

CONSPIRACIES *and* CONTROVERSIES



**Philippines' Favorite Conspiracy Theories
and Most Controversial Filipinos of the 20th Century**

ERICK A. SAN JUAN

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*Philippines' Favorite Conspiracy Theories
and Most Controversial Filipinos of the 20th Century*

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MYTHER & FRIENDS

Special thanks also to my philanthropist and patriot friends who don't want their names to be mentioned

And, to all the persons of the "Intelligence Community" (whose identities are both known and unknown to me) who religiously believed that "we could pull this off."

PREFACE

For an agenda, arrangement, or grouping to qualify as a conspiracy – who, what and how many must be involved? In Tom Valentine’s *Radio Free America* broadcast, Ret. U.S. Army Col. L. Fletcher, the Army’s chief liaison to the Central Intelligence Agency (1955-1962) pointed to the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy as a most fitting example.

According to Fletcher, a conspiracy is born from the agenda of a select core of conspirators in secret hierarchy: just a handful, from four to eight, including the chief planner. Coupled with adequate funding and “mattoidal intelligence,” this core can conveniently draw and manipulate others into their “sphere of influence,” usually without any of those involved ever knowledgeable about the existence of such complicity and machination.

To carry out the core group’s project and mission, most of the time, unwitting pawns in the lower echelon do not even know their direct involvement, and view their participation as simple as taking job or service orders for a price.

Less talk makes less mistake. Silence is the key in a conspiracy’s success. The members’ non-familiarization with the core group nor thorough knowledge of the entire project is a crucial asset in the success of a conspiracy. Secrecy is a strong guiding force.

Strong media relations, both print and broadcast alike, would definitely be a plus factor. This is where disinformation and propaganda play indelible and impressionable roles. In Oswald Spengler’s *Decline of the West* (1924), he expressed the power of the (capitalistic) press in “mass-mind control.”

It is interesting to note that most significant conspiracies have been conceived and perpetrated by only a handful core of planners. Fear is a very powerful motivating force not only for the underlings, but also among the core group. Everyone in the nucleus knows with certainty that if anyone among them suddenly awakens with a conscience, and beg or opt to get out, core members are assured that their professional careers can only conveniently be erased by a “manufactured scandal.” In the event that anyone or even the chief planner decides to divulge the conspiracy, or unthinkable, the names of other top planners to the media, both print or broadcast, everyone in the core knows for a cold fact

that their existence would and could be snuffed out by “unsolvable murder, mysterious accident or suicide.”

Similar sanctions may likewise be meted out to whoever may expose vital information leading to the conspiracy’s burning out. Many mysterious and unsolvable deaths have remained big question marks up to this day.

Some of the public who continually refuse to believe in the existence of conspiracies automatically becomes a part of the conspiracy (either by sheer denial or ignorance), and when they do nothing to help counteract it, much less, report it. “Inaction by otherwise responsible citizens has the same effect as sanctioning a heinous plot.”

There have been countless recorded conspiracies up to this day, and countless mysterious deaths to boot.

To take up the presumption that evil does not exist, on what grounds, then, can we ascertain that some acts are good? This will depend on a person’s perception of good and evil. Thus, it can only be safe to conclude that every man has innate sense of good and evil. But in the struggle in the minds of men, conscience often become hardened, and this is when evil predominates.

To take, however, the mechanistic view, it could very well be clearly argued, “that might equals right.”

To prove that history does not just happen is my primary reason for writing this book. How can it be when conspiracy is one of its active ingredients?

I am not fighting the globalists nor any other organization. I just want the Filipinos to know what’s really going on so that our leaders and compatriots would know what to do. I also want them to be informed that there are still many “Ericks” out there, who in some ways know exactly what they are doing. I believe that we can co-exist with them if we could only get our acts together. Let’s get what is due us.

Erick A. San Juan
April 2002

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Part I

Philippines' Favorite Conspiracy Theories





Chapter One

TROUBLESOME SOUTH



Who's Behind the Winds of War?

“War would break out,” warned Ustadz Sharif Zain Jali, spiritual adviser of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), if its demand for autonomy in 13 provinces and nine cities was overruled by a plebiscite on February 17, 1990. Zain Jali’s announcement, along with Nur Misuari’s ascendancy to legitimate power as governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), seems to be part of a grand conspiracy to dismember Mindanao from the Republic of the Philippines.

