



19th CENTURY  
PHILIPPINES AS RIZAL'S  
CONTEXT

# 19th CENTURY PHILIPPINES

## CONTEXTUALIZATION

Contextualization aids in comprehension. To conceptualize something is to place it within its proper and larger setting in which it presents its true and complete meaning.

To properly understand Rizal, we should understand the social and political context of the century when Rizal lived.

19th century is depicted as the birth of modern life & the birth of many nation-states around the globe.

# 19th CENTURY PHILIPPINES



## Economic Context

- End of Galleon Trade
- Opening of Suez Canal
- Rise of the Export Crop Economy
- Monopolies



## Social Background

- Education in the 19th Century
- Rise of the Chinese Mestizo
- Rise of the Inquilinos



## Political Landscape

- Liberalism
- Impact of the Bourbon Reforms
- Cadiz Constitution



1.

# Economic Context



# END OF THE GALLEON TRADE

By 1565, the Spanish government closed the ports of Manila to all countries except Mexico.

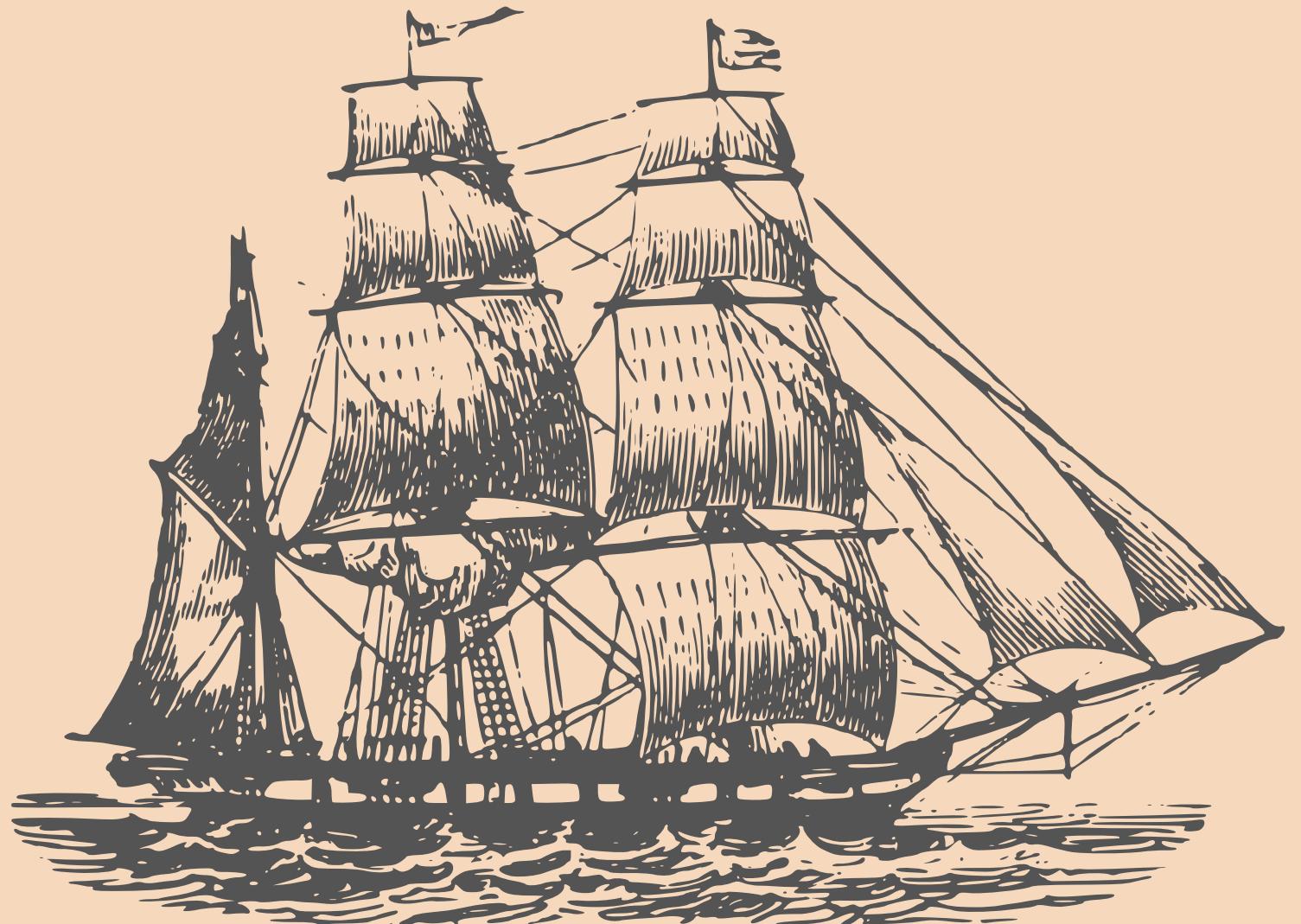
The **Galleon trade** is a ship trade going back and forth between Manila and Acapulco, Mexico.

It started when Andres de Urdaneta, in convoy with Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, discovered a return route from Cebu to Mexico in 1565.



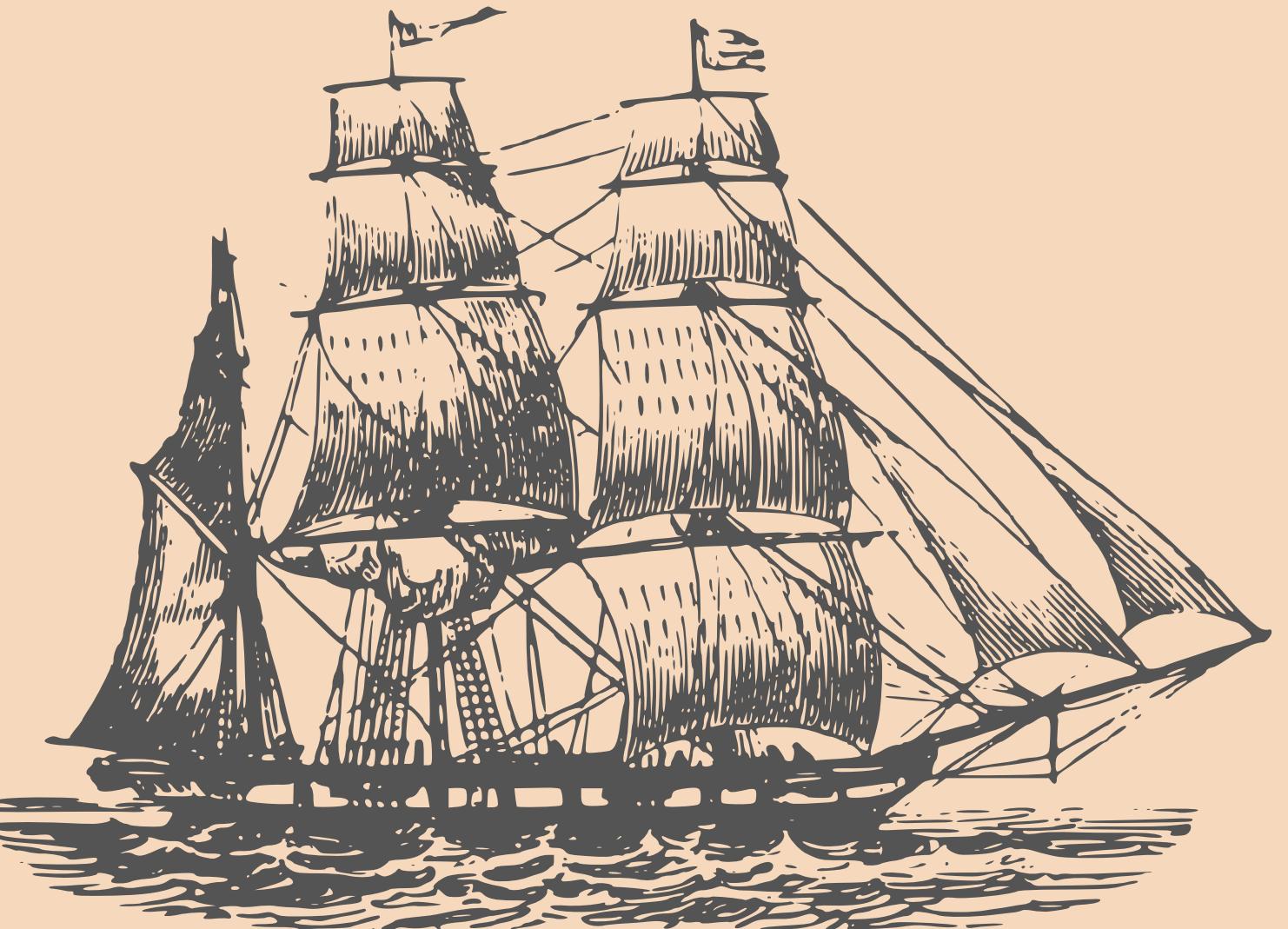
## Products from the Philippines:

