



Lesson 6

Rizal's Trial and Death

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Assess the truth on Rizal's trial based on facts and compare it to the present justice system that we have today.
- Enumerate the value and influence of Rizal's death towards the achievement of Philippine independence later on



Pre-test

Encircle the correct answer.

- Where was Rizal exiled?
A. Dapitan B. HongKong
- What is the novel of Rizal that is dedicated to the three priests?
A. Noli me Tangere B. El Filibusterismo
- When is the date of death of Rizal??
A. June 19, 1861 B. December 30 , 1896
- Where was Rizal imprisoned? ?
A. Fort Santiago B. Fort Bonifacio
- What is the last poem of Rizal?
A. Mi Primera B. Mi Ultimo Adios

Pre-activity

Find the following words inside the box.

- Santiago
- Bagumbayan
- Trinidad
- Paco Cemetery
- Laong-laan
- Polavieja
- Taviel
- Paciano
- Hall of Flags
- Talisay

T	U	G	B	N	K	F	S	X	C	A	Z	N	M	I
U	J	N	L	A	P	U	L	A	P	U	B	U	T	L
T	S	B	T	A	P	E	P	T	P	E	I	O	E	H
R	T	A	P	O	L	A	V	I	E	J	A	I	O	P
I	R	H	O	L	C	B	M	A	E	U	V	O	P	E
N	S	G	A	L	F	F	O	L	L	A	H	O	V	L
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D	Z	H	L	D	A	P	I	T	A	N	R	P	L	O
A	O	E	R	X	B	J	N	M	S	L	O	A	O	N
D	N	P	A	B	A	G	U	M	B	A	Y	A	N	G
L	A	S	S	E	U	R	O	P	E	A	I	T	E	L
A	I	P	A	C	O	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	A
O	C	M	S	E	R	U	O	P	N	O	G	A	R	A
G	A	S	P	A	I	N	Y	A	P	A	R	I	S	N
P	P	E	T	A	Y	A	S	I	L	A	T	A	L	I

Rizal Arrested Before Reaching Barcelona

On August 30, 1896, the revolutionists led by Andres Bonifacio attacked San Juan but was repulsed by heavy forces. On the same day, Governor General Ramon Blanco declared a State of War in 8 provinces believed to be the hotbed of revolution: Manila, Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac.

On September 1896, Jose Rizal left Manila Bay on board the steamer Isla de Panay. Rizal continued the voyage but he was unaware that since his departure in Manila, Gov. Gen. Blanco is plotting to arrest Rizal upon reaching Barcelona. On September 28, a passenger told Rizal the bad news that he would be arrested by order of Gov. Gen. Blanco and would be sent to prison in Ceuta (Spanish Morocco), Gibraltar. Rizal realized that he was fooled by the Spanish officials. September 30, he was formally notified that he should stay in his cabin until further orders from Manila. When the Steamer Isla de Panay arrived in Barcelona on October 3, 1896, Rizal remained there

for three days and was transferred to the prison Monjuich Castle on October 6, 1896. His jailor was the military Commander who happened to be **General Eulogio Despujol**, who ordered his banishment to Dapitan. In the afternoon of the same day, he was brought to the headquarters of General Despujol. In the interview told Rizal that he would be shipped back to Manila on board which was leaving evening. At 8:00 pm., the ship colon left Barcelona with Rizal on Board.

On November 3, the Colon reached Manila. Rizal was greeted by the Spaniards and Rizal was then transferred under heavy guards to Fort Santiago. November 29, Rizal underwent a 5-day investigation where he was informed of his charges and questions were asked to him by the Judge Advocate, Colonel Francisco Olive. He was not permitted to confront those who testified against him.

