of the Filipino people. His best-known books, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* in particular, have become important works of Philippine literature because they, on the one hand, clarify the aspiration and struggle for independence and, on the other, highlight the critical thinking and social transformation that are strategically needed. Additionally, because it symbolizes the sacrifices made by earlier generations to ensure independence and self-governance, Rizal's death is a key component of Filipino culture and identity. It serves as a symbol of the struggle for independence and justice, striking an association with Filipinos' common memories and forming their sense of national identity.