Who could be behind this evil scheme?

“Whoever controls the money system of a nation also controls that nation’s politics and national direction, whether it be towards peace or towards war,” says Philip Le Bus, a retired U.S. Navy officer and expert on conspiracy theories.

Indeed, one only has to scan the pages of history to appreciate this. When he took control of the Bank of England after 1680, Amil Rothschild said, “I care not who runs the politics of a nation; you let me run the money system and I’ll run politics.”

So we see that the very first war the Americans fought was not against the “tyrannical” King George but with the oligarchs of international banking

Baron Edmond de Rothschild who founded “the first Jewish colony in Palestine.” (*New York Times*, August 28, 1922, p. 18) The irony of it all lies in the fact that the present-day Jews are almost all descendants of non-Semitic people who adopted Judaism as their religion about 1,200 years ago. The story of the Khazars (a.k.a. Cathars or Bogomils) is one that no newspaper publication dares to touch.

There are two types of modern Jews. First are the Sephardics who account for less than 500,000 of the world’s present-day Jews. They lived in Spain and Portugal and were later scattered over South America and the Philippines. They have been mostly assimilated by other racial groups. However, the vast majority of the people who call themselves Jews today are Ashkenazis or Eastern European Jews, who originated from Southern Russia and the areas surrounding the Caspian Sea.

The Jews were able to obtain a promise from the British under the notorious “Balfour Declaration,” which says that Palestine would be given to them for a new homeland if they could entice the United States into World War I. All that now is history, but the fact remains that the Khazars who have invaded Palestine and have driven out both Christians and Moslems, have absolutely no legitimate claim on this “Holy Land” whatsoever. Their ancestors never inhabited the area and, therefore, are not related in any way to the Israelites of the Old Testament. They are of Turkish-Mongolian-Finnish stock whose forefathers fled to Poland, the Baltic nations, Germany, Hungary, Romania and westward.

To cushion the Arab impact against the new State of Israel, the bankers ordered the Soviets to “help” fight for the Islamic aspirations of Middle East countries affected by the Jewish presence. But the Arabs soon realized that they were being taken for a ride. Their armies were getting mediocre services and trainings from the Russians in exchange for purchasing multi-billion dollars worth of Soviet military equipment. (*U.S. News and World Report*, July 23, 1973, p. 22) A second front had to be activated: the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) under Yasser Arafat. The move did not surprise Saudi Arabia’s King Faisal, an astute politician. He said, “Zionism and Communism are working hand in glove to block any settlement to restore peace in the Middle East. . . It’s all part of a great plot, a grand conspiracy. . . they are only pretending to work against each other.” (*Newsweek*, December 21, 1970, p. 43) Everyone knows what happened to King Faisal after publicly airing his sentiments on the matter.

Is there really a connection between modern Jewry and Communism?

Joseph Jacobs, author of *Jewish Contributions to Civilization*, published by The Jewish Publication Society of America (1945), states: “Certainly, we find a strong Jewish participation throughout the socialist movement, which, from its inception up to the present day, has been largely dominated by Jewish influence.”

The *Jewish Encyclopedia* (1905) under “Socialism,” pp. 418-420, must have been the source of Jacobs’ information. It reads: “Jews have been prominently identified with the modern Socialist movement from its very inception...Marx, the son of a Jewish lawyer of Treves, numbered among his ancestors many famous rabbis. The chapters on the theory of value in his principal work, ‘Das Kapital’, suggest by their subtle analysis in an inherited Talmudic bent...While in Germany, socialism became a movement of the Jewish masses...The Jewish exodus from Russia drafted to the United States large numbers of Socialists, mostly college and university students, who must be reckoned among the pioneers of the Socialist parties in America.”

Another source, the *Universal Encyclopedia* (1943) under “Soviet Russia,” notes: “Individual revolutionary leaders of Jewish origin – such as Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev, and Sverdlov...played a conspicuous part in the Revolution...which enabled the Bolsheviks to take possession of the state apparatus.”

But why do so many Catholics still insist in using the oxymoron “Judeo-Christian”?

God says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Osee iv, 6) The only reason you may not have heard or read this information before is because of the fact there has been a conspiracy of silence through controlled mass media, publishing houses, and education, including religious institutions.