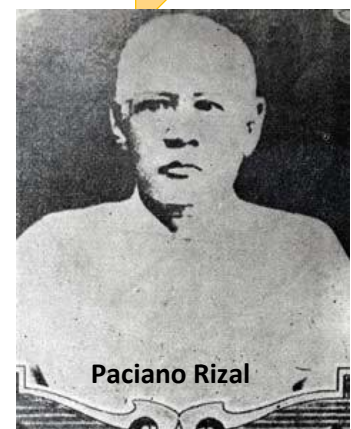


Illustrative photo of handcuffs
(photo credit: ING IMAGE/ASAP)

There are two kind of evidences that were presented against Rizal:

1. Testimonial evidences

Many Filipino patriots (Martin Constantino, Aguedo del Rosario, Jose Reyes, Moises Salvador, Jose Dizon, Domingo Franco, Deodato Arellano, Pio Valenzuela, Antonio Salazar, Francisco Quison, and Timoteo Paez, Ambrosio Salvador, Pedro Serrano Laktaw) were tortured to implicate Rizal. Even his elder brother, was arrested and cruelly tortured but he never signed any statement that would incriminate Rizal.



2.Documentary evidences

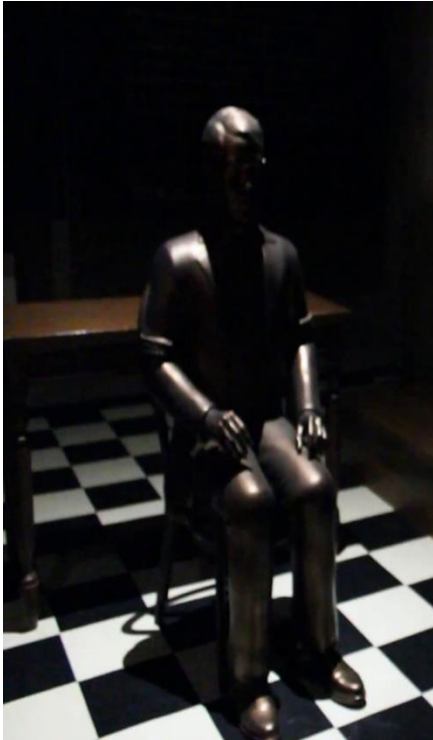
1. A letter to Antonio Luna to Mariano Ponce showing Rizal's connection with the Filipino reform campaign in Spain
2. A letter of Rizal to his family stating that deportations would encourage the people to hate tyranny.
3. A letter from Marcelo H. Del Pilar to Deodato Arellano implicating Rizal in the Propaganda campaign in Spain
4. A poem entitled "Kundiman" allegedly written by Rizal (actually by Pedro Paterno)
5. A letter of Carlos Olive to unidentified person describing Rizal as the man to free the Philippines
6. A masonic document honoring Rizal for his patriotic services
7. A speech of Pingkian (Emilio Jacinto) in a reunion of the Katipunan where they shouted "Long live the Philippines! Love live Liberty! Long live Dr. Rizal"
8. Speech of Tik-Tik in the same Katipunan reunion, wherein the katipuneros shouted; "Long live the eminent Doctor Rizal"
9. A poem by Laong laan (Rizal) entitled a Talisay, where the author makes the Dapitan schoolboys sing that they know how to fight for their own freedom.
10. A letter signed by Rizal to Zulueta stating his preparation for safe refuge for Filipinos who may be persecuted by the Spanish authorities.
11. A letter of Dimasalang to an unidentified committee soliciting the aid of committee in the patriotic work.
12. Letter to the editor of Hong Kong telegraph censuring the banishment of Rizal in Dapitan.
13. A letter of Ildefonso Laurel to Rizal saying that the Filipino people should look up to Rizal as their savior.
14. A letter of Del Pilar to Don Juan recommending the establishment of a special organization, independent of Masonry to help the cause of Filipino people.
15. A letter of Ildefonso Laurel to Rizal informing of unidentified correspondent of the arrest and banishment of Doroteo Cortes and Ambrosio Salvador.

