


## Editor's Note (Volume V, Number 1)

nthusiasts of history, it is with pride and honor that we bring you once more a new issue of TALA: An Online Journal of History. Now in its fifth year, we would like to present new research outputs in history.

This issue focuses on the continued relevance of studying and writing history. The pandemic revealed the vulnerabilities of our current society, especially in disseminating information and validating the authenticity and truthfulness of facts. This problem has been exacerbated by the widespread use of social media, which has been used as a tool to misinform the great majority of the people. Hence, people are now confused about distinguishing what is right from wrong and what is valid from not. With these current challenges, we are then called back to our roots and redeem the lost knowledge of the past. This journal's objective is to unravel the pieces of knowledge hidden in the past through publishing scholarly and well-researched articles that counter the elements of historical distortion and negation.

The issue cover is indicative of such a clarion call to know the past through responsible historical research. What we see here is an image of a person in a blindfold, holding a scale. We see a book, a piece of parchment, and a bust on one end. The latter items symbolize the past, while the book depicts the act of recovering it through research. Conversely, we see the logos of well-known social networking sites collectively representing social media. We see the scales tipped overwhelmingly to the latter's favor. Returning to the figure and scale, the figure symbolizes society while the scale epitomizes its preference. While the blindfold represents misinformation, taken together, the cover shows that society weighs what it sees on social media more than what research has established. This is simply because social media has become fertile ground for the proliferation of misinformation, which the populace has consumed.

This journal cannot fight historical negationism and distortion alone. Without the help of its contributors who put their support and faith in TALA, the publication would only be like an unlit candle in the dark. For this reason, we would like to express our warm and sincerest gratitude to the contributors and readers of TALA for continuously supporting the publication and helping

the editorial board fulfill its objective to disseminate credible historical research and promote the culture of research in history.

As we continue this journey, this issue will present nine new pieces of historical literature. Eight of them are articles and one book review.

Inspired by this issue's theme, we offer articles and a book review that delves into the different facets of Philippine history. While they differ in subject matter, they showcase the importance of historical research and how well-researched literature can combat the twin problems of historical distortion and negation.

For the articles, Noralia Ibrahim wrote a detailed examination of the symbols found in two of Lanao's traditional implements of war, the *Sundang*, and *Kampilan*. Reidan Pawilen, on the other hand, explained how the American military's demand for food shaped American policies on animal disease control during the early years of the American colonial period. Meanwhile, Moises Orino gives us a detailed historical narrative of the Manila Incident of 1898, wherein American forces engaged in hostilities against the German naval forces stationed near the Philippines.

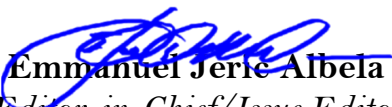
Turning his gaze towards Filipino historiography, Mark Joseph Santos attempts to unearth the various meanings and relevance attached to 1872 by examining historical literature written by prominent historians. Melanie Turingan and Glenn Reynon use the concept of *Cultural Energy* as espoused by Albert Alejo in understanding the religiosity of the people of Bulacan. Nikko Jay Ramos explores how Manuel Quezon, during his presidency, employed the idea of heroism in his rhetoric and executive acts. John Adrianfer Atienza traced the history of the Philippine historical film genre to inspire a deeper discussion. Last but not least, John Carlo Santos, using the concept of underdevelopment propounded by Gustavo Esteva analyzed the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project and the claims that its completion would bring prosperity to the people.

In his book review, Glenn-Dale Go looks into the acclaimed *An Anarchy of Families*, tackling how the historians involved in the book employed their methodology and framework in their analysis of Filipino political families.

Now more than ever, we must all realize the importance of combating the effects of historical distortion and negation to our society. We hope this modest exercise will continue to inspire our readers to learn from and spread reliable,

peer-reviewed historical content by publishing credible historical research on the internet free of charge. We also hope your continued support will lead you to contribute to existing historical literature by writing and submitting your works.

For the love of History,

  
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