How many Catholics are aware today that “The Committee of 300 ordered the Club of Rome to use Polish nationalism as a tool to destroy the Catholic Church and pave the way for Russian troops to reoccupy the country”? How many of them were told that “The Solidarity movement was a creation of the Committee of 300’s Zbigniew Brzezinski, who chose the name

*Note: Karl Marx’s real surname – Mardekai
 Lenin’s real surname – Zederbaum

for the trade union and selected its office holders and organizers”? Although the shipyard workers in Gdansk (formerly Danzig) were used to launch it, Solidarity was not a “labor” movement, but rather, it was a high-profile political organization created to bring forced changes in preparation for the coming of the One World Government.

How many Catholics are cognizant of the fact that “Most of Solidarity’s leaders were descendants of Bolshevik Jews from Odessa and were not noted for hating Communism”? (*Conspirators’ Hierarchy*, p. 27) Are they aware that John Paul II was the “guiding light” of *Solidarnosc*, a political dynamism composed of Polish Jews? Why did he order the duped Catholics of Vatican II vintage to apologize to the Jews, despite the fact that they crucified our Lord Jesus Christ?

In Lebanon, the “Judeo-Christian” Phalangists fought a bloody war against their Moslem brothers, even ravaging their once beautiful country in the process, just to please their Zionist masters. The same situation prevails in Bosnia-Herzegovina and elsewhere in the Balkans. In East Timor, agents of international finance provoked the Catholic population to rebel against the Indonesian authorities, most of whom are Moslems, only to see the Zionist oil companies takeover their heavy deposits of “black gold.” Here in the Philippines, the same “balkanization” process is unfolding before our eyes. It’s the Christians and Moslems slaughtering each other, while their Jewish masters laugh.

“This is where Judeo-Christianity comes into the picture,” writes Malcolm Ross, executive director of the Maritime Branch, Christian Defense League of Canada. “It is simply the infiltration of Talmudism into our Churches... It is the whole Babylonian-inspired Judeo-Christian system which may turn out to be the false and counterfeit Bride of Christ... Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth...” (*Christianity vs. Judeo-Christianity*, M. Ross, Stronghold Publishing Company, Ltd., 1987, p. 18)

Jabidah Massacre

According to Marites D. Vitug and Glenda M. Gloria, co-authors of the book, *Under the Crescent Moon: Rebellion in Mindanao*, published by the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs, the infamous Jabidah

Massacre is “the spark that ignited the Muslim rebellion.” It was carried out by elements of the Marcos military against 23 young Muslim recruits. In their work, Vitug and Gloria described in detail how the soldiers carried out General Romeo Espino’s order to “clean-up the place and clear it of all debris.” What follows is a conventional thumb-nail account of the controversial military operation.

I have to disagree, however, with their assertion that Jibin Arula’s testimony led to the discovery of Marcos’ clandestine operations. The truth is, it was Army Major Eduardo “Abdul Latif” Martelino’s extramarital indiscretions which led to the exposé of *Operation Merdeka*: Malacañang’s grand plan to destabilize and take-over Sabah from the Malaysians, using the Jabidah Special Forces.

At that time, Martelino (a dead ringer for Hollywood’s Omar Sharif) had a secret love (the lovely wife of a prominent newspaper publisher). Martelino confided to her that he was about to undertake a dangerous military operation in Sabah. Fearing for the life of her par amour, the unfaithful matron leaked the information to her husband, not knowing that the latter too, was having his own torrid affair with the mother of a prominent opposition stalwart. The information reached Senator Ninoy Aquino, who did not hesitate to expose the plot in one of his privileged speeches at the Senate. The rest is history.

Meanwhile, the publisher-husband of the unfaithful wife soon learned about his marital partner’s infidelity. In his spark of anger, he blamed President Marcos and the First Lady for it. This must be the reason why the publisher spent the few remaining years of his life as a rabid oppositor of the Marcos regime.

This is the other side of the truth.

‘Clash of Civilizations’ Scenario in Mindanao

The continuing conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Moslem secessionists in Mindanao is a clear indication that controversial Harvard Prof. Samuel P. Huntington’s “clash of civilization” thesis is being followed to the letter by local representatives of the Committee of 300.

