


Editor's Note (September 2022 Special Issue)

 *TALA* has strived to fulfill its mission to disseminate historical knowledge and encourage historical inquiry among history enthusiasts and members of the academe since its inception in 2017. On its fifth year, the *TALA* Editorial Board decided to open its platform for an academic discussion of the years 1972 to 1981 in the Philippines, coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation that placed the Philippines under Martial Law.

It is the aim of the Editorial Board to provide fresh perspectives in that period of the national history which is regarded as a dark period-cum-golden age by its eyewitnesses and survivors. After fifty years, the Editorial Board believes it is time to step back and investigate the horizon and examine how Martial Law embedded itself in the national memory. The historical actors, eyewitnesses, and survivors may be looking onto the same horizon, but they are in different viewpoints. Hence, their perspectives of what is true during the years 1972 to 1981 are completely distinct from one another. Their versions of truth on what happened during the Martial Law period--however they believe it is the truth--will not be the same.

TALA believes that it is essential that these varying truths be documented and analyzed. These different viewpoints show how the Filipino nation remain divided in its designation of the historical significance of Martial Law. How important was the Martial Law to the country when it was proclaimed? How were many people's lives affected by it? How deeply did it affect the lives of the Filipinos both in the past and in the present? For how long did it affect the Filipino people's lives? How relevant is it to the lives of the Filipinos today? It is in answering these questions that the Filipino nation can face the reality on how to call the period of 1972 to 1981 in textbooks without fear of being regarded as a "Marcos Loyalist" or an "Anti-Marcos."

For the time being, *TALA* decided to call these years as Martial Law, as the late President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. stated in his televised address to the nation on 23 September 1972. The term, however divisive it is today, is the point where the different horizons of perspectives meet for it came from the horse's mouth, so to speak, and from the document read on that fateful day.

For this special issue, *TALA* offers four articles and a book review that give a glimpse of the verisimilar view of Martial Law in the Philippines through the lens of oral history, campus journalism, and films.

Glenn-Dale John C. Go's interpretation of selected oral narratives of the lived experiences of those who were in the country during Martial Law is a collaborative product of his students in the course Readings in Philippine History. Go used Hans-Georg Gadamer's theory of perspectives to interpret the oral interviews of his respondents. The interviews helped Go's students gain an understanding on one of history's truisms: facts remain the same, but interpretation differs.

Meanwhile, Anthony Andrew G. Divinagracia's essay focused on campus journalism, specifically, the University of Santo Tomas' *Varsitarian*. Divinagracia utilized phenomenological hermeneutics and Gadamer's fusion of horizons in narrating the Martial Law period as gleaned from the paper's coverage of the years 1970 to 1981.

Two articles in this special issue delved on films. The first is Abel A. Ubaldo's essay that narrated how the *Uhaw na Bulaklak* controversy pushed the limits of film censorship during the Martial Law period, revealing the state's hand on regulating the content and creativity of filmmakers to appease the conservatives while maintaining the image of the Marcoses as cinema patrons. The second article is Roberto Lim's comparative study of two films revealed that images portrayed in films may be used for historical studies, particularly when examining the deeper meaning of characters, storylines, and the film's historical context as narrated in *Liway* and *The Blue Kite*.

Finally, the lone book review by Mark Joseph P. Santos of *To Be in History: Dark Days of Authoritarianism* focused on the life stories during the Martial Law period and how these life stories are distorted in the age of misinformation and historical distortion.

TALA invites its readers to join this interesting time to be a student and enthusiast of history, of learning, of inquiring not only of our past but of our present, and our future. *

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