Colonel Olive transmitted the records of the case to Governor General Ramon Blanco who, in turn, appointed Captain Rafael Dominguez as the Special Judge advocate to file the action against Rizal.

Findings of Capt. Rafael Dominguez

1. Rizal was the principal organizer of the Philippine revolution
2. Rizal is the founder of the societies and newspaper
3. Rizal was the author of books designed to propagate the ideas of rebellion and sedition
4. Rizal was the principal leader of the anti-government movement of the country





Dominguez, after a brief review, transmitted the records to Don Nicolas de la Peña, the Judge Advocate General, for an opinion. Peña's recommendations were as follows:

1. Rizal must be immediately sent to trial
2. He must be held in prison under necessary security
3. His properties must be issued with order of attachment, and as indemnity, Rizal had to pay one million pesos
4. Instead of a civilian lawyer, only an army officer is allowed to defend Rizal.

On December 10, it was decided that the case against Rizal be heard by a **court martial**. The charge against him carried the **death penalty**. But Governor Blanco, whose confirmation was required, had decided in advance that he would veto a death sentence.

Hence, Archbishop Nozaleda and the Provincials of the religious orders used all possible means, including bribery, to bring about Blanco's ouster. They sent a telegram to their cohorts in Madrid. The telegram read thus:

"Situation more grave. Revolt spreading. Apathy of Blanco

unexplainable. To remove danger, an urgent necessity is the appointment of a chief (new governor general). Opinion unanimous, Archbishop and Provincials."

On December 11, the information of charges was formally read in Rizal's prison cell. Rizal was accused of three crimes:



Rebellion



Sedition



Illegal association



Luis Taviel de Andrade

Rizal was denied the right of counsel. He was given a list of strange army officers from which he will choose his defender. Dr. Rizal chose **Lt. Luis Taviel de Andrade**, whose brother Jose was assigned as personal bodyguard during his stay in the country in 1887-1888. Lieutenant Luis Taviel de Andrade did everything to have a fair trial.

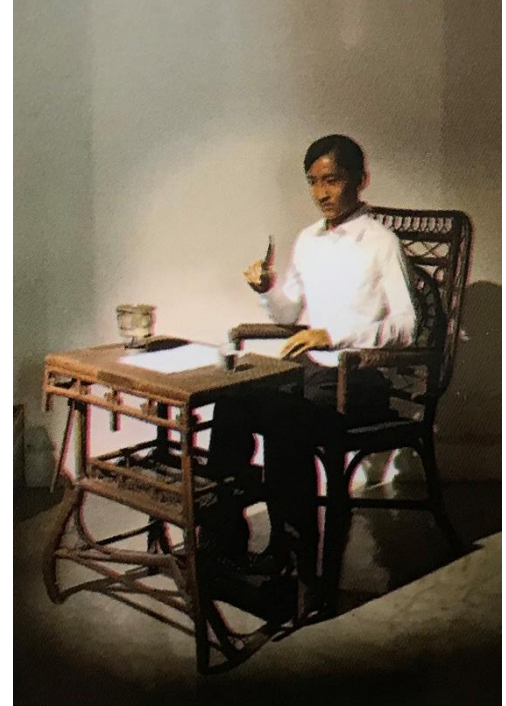
RIZAL'S LIFE AND WORKS

On December 13, Blanco was replaced by General Camilo S. Polavieja.

On December 15, Rizal's case was endorsed to Blanco's successor, Governor Camilo de Polavieja, who had ordered that the case be court martialled. On the same day, Rizal wrote in his prison cell at Fort Santiago a Manifesto addressed to the people appealing to them to stop the unnecessary shedding of blood and achieve their liberties by means of education and industry. However, Judge Advocate, Nicolas dela Pena recommended to Polavieja that the manifesto be defeated. Polavieja ordered the prohibition of its publication.

On December 19, Polavieja ordered the judge to proceed with Rizal's trial.