- Mango de Manila
- Tamarind
- Rice
- Carabao
- Cockfighting
- Chinese tea and textiles
- fireworks display
- tuba (coconut wine) making



## Products from Mexico:

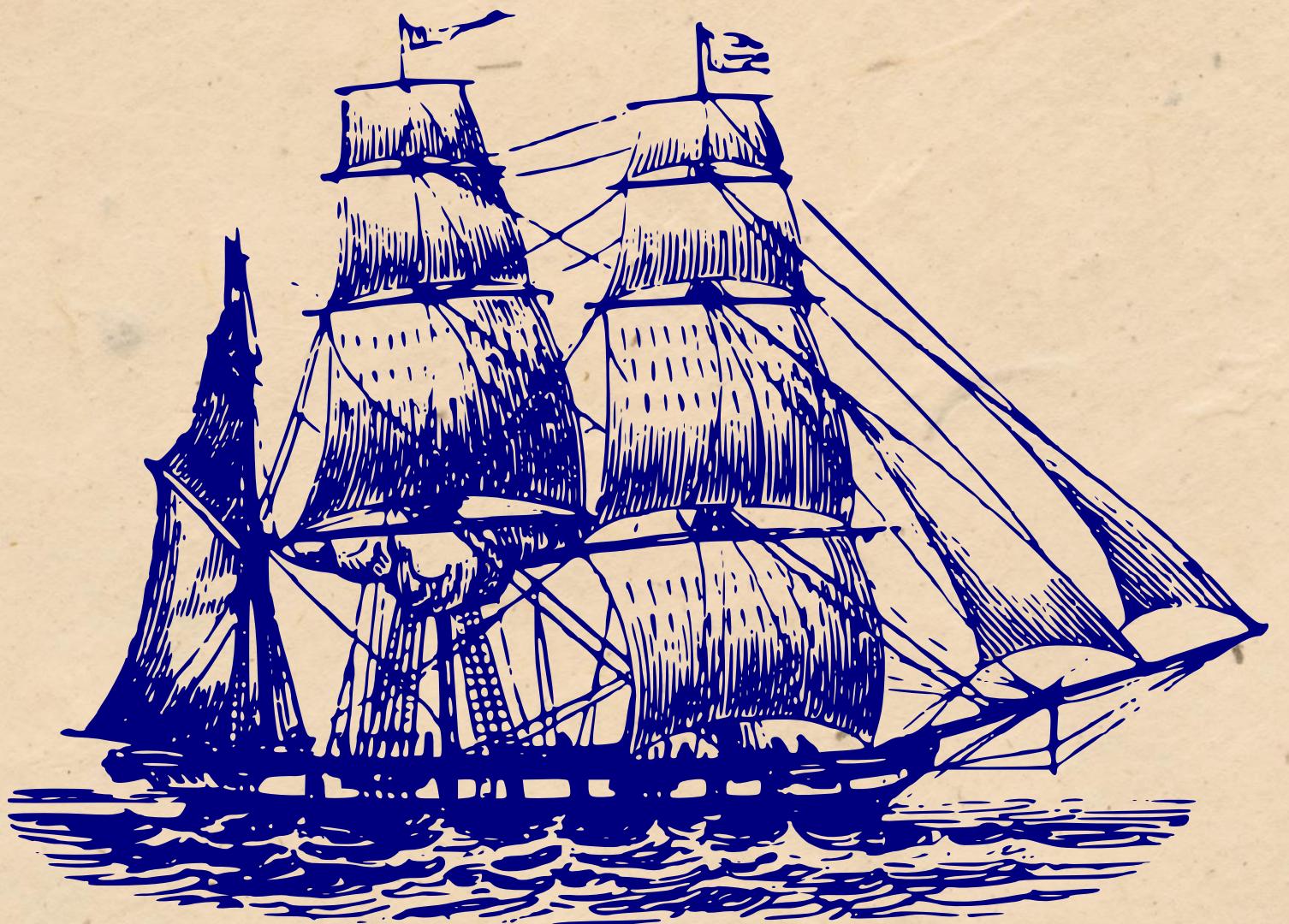
- Guava
- Avocado
- Papaya
- Pineapple
- Horses
- Cattle



# MANILA GALLEON TRADE

It allowed modern, liberal ideas to enter the Philippines, inspiring the movement for independence from Spain.

On **September 14, 1815**, the Galleon Trade ended with Mexico's war of independence.



# OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL

The **Suez Canal** is an artificial waterway in Egypt which connects the Mediterranean sea to the Red sea through the isthmus of Suez.

It was constructed by the **Suez Canal Company** between 1859 and 1869 under the leadership of French diplomat **Ferdinand de Lesseps**.

The Suez Canal was officially opened on **November 17, 1869**.



# OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL

With its opening, the distance of travel between Europe and the Philippines was considerably abbreviated, bringing the country virtually closer to Spain.

With the Suez Canal, the voyage was lessened from more than three months to only **32 to 40 days**.