These former CIA-Afghansi *mujahideens* even use buzzwords such as “fundamentalism” in order to “obscure or even distort the immense spiri-

tual and intellectual ferment that is taking place today among the world's nearly one billion Muslims, reducing it to a fanatical rejection of everything modern, liberal, or progressive." (*Current History*, "The Coming Transformation in the Muslim World," Dale F. Eickelman, p. 16)

In 1997, the U.S. State Department released a list of 30 foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) made up mostly of discards from the 4,000-strong Moslem augmentation force from 24 countries who saw action for the CIA in Bosnia, who are banned from operating on U.S. soil. Of the 30 groups named, six maintain headquarters in Britain. These are the Islamic Group (Egypt), Al-Jihad (Egypt), Hamas (Israel, Palestine Authority), Armed Islamic Group (Algeria, France), Kurdish Workers Party (Turkey) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka).

Aside from the six FTOs whose headquarters are on British soil, 16 other groups on the State Department's 1997 list either receive funding from groups based in Britain, or receive military training and logistic support from groups operating freely from her Majesty the Queen's realm. Those groups are the Abu Nidal Organization (Palestinian Authority), Kahane Chai (Israel, Palestinian Authority), Abu Sayyaf (Philippines), Hezbollah (Israel, Lebanon), Khmer Rouge (Cambodia), ELN (Colombia), Shining Path (Peru), MRTA (Peru), Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (Israel, Palestinian Authority), Islamic-Jihad-Shaqaqi (Israel, Palestinian Authority), PFLP-General Command (Israel, Palestinian Authority) and Osama Bin Laden's Group in Chechnya, Russia (Bin Laden's group also operates in Afghanistan).

Why the preference for Arab or Moslem fighters?

The Arabs are endowed by nature with an unusual degree of mental faculties, which throw other races on the sidelines. The faculties peculiar to them are "a strength of mind which is not deterred by any mystery, or any distance; a ready and immediate comprehension of a plan, a fiery and energetic mode of acting; and finally an unparalleled cunning and craftiness." (*The Conquest of the World*, Major Osman Rey, p. 8)

These faculties, which belong to the Arabs in general, are also inherent in the Jews, but beyond these the Arabs possess certain other qualities which give them additional advantages.

The Arab is quick at the start, but lacks toughness and perseverance; whereas the Jew combines with a fiery temperament an obstinacy so inflexible that it may well be said: the Jew never gives way, and knows neither forgiving nor forgetting. The Jew is strong.

Another distinction, which may be observed in the character of these two “children of the desert,” is this: the Arabs are inclined more to the ideal and abstract, while the Jews are essentially material and practical; the Arab experiences a platonic and spiritual reverence for the beautiful, while the Jew sees in it only the useful. In other words, “A Jew may well stop to admire a flower, but at the same moment he will be asking himself: How much can I make out of it?” (*Ibid.*, p. 9)

Rapacity is a passion which has become the Jew’s second nature and to which he instinctively lends obedience. The lust of gain is so strongly entrenched in his organism that it overrides every other feeling, every other passion. He knows no respect. If you sneer at him, he rages like a tiger. His only aim in life is gain. Hence, everything which does not have this object in view deserves no attention from him.

The Jew’s unlimited rapacity puts him in an everlasting antagonism to the rest of mankind. This is why he wages war against all other men. This rage leads the Jew to believe that men exist only to cheat and devour one another. The maxim, “*Dalawang klase lang ang tao sa mundo... isang manloloko at isang naloloko,*” which has become a favorite saying among Filipinos, is of Jewish descent. In this rivalry between men, it is the Jew’s opinion that the most cunning and rapacious must, in the end, devour the others. For them, this is the supreme law of the jungle, which is now being widely used by the neo-Malthusian globalists and free traders.

This belief in an endless antagonism between men is also an idea inherent in the mind of the Arabs, for we find it prevailing in the doctrines of the Koran as well as the Talmud – two books that are a rich mine of Semitic ideas and traditions. This explains why the Jewish bankers prefer to employ the former CIA-Afghansi warriors as mercenaries for their proxy wars. But even if the Arabs and Jews agree on this point, the manner in which they apply this doctrine is not the same. The Arab, with his spirit of chivalry, draws a line between the states of war and peace, whereas the Jew recognizes no armistice, and keeps up the battle without intermission. His war is permanent. Like the devil, he takes no coffee breaks.

