

## Abstract

# A Study on the Formation of Jose Rizal as a National Hero in the Philippines

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This thesis aims to analyze the formation of Jose Rizal as a national hero. Jose Rizal is not a normal hero in the Philippine society, but it is a culture shared by Filipinos which represents its nationalism and nation identity. Since Rizal, the national hero, can be told as a symbol of the Philippines, understanding Rizal and his achievements in the context of Philippine history is an important research subject.

Previous researches on Rizal see him with various viewpoints. Some idealize or deify him that he is often described as a Christ-like figure and some criticize him that he is an American-sponsored-hero. In order to examine the formation of Filipino national hero with a balanced view, the thesis took a viewpoint that acknowledges both his achievements and the constructive side of making him as a national hero.

With this in mind, the thesis looks into the life and works of Rizal, then divide the stages of forming national hero into three periods. The first

stage is 'background' which covers the last years of Spanish period. The second stage is 'institutionalization', the American period, and the third stage is 'consolidation', the period from Commonwealth government to the Independence. It identifies the followings of each period: who ruled the country, how Rizal's achievement met the purpose of the government, and what institutions are made to make Rizal a national hero.

As a result of analyzing the formation process of national hero, Jose Rizal could be a national hero and remain as it not only because he had heroic achievements that made him a hero but also the governments after his death strategically institutionalized it.

Although the Propaganda Movement of Rizal did not bring immediate independence of the country, it cultivated national identity and nationalism in the Philippines. He was a mental pillar of Katipunan and became a symbol of independence. So it can be said that Rizal was already a hero even before the institutionalization. The American colonial government assigned him as a 'national hero' and institutionalized it. Also, the local elites of the Philippines did not stop institutionalize it after they became the heads of the government and consolidate Rizal as a national hero.

Therefore, Rizal as a national hero is a result of his outstanding achievements and cultural construction by various powers and factors.

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