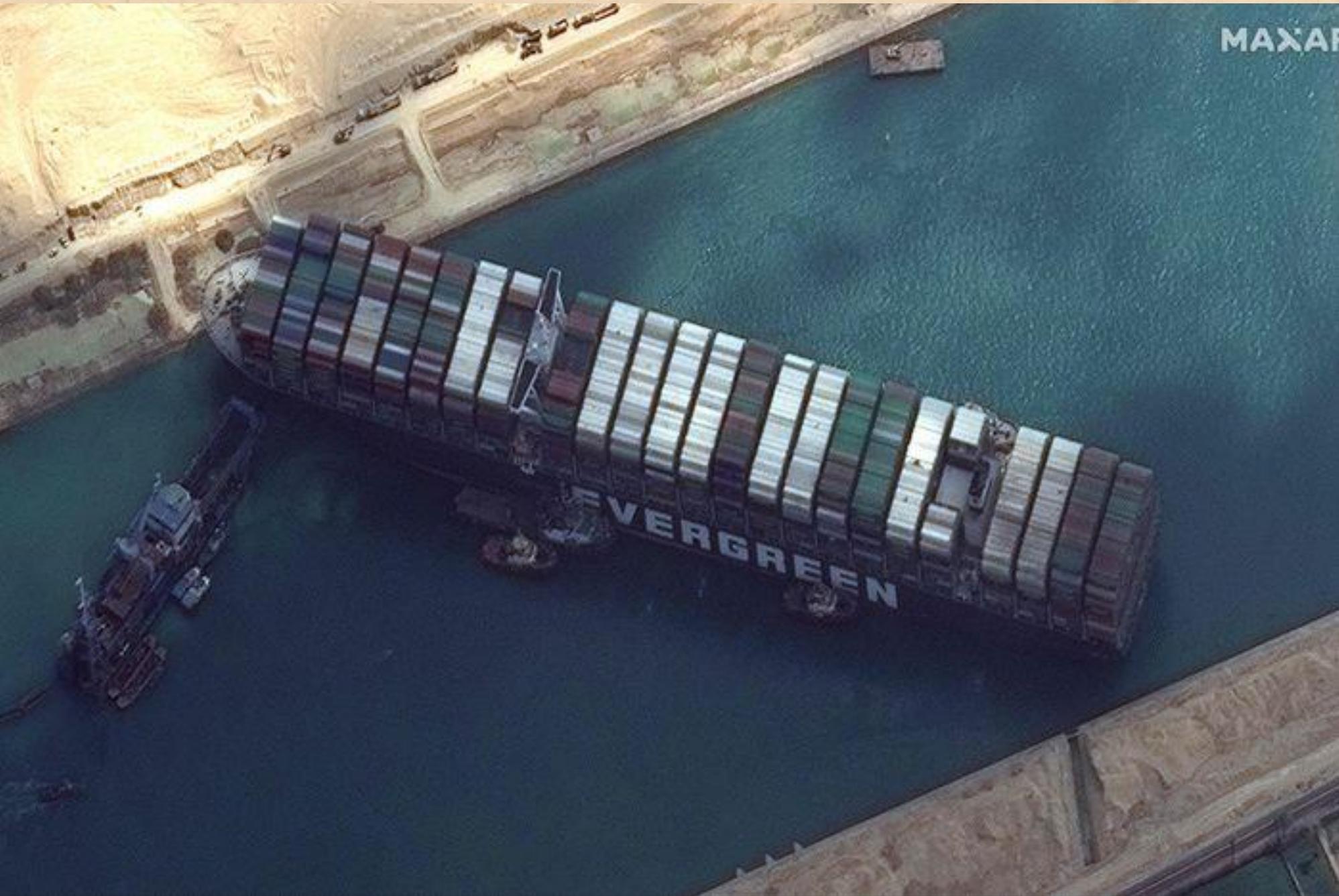
# OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL

It became a huge advantage in commercial enterprises especially between Europe and East Asia.

It also served as a significant factor that enabled the growth of nationalistic desires of Jose Rizal and other Filipino ilustrados.



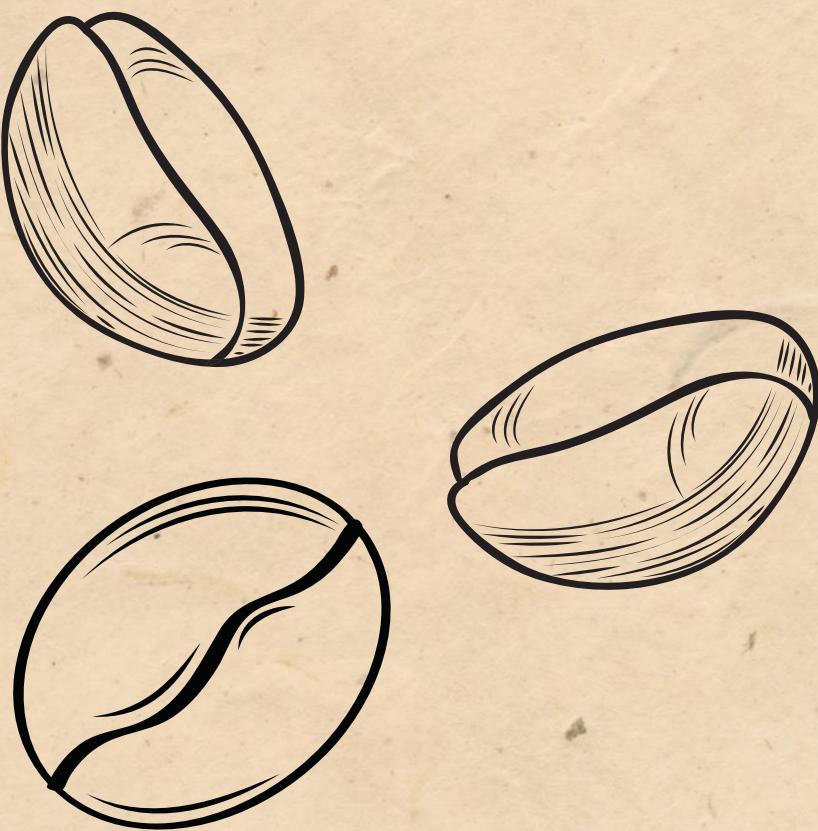
# OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL



# RISE OF THE EXPORT CROP ECONOMY

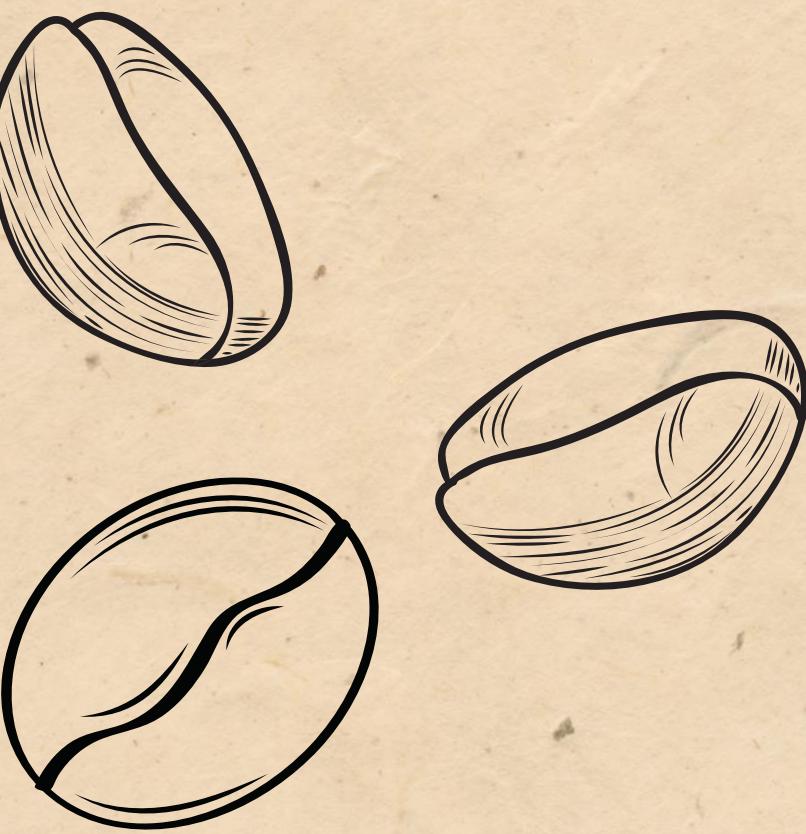
Some years after the end of the Galleon Trade, between 1820 and 1870, the Philippines was well on its way of developing an export crop economy.

This was motivated by the commercial undertakings of North European and North American merchants who provided capital, organization, and access to foreign markets and sources imports.



# RISE OF THE EXPORT CROP ECONOMY

Products such as sugar, Manila hemp, and coffee were produced for foreign markets while imported goods of the European factory industry found their way into many parts of the Philippines.



# MONOPOLIES

Another main source of wealth during the post-galleon era was monopoly contracting.

After 1850, government monopoly contracts for the collection of revenues were opened to foreigners for the first time. The Chinese instantly took advantage of this commercial opportunity.



# MONOPOLIES

The **opium monopoly** was a specifically profitable one. During the 1840s, the Spanish government legalized the use of opium (provided it was limited to Chinese) and a government monopoly of opium importation and sales was created.