This is the spirit behind Professor Huntington’s “clash” scenario. “Conflict along the fault line between Western and Islamic civilizations has been going on for 1,300 years. The line drawn in the eastern boundary of Western Christianity during the Middle Ages is again being re-drawn,” he says. By whom? By the descendants of those who drew the boundary lines

in the year 1500. “This line runs along what are now the boundaries between the Baltic states and Russia, (and) cuts through Belarus and Ukraine, separating the more Catholic western Ukraine from Orthodox eastern Ukraine. In short, the people to the north and west of this line are either Protestants or Catholics, while the people to the east and south of this line are either Orthodox and Moslems,” he explains. (*Foreign Affairs*, “The Clash of Civilizations?” Summer 1993)

Responding to Huntington’s dissertation, the agitated Safar al-Hwadi, dean of Islamic Studies at the Umm al-Qura University in Mecca, puts it more clearly: “It is the West against Islam,” using the catchy phrase no longer useful in today’s ongoing transformation in the Moslem world.

What is even more alarming is that there are slight variations of Huntington’s backdrop which can be seen from East Asia to the Middle East, and no less than Huntington takes note of it: “A Confucian-Islamic military connection has come into being,” he points out. “The flow of weapons and weapons technology is generally from East Asia to the Middle East, but there are also some movements in the reverse direction; China has received Stinger missiles from Pakistan to counter the military power of the West.” (*Ibid.*)

Lower than Traitors

Nur Misuari’s anti-government speech delivered before the OIC delegates’ meeting in Malaysia proves beyond reasonable doubt that three administrations have totally misread the situation in Mindanao.

Misuari’s political moves -- his use of propaganda -- only show who his real employers are: the globalists, free traders and narcotics legalizers whose objective is to destroy nation-states. Look at what’s happening in Ibero-America. Mexico is being threatened. Ecuador is disintegrating. Colombia is being devastated, and Argentina, Peru and Brazil are under the gun. And who are the demolitionists? Narco-terrorists!

In the Asia-Pacific region, what we have is the “Yugoslavia Syndrome.” Let’s take Indonesia as an example. President Suharto, after having forged national unity during his 32-year authoritarian rule, warned his people that without national cohesion “a great conflict could threaten our development and even give rise to civil war.” Amien Rais, head of the 28-million strong *Muhammadiyah*, Indonesia’s second largest Muslim organization, supported Suharto’s call.

Less than a year later, East Timor, supported by the globalists, successfully seceded from Indonesia. Irian Jaya will be the next, followed by Aceh, Sulawesi, Maluku and Kalimantan.

The headquarters of the Indonesian separatist movement is in London, where Tapol, a prominent clearing house for anti-Indonesia propaganda, functions under the protection of a very influential globalist in the British House of Lords. This man is reportedly the “leading supporter of international terrorist and separatist movements.”

Incidentally, the Abu Sayyaf, according to the 1997 U.S. State Department report on foreign terrorist organizations, is one of the 16 groups that either receive funding from groups based in Britain, or receive military training and logistical support from groups operating freely in the U.K.

What the present dispensation should do is to act swiftly and firmly. As we predicted, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration removed Misuari from office and cancelled his passport. He was jailed in Sabah and surrendered by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir to the Philippine government.

The untold story about the rebellion case of Nur Misuari was that his group was set-up by a megalomaniac, Atty. Elly Velez Pamatong. He provoked the Misuari group to rebel against the Philippine government, and after the group’s establishment, Pamatong immediately left the country for Malaysia to evade arrest.

According to Rod Kapunan in his May 2, 2002 column in the *Philippine Tribune*: “He is the same person linked to a string of shady adventurisms in the past. ..Exuding with ambition, he envisioned himself as destined to become the next president believing it was he who was being alluded to by Dale Brown, author of the *Sky Master*, who predicted of the first Mindanaoan president. Pamatong said there would be soon a civil war, with him in control of the Christian Liberation Army, backed up by American lost command units. He said he would be able to take over, assisted by contacts from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. With Pamatong leading the show on political insanity, the nationalists have nothing to worry about.”

Indeed, in both Nur Misuari’s and Atty. Elly Velez Pamatong’s cases, the old adage still holds through. It said, “Scoundrels deserve to be stateless. They are lower than traitors.”