On December 26, Dr. Rizal was tried by a Court Martial of seven Spanish army officers, headed by Lt. Col. Jose Tagores Arajona. Lt. Luis Taviel de Andrade took the floor reading his speech in defense of Rizal. To supplement this, Rizal read his own defense which he wrote in his cell in Fort Santiago. According to Rizal, there are twelve points to prove his innocence:



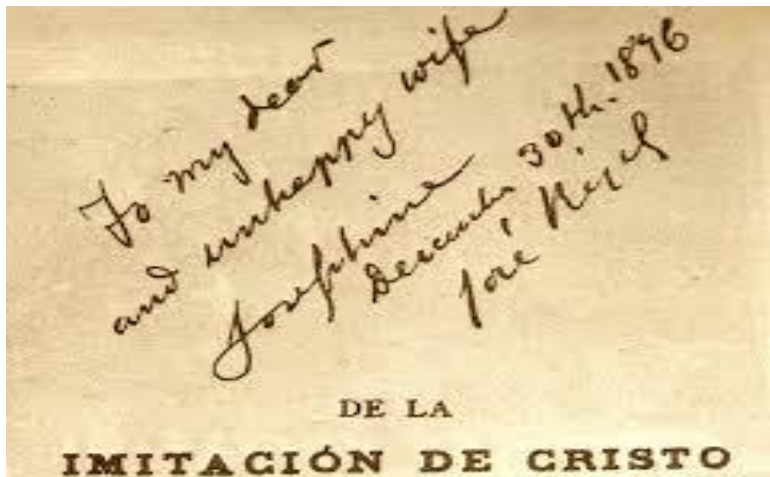
1. as testified by Pio Valenzuela, Rizal was against rebellion
2. he had not written a letter addressed to the Katipunan comprising revolutionary elements
3. without his knowledge, his name was used by the Katipunan; if he really was guilty, he could have escaped while he was in Singapore
4. if he was guilty, he should have left the country while in exile; he should not have built a home, bought a parcel of land or established a hospital in Dapitan.
5. if he was really the leader of the revolution, the revolutionists should have consulted him.
6. he did not deny that he wrote the by-laws of the La Liga Filipina, but to make things clear, the organization was a civic association, not a revolutionary society.
7. after the first meeting of La Liga, the association banished because of his exile in Dapitan, thus, did not last long.
8. if the La Liga was reorganized nine months later, he had no idea about it
9. if the La Liga had a revolutionary purpose, then Katipunan should not have been organized.
10. if the Spanish authorities found his letters having bitter atmosphere, it was because in 1890 his family was being persecuted resulting to their dispossession of properties and deportation of all his brothers-in-law.
11. he lived an exemplary life in Dapitan – the politico-military commanders and missionary priests in the province could attest to that.
12. if according to witnesses the speech he delivered at Doroteo Ongjunco's house had inspired the revolution, then he wants to confront these persons. If he really was for the revolution, then why did the Katipunan sent an unfamiliar emissary to him in Dapitan? It is so because all his friends were aware that he never advocated violence.

RIZAL'S LIFE AND WORKS

But the military court remained indifferent to the pleas of Rizal. After a short deliberation, he was **sentenced to be shot in musketry until death at 7 o'clock in the morning of December 30, 1896 at Bagumbayan**. The decision was submitted to Gov. Polavieja who immediately sought the opinion of Nicolas de la Peña – the latter found the verdict just and final.

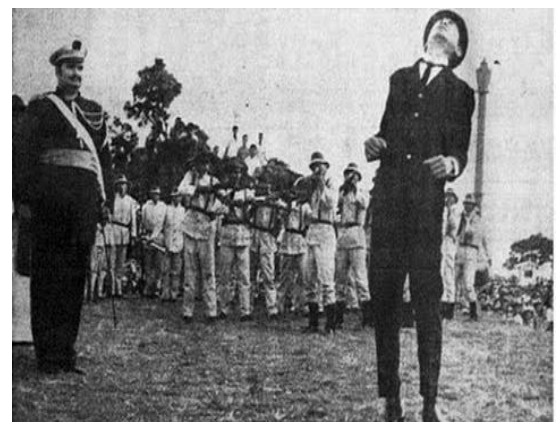
On December 28, Governor General Polavieja signed the court's decision and decreed that the accused Jose Rizal should be executed before a firing squad at 7 o'clock in the morning of December 30th on the field of Bagumbayan.