The majority of contracts in the monopoly were held by the Chinese.



# MONOPOLIES

## Monopolies before 1850

- spirituous liquors (1712-1864)
- betel nut (1764)
- tobacco (1782-1882)
- explosives (1805-1864)



# MONOPOLIES

Among those monopolies, the most controversial and oppressive to locals was perhaps the tobacco monopoly.

On March 1, 1782, Governor-General Jose Basco placed the tobacco industry under government control, thereby establishing the tobacco monopoly.



# MONOPOLIES

It aimed to increase government revenues to maintain the colony.

An order was issued for the widespread cultivation of tobacco in the provinces of Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Isabela, Abra, Nueva Ecija, and Marinduque.



# MONOPOLIES

These 8 provinces planted nothing but tobacco and sold their produce only to the government at a pre-designated price, leaving little to no profit for the local farmers.

The system set the required number of tobacco plants that must be sold to them by each family.



# MONOPOLIES

The tobacco monopoly positively raised revenues for the government and made Philippine tobacco prominent all over Asia and some parts of Europe.

Negatively, the monopoly brought food shortages since the planting of basic crops like rice was neglected and abandoned.



# MONOPOLIES

The tobacco monopoly was abolished in 1882



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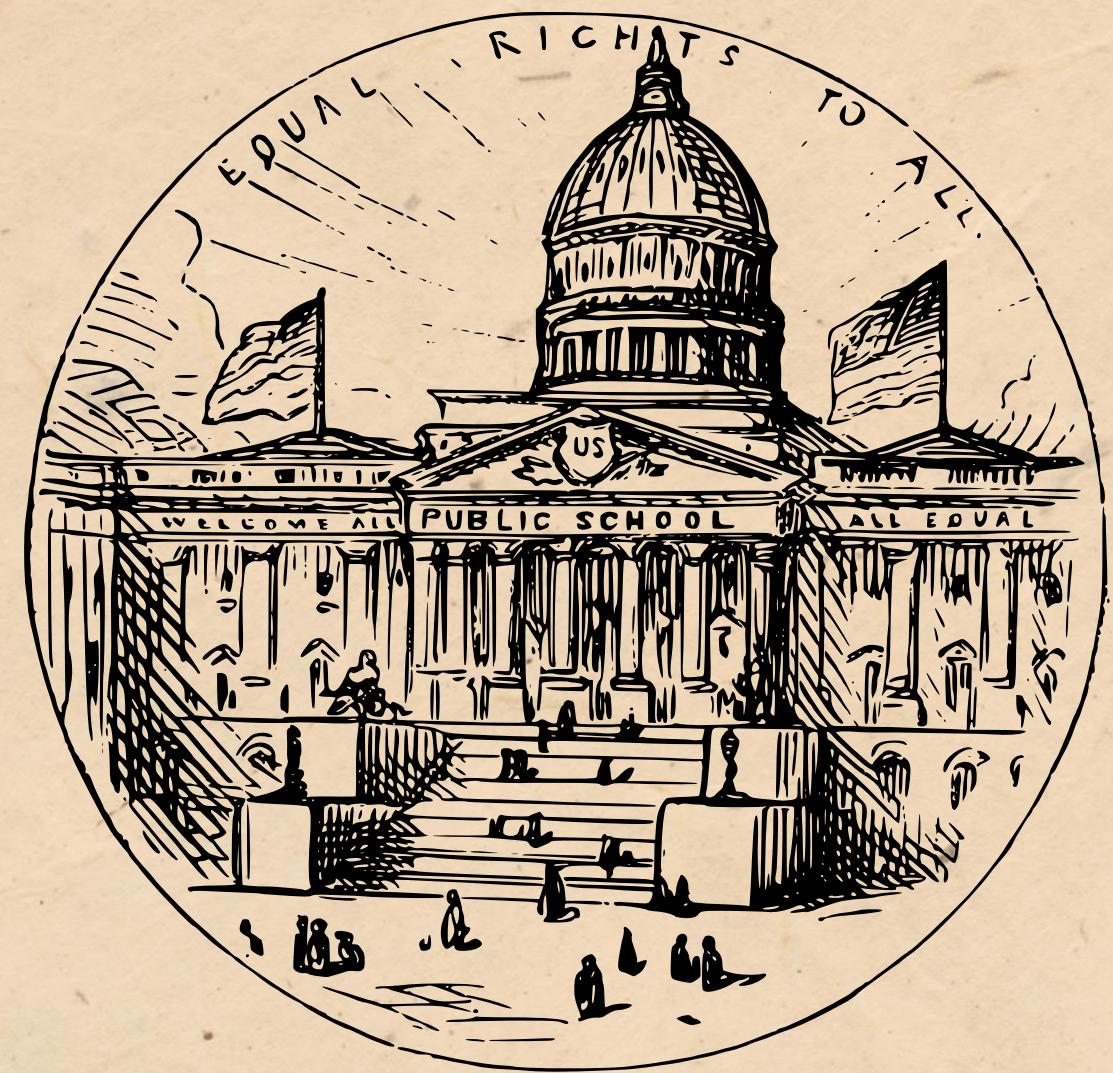
# Social Background



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

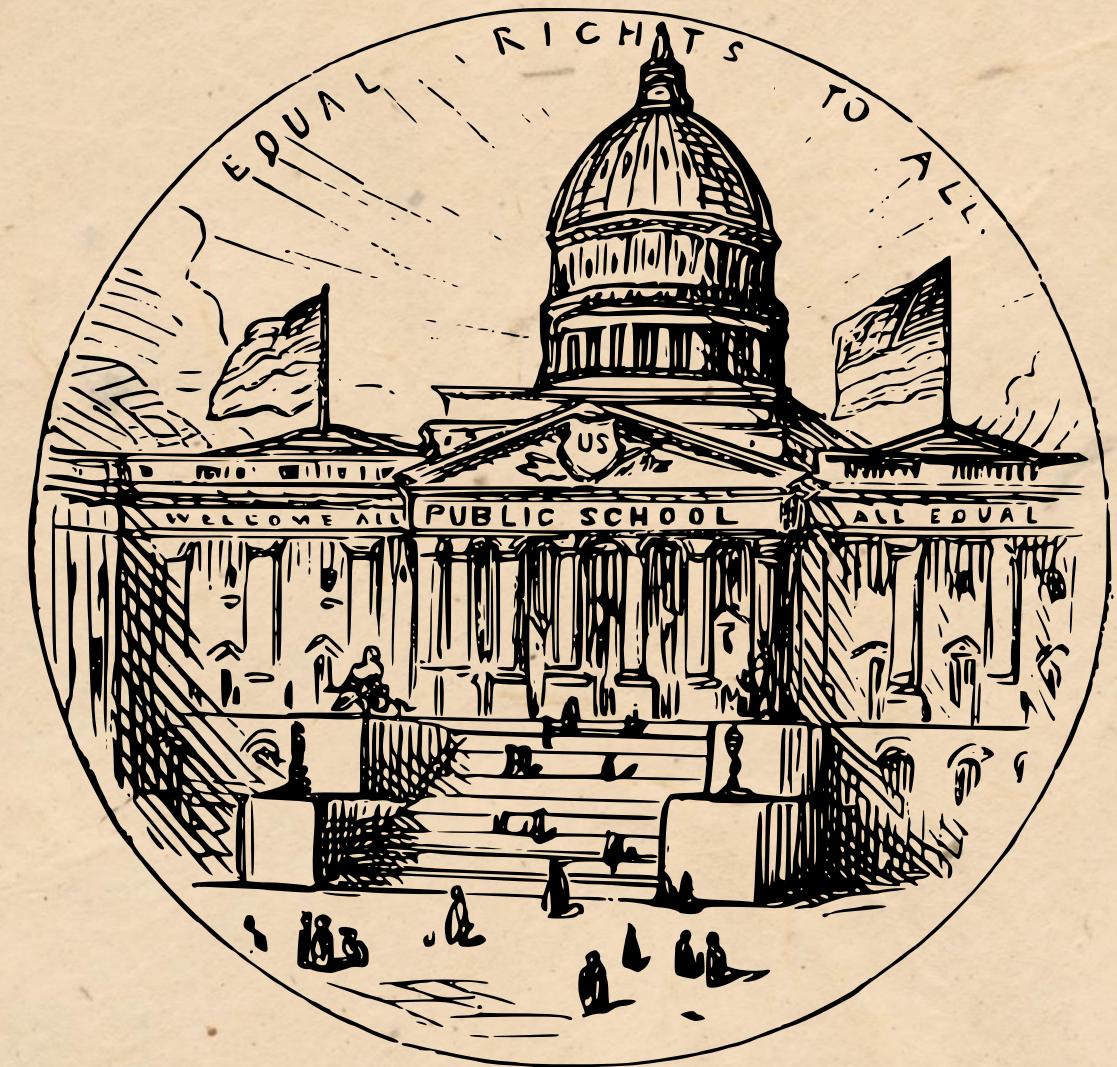
With the coming of the Spanish colonizers, the European system of education was introduced to the archipelago. Schools were established and run by Catholic missionaries.

With the aim to convert the natives to the Catholic faith and make them obedient, religion was made a compulsory subject at all levels



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

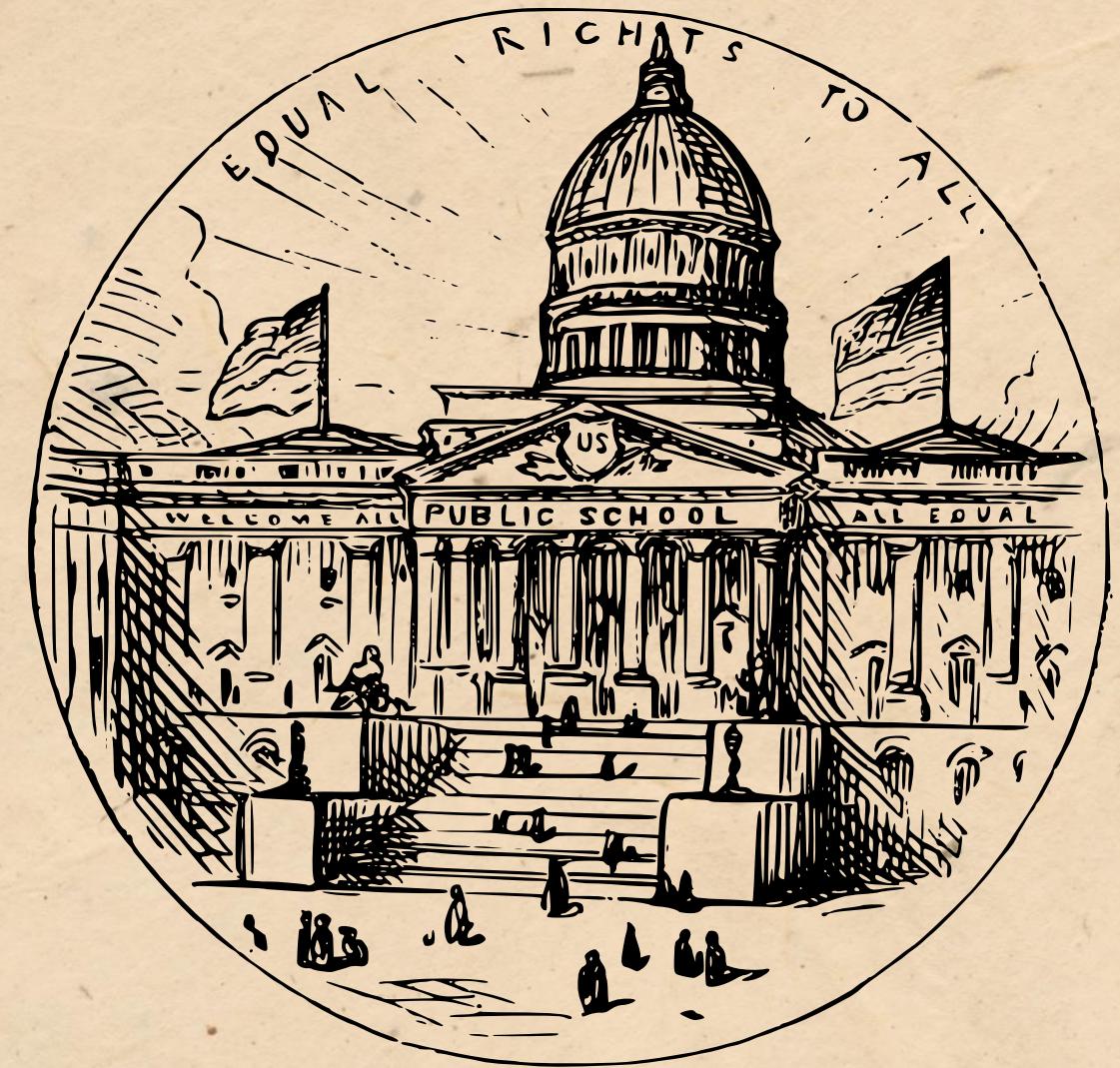
King Philip II's Leyes de Indias (Laws of the Indies) mandated the Spanish authorities in the Philippines to educate the locals, to teach them how to read, and write, and learn Spanish.



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

The first formal schools were the parochial schools opened in their parishes by missionaries such as Augustinians, Franciscans, Jesuits, and Dominicans.

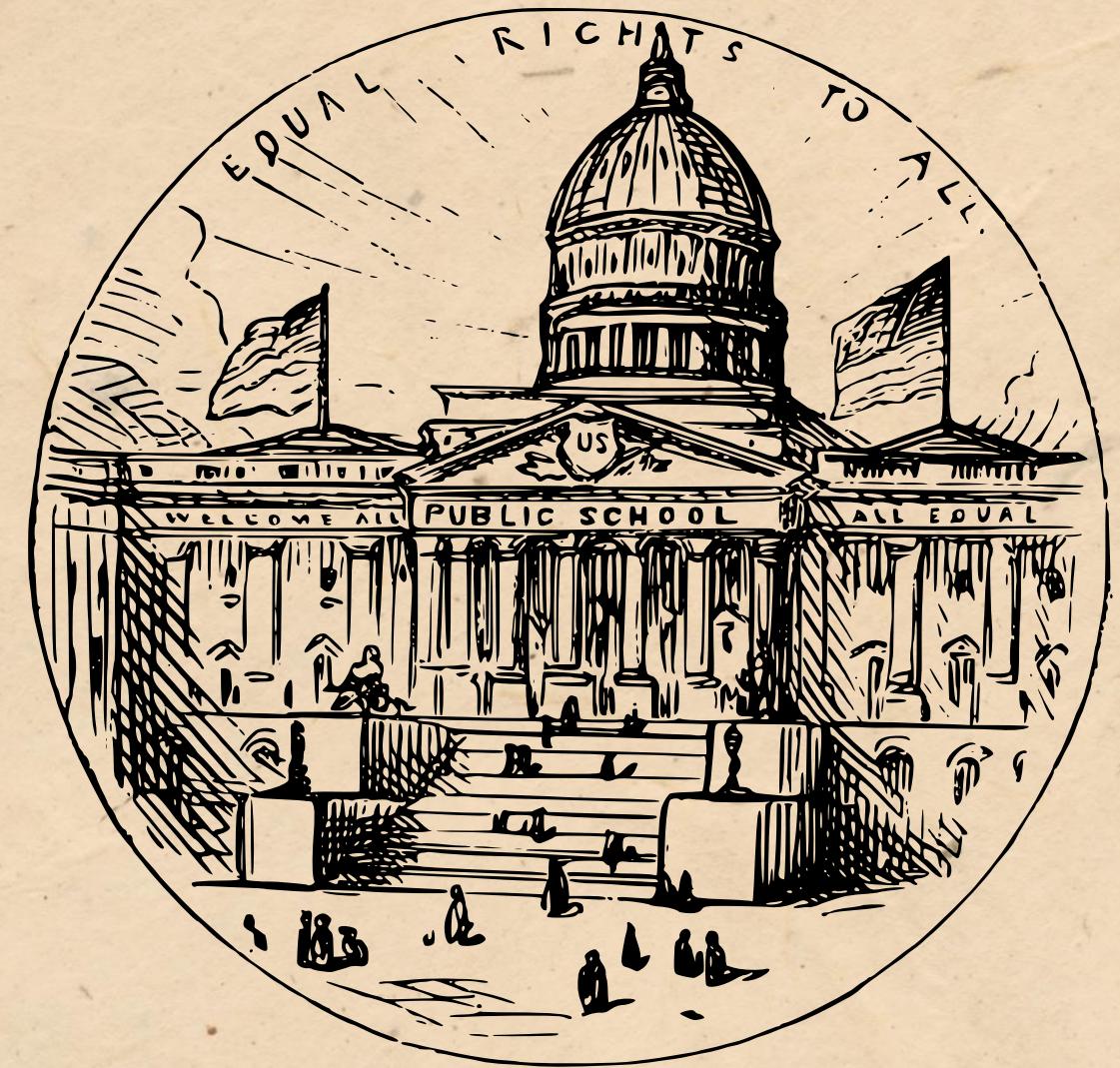
Aside from religion, native children were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and some vocational and practical arts subjects.