In the morning of December 29, Dr. Rizal was formally notified of his death sentence. He was visited by Fr. Viza and gave Rizal the statuette he had carved as an Ateneo student. At 12 noon to 3 pm., Rizal wrote his last poem "**Mi Ultimo Adios**" and his last letter to Blumentritt. At 4 pm, his aged mother and sister Trinidad visited him and Rizal hid his last poem in his alcohol cooking lamp, which he gave to his sister Trinidad. At 10 pm, **Rizal received the draft of retraction but he rejected it**. At 5:30 am, he wrote two letters for his family and to Paciano. Josephine and his sister Josefa arrived, and **gave Josephine a last gift-imitation of Christ**.



At 6:30 am, the death march started and Rizal was dressed elegantly and his arms are tied behind his back. Beside him is Lt. Luis de Andrade, who had defended him in the trial, Fathers Vilaclara and March. Behind him were soldiers. At about 7:03 in the morning, **Rizal was shot and fell on the ground at the age of 35 years, 5 months, and 11 days**.

Many Spaniards present at the execution shouted "Long Live Spain" and "Death to Traitors." The artillery band played "Marcha de Cadiz". Eventually, the crowd disappeared from the place of execution of our great hero- JOSE RIZAL.





He was **secretly buried in Pacò Cemetery in Manila with no identification on his grave**. His sister Narcisa toured all possible gravesites and found freshly turned earth at the cemetery with guards posted at the gate. Assuming this could be the most likely spot, there never having been any ground burials, she made a gift to the caretaker to mark the site "RPJ", Rizal's initials in reverse.



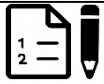
Summary

- There are two kind of evidences that were presented against Rizal: Testimonial and documentary evidences.
- Rizal was accused of three crimes: rebellion, sedition and illegal association.
- Luis Taviel de Andrade defended Rizal on his trial.
- Rizal wrote his last poem "Mi Ultimo Adios".
- Rizal received the draft of retraction but he rejected it.
- Rizal was shot and fell on the ground at the age of 35 years, 5 months, and 11 days.
- He was secretly buried in Pacò Cemetery in Manila with no identification on his grave

REFERENCES/ONLINE SOURCES

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- coogle.it>diagram>jose-p-rizal
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- Video clip: Jose Rizal (1998) Movie by Cesar Montano

ASSESSMENT



TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. Enumerate the values and influences of Rizal's death towards the achievement of Philippine independence.
2. Why Jose Rizal considered one of our greatest hero?
3. Why do you think the Spaniards was so keen to sentenced Rizal as guilty and be convicted with death sentence? Give at least three reasons you can think of.



Post-test

Write the correct answer on the space provided before each number.

- _____ 1. What are the two kind of evidences that were presented against Rizal?
- _____ 2. _____
- _____ 3. Who is the Special Judge Advocate appointed by Gov. Gen. Ramon Blanco to file a case against Rizal?
- _____ 4. What is the letter inside the alcohol cooking lamp given by Rizal to Trinidad?
- _____ 5. Who is the Governor General that replaced Gov. Gen. Ramon Blanco?
- _____ 6. What is the exact age of Rizal when he was executed?
- _____ 7. Where was Rizal's body buried?
- _____ 8. What did the artillery band played when Rizal was shot dead?
- _____ 9. What was Rizal's sentenced that Governor General Ramon Blanco vetoed?
- _____ 10. What was Rizal's last gift to his wife Josephine?