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Later on, colleges were established for boys and girls.

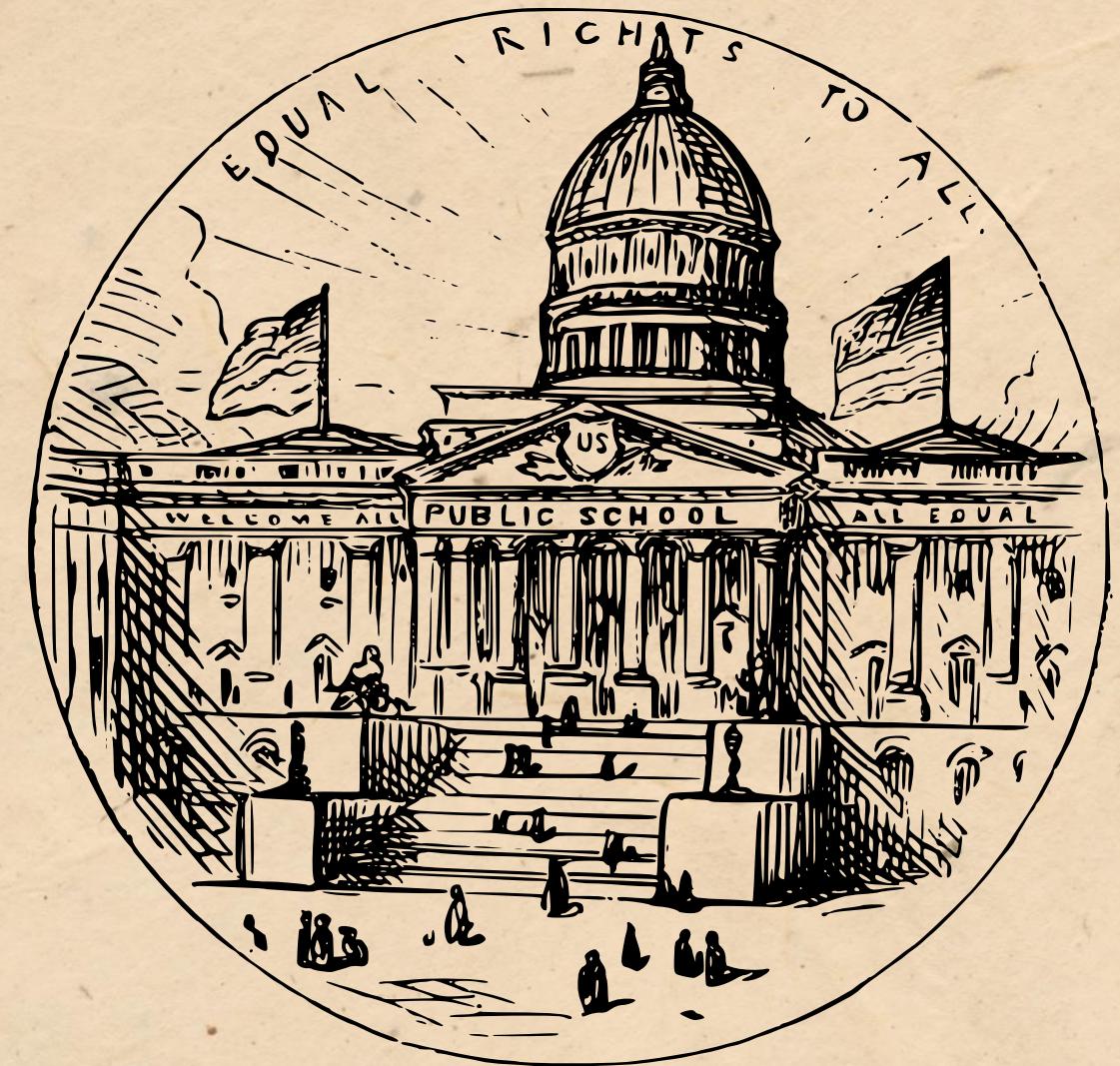
The subjects taught to college students include history, geography, Latin, mathematics, and philosophy.



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

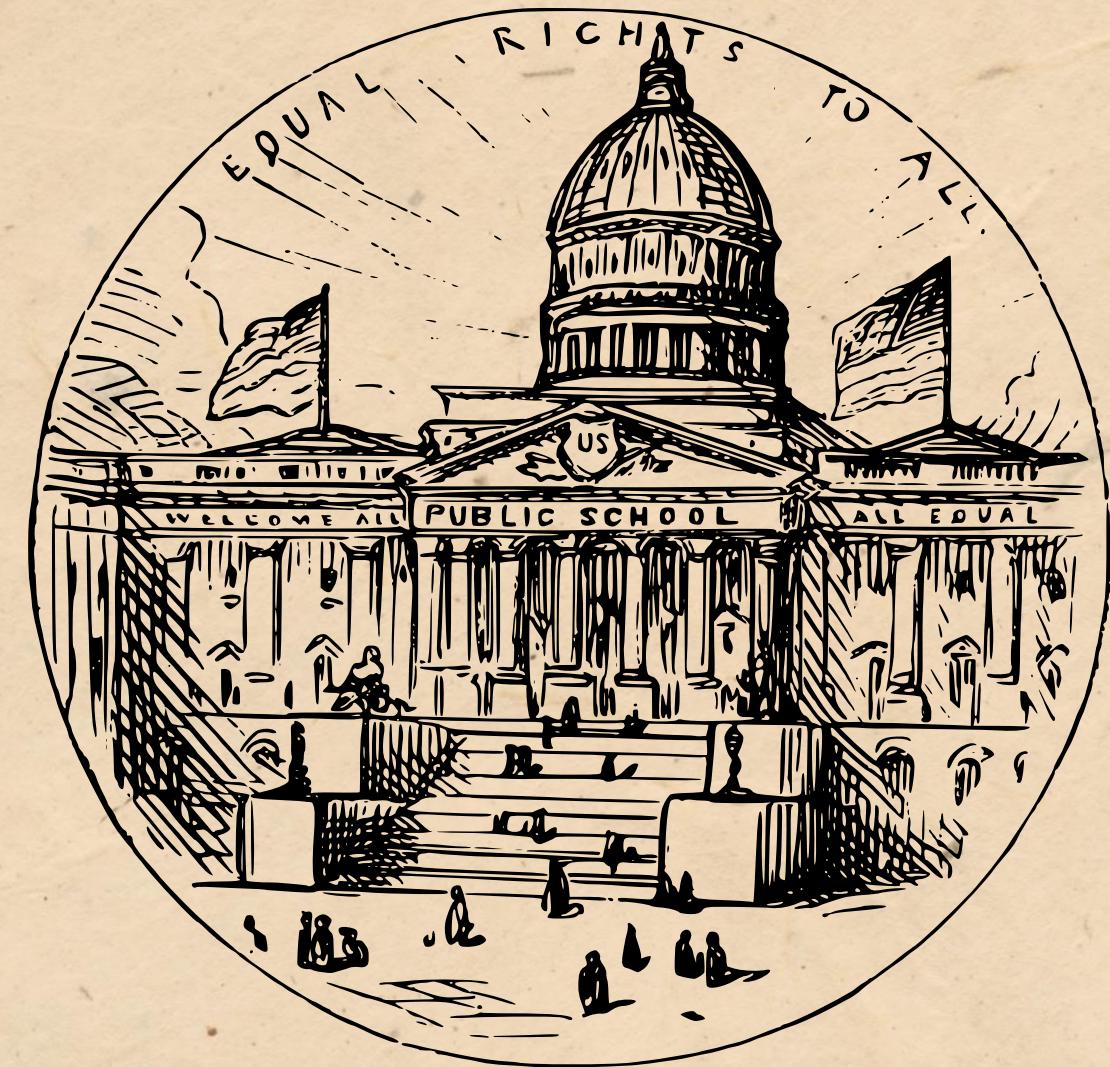
University education was opened in the country during the early 17th century.

Initially, colleges and universities were open only to the Spaniards and those with Spanish blood (mestizos). It was only in the 19th century that these universities started accepting native Filipinos.



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

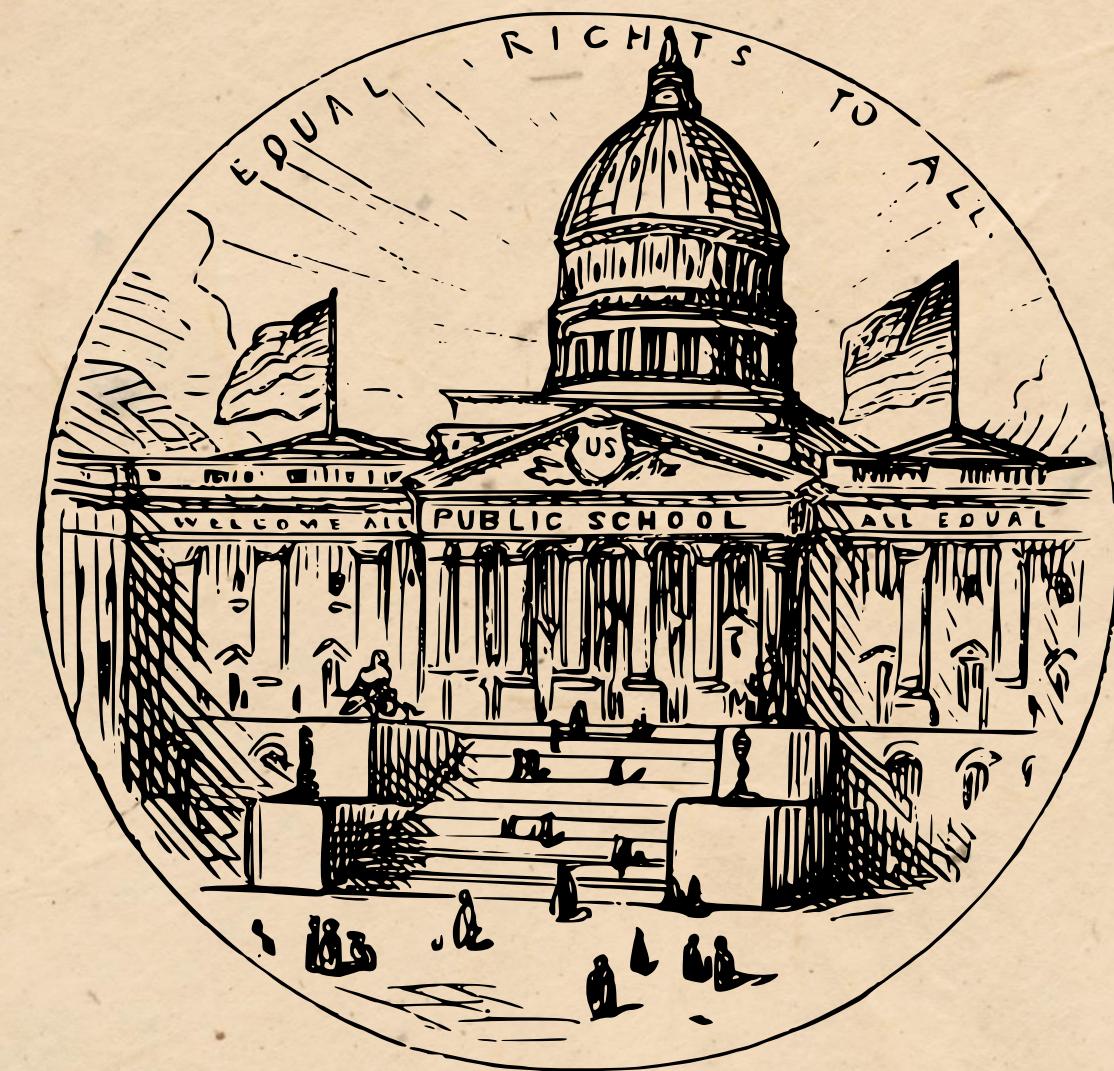
The Royal Decree of 1863 called for the establishment of a public school system in the Philippines.



# EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

The growing number of educated natives resulted to the emergence of a new social class in the country -- the *ilustrados*.

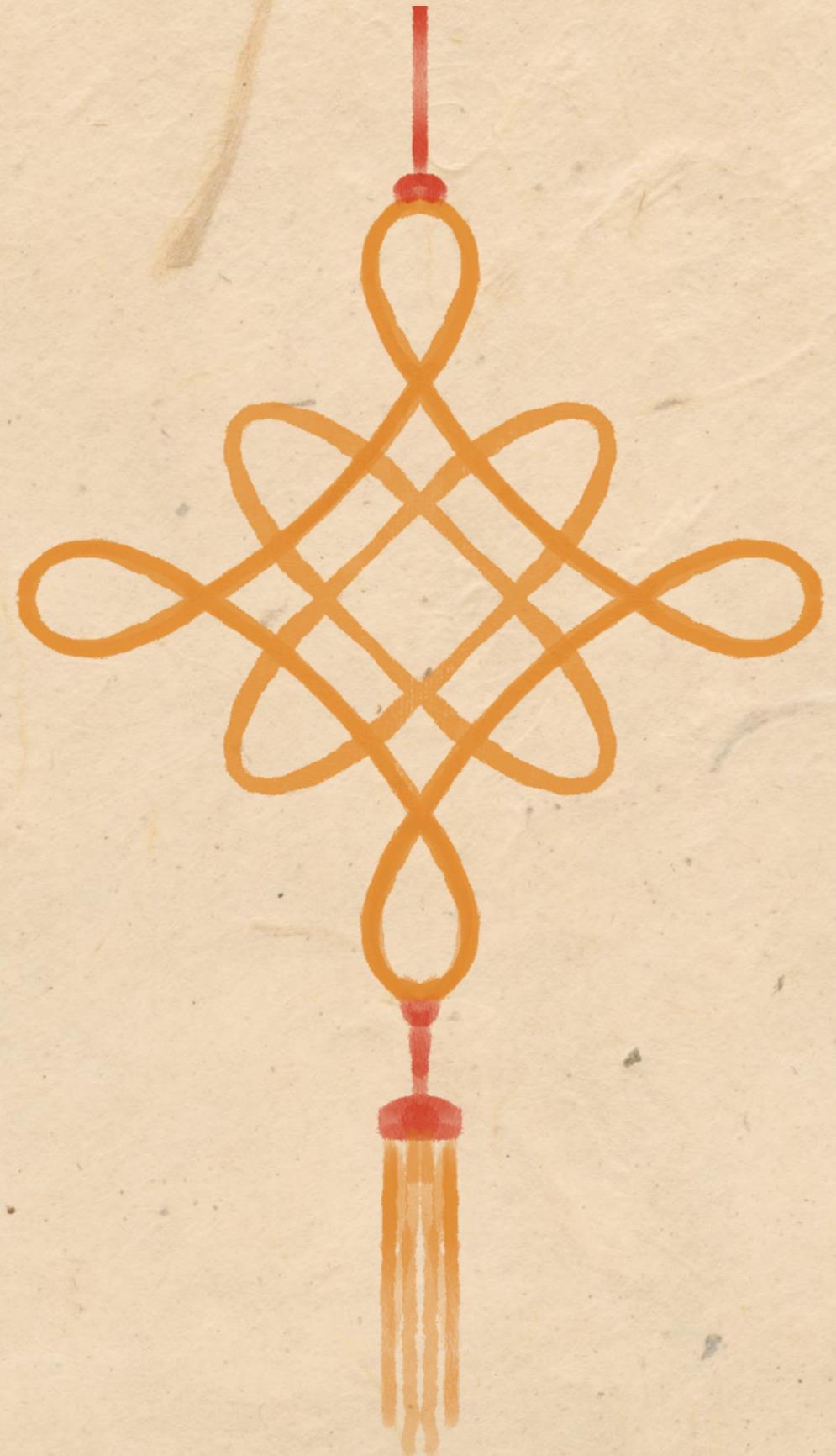
The most prominent of the *ilustrados* was Jose Rizal, who inspired the craving for freedom and independence with his novels written in Spanish.



# THE RISE OF THE CHINESE MESTIZO

The development of commercial agriculture in the archipelago resulted in the presence of a new class.

Alongside the landholdings of the church and the rice estates of the pre-Spanish nobility, there emerged haciendas of sugar, coffee, and hemp, typically owned by enterprising Chinese-Filipino mestizos.



# THE RISE OF THE INQUILINOS

The 19th century inquilino system in the Philippines is better understood as a qualified system of tenancy, or the right to use land in exchange for rent.

The end of the Galleon trade and the opening of Suez Canal gave way for more extensive rice cultivation and production of crops, making many estates turn to the inquilino system of land tenure.



# THE RISE OF THE INQUILINOS

Inquilinos paid a fixed rent and the amount was determined by the size and quality of the land being worked on.



# THE RISE OF THE INQUILINOS

As friar estates enlarged, outlining the boundaries that separated these estates from communal lands become a common cause of conflict.

Land border conflicts became so acute that they served as catalysts for agrarian uprisings.



2.

# Political Landscape



# Liberalism

Liberalism is a worldview founded on the ideas of freedom and equality. It includes a wide range of political philosophies that consider individual liberty to be the most significant political goal.

Liberals believe that government is necessary to protect individuals from being abused by others though they are also aware that government itself can pose a threat to liberty.



# Liberalism

The French Revolution (1789-1799) started a political revolution in Europe and in some other parts of the globe. This revolution became a period of fundamental change in the political history of France as the French government structure was changed from absolute monarchy to a more liberal government system founded on the principles of citizenship and inalienable rights.



# Liberalism

As a result of the French Revolution, Spain later experienced political disturbances which included numerous changes in parliaments and constitutions, the Peninsular war, the loss of Spanish America, and the struggle between liberals and conservatives.

Radical modifications in government form were also introduced by liberals in Spain.



# Liberalism

The opening of the Suez Canal eased the importation of books, magazines, and newspapers with liberal ideas from the West.

Jean Jacques Rousseau – Social Contract

John Locke – Two Treatises of Government

Thomas Paine – Common Sense

Thomas Jefferson

Charles Louis de Secondat

François-Marie Arouet



# Liberalism

Philippines' actual experience of liberalism came from the role -modeling of the “first liberal governor-general in the Philippines”, Governor-General Carlos Maria de la Torre.

After the liberals had deposed Queen Isabela II in the 1868 mutiny, a provisional government was formed. The new government extended to Spain's colonies the reforms implemented in the motherland.



# Liberalism

Governor-General Carlos Maria de la Torre was appointed by the provisional government as Governor-General of the Philippines (1869-1871). He is widely considered to be the most beloved of the Spanish Governor-Generals ever assigned in the country.

His rule was essential in the dawn of national consciousness of the locals in the 19th century.



# Liberalism

His liberal and democratic governance had provided Jose Rizal and the others a preview of a democratic rule and way of life.

He avoided luxury and lived a simple life. He also encouraged freedom and abolished censorship. De la Torre also recognized the freedom of speech and of the press, which were guaranteed by the Spanish constitution.





## Impact of the Bourbon Reforms

Advocated by Spanish Bourbon King Philip V, and his successors, Ferdinand VI and Charles III. It is a century-long effort to reform and modify the Spanish empire.

These policy changes endeavored to curtail contraband commerce, reclaim control over transatlantic trade, restrict the church's power, reform state finances, and found tighter administrative and political control within the empire.



# Impact of the Bourbon Reforms

Ideally, the Bourbon reforms were advantageous to the Philippines which was under Spain from 1565 to 1898.

The reforms surely impacted the way the colony was run by Spanish administrators but only to a limited extent



## Impact of the Bourbon Reforms

However, the effectiveness of the reform was questionable since the policies lacked some ideological coherence, with the diverse and frequently contradictory aims of Madrid policy makers.

The process of the reforms was also complex, since the Spanish reformers sometimes promoted distinctly different kinds of policies for provinces in its diverse empire.



## Impact of the Bourbon Reforms

Its impact at least is that, it gave people, especially the natives in the Philippines, the idea that colonization could be done without much intervention from the Catholic Church.

# The Cadiz Constitution

During the Napoleonic occupation of Spain, a liberal constitution was promulgated in Cadiz in March 1812.

The Cadiz constitution was the first constitution in Europe to deal with national sovereignty, recognizing the sovereignty as coming from the people and not from the king.



# The Cadiz Constitution

The first delegates from the Philippines were Pedro Perez de Tagle and Jose Manuel Coretto who took their oath of office in Madrid.

The Cadiz constitution established the principles of universal male suffrage, national sovereignty, constitutional monarchy, and freedom of press.



# The Cadiz Constitution

The constitution was very influential in the Philippines in the 19th century as it was a liberal constitution which vested sovereignty in the people, recognized equality of all men, and the individual liberty of the citizen, and granted the right to suffrage.



# The Cadiz Constitution

Perks: Exclusion of the locals from paying tributes and rendering open administrations dependent on its equity provision.

King Fernando VII – announced that the Cadiz Constitution was invalid in May 1814, and reestablished absolute monarchy in Europe



**THANK YOU!**