The Indonesian Connection

Now it can be told. The underlying reason behind why Indonesia eagerly brokered the peace negotiations between the Republic of the Philippines (RP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has never really surfaced. This internationally perceived glossy spectacle of effective Indonesian diplomacy actually carries with it a historical deviousness with similar circumstances besetting the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It has been the long sought dream of former President Fidel V. Ramos to bring about genuine growth, stability and progress to our troubled South. Having seen action for quite some time as a fledgling Army captain in the South, he has since realized that more than any other region in the country, the South has suffered the most cruelty in the earlier parts of our history, which the national government has simply regarded as a purely geographic setback for the country, with its Moro inhabitants unintentionally marginalized in the dynamics of their unique social setting.

As a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars and as senior general of the AFP, FVR saw the progress arising out of land reform and modernized agriculture in many countries. He visited Taiwan, where his father, the late Ambassador Narciso Ramos, was posted. He quickly noticed progress there, although barely a third of its 35,962 sq. miles was appropriated as agricultural land, in comparison to Mindanao's entire 36,537 sq. miles that was almost basically agricultural; and this did not include the Sulu Archipelago, Palawan, Basilan, and Camiguin. It is quite ironic that it was actually the Filipinos who shared and introduced the Taiwanese the easily adaptable technology of modern agricultural production, so much so, to enable them to supplement the Philippines with their surplus of rice produce.

Indonesia's role in the peace talks perfectly fits into the Ramos administration's program, like finally connecting the missing piece to a nearly solved puzzle, and ties it up with the East Asia Growth Area (EAGA). But, simply watching Indonesia's diplomatic role in the end-game would oversimplify the matter of concern here. There is, therefore, a need to look back.

Before the arrival of Legazpi in Manila, nearly the entirety of Luzon had been pre-empted by the Tau Sugs of Sulu. Their legacies are still very much preserved and evident even in Metro Manila. Such points include Tondo, Caloocan, Parang, Lantawan and several others, which are distinctly very Sulu. Up to the close of the nineteenth century, a wide basin has stretched

from the grassy Manila down to the now unstopably booming Calabarzon, once better known as Morong, and Caloocan then had extended up to the present Quezon City. The province of Rizal acquired its name, only years following the death of our National Hero.

Malay annals (*Sejara Melayu*) state that Raja Ahmad, believed the founder and first Sultan of Brunei, reached Manila and appointed Datu Naragam as Sultan of Manila. It is interesting to note that Raja Ahmad was the third Sultan of Sulu, where he based all his central powers. This clearly contradicts Brunei's earlier unsubstantiated claim that Sulu had been under its rule. In Sulu he was known as Sultan Muhammad Diraja, and in Brunei he was simply Sultan Muhammad.

The last known descendant of Sultan Naragam was Raja Suleiman, who was defeated by Legazpi. Since then, Christianity had rapidly taken over Luzon, and the descendants of Raja fled to present Pampanga where the Soliman clan had established itself and who has up to the present proudly traced its ancestry to the Raja. With the fall of Luzon to the Spanish hands, the Moros of the South were forced back to their homelands.

In the South, the Tau Sugs had exercised firm political control over the Mindanao island, Palawan, Sabah, Kalimantan, Celebes and Amboina. In each of these places, the Rajas were governing for the Sultanate of Sulu. In Zamboanga, the last Sulu ruler was Raja Bungso (1598) who went to Sulu and became Sultan Muwalil Wassist Bungso. In Menado, Raja Hasan Uddin (1565) was defeated by the Dutch which led to the capitulation of the Rajas of Tuli-tuli and Makassar in Celebes, and the Raja of Balikpapan (Kalimantan). In Palawan, the ancestors of Sultan Harun Narasid held power. In Davao, two Datu brothers, Datu Rasay and Datu Bago, sons of Datu Nuklia, were defeated by Jose Oyanguren, a Basque merchant. Kuragas (Caraga that embraced Agusan and Surigao) was ruled by Datu Silungan, who eventually embraced Christianity and later on became Don Felipe de Silongan.

The Dutch brought the Bugis of Malacca to subdue the Sulu Raja in Celebes. The Bugis were led by Aru Palaka, and in joint operation with the Dutch, routed Raja Hasan Uddin. After defeating the Raja, the Dutch turned their guns to Aru Palaka, killing him and his men.

Datu Hasan Uddin was then "promoted" to Sultan and used him to bring the rajas of Tuli-tuli and Menado to Dutch vassalage. The next target was Balikpapan, where the Dutch also succeeded. From there, they moved up north and occupied a large part of present Sabah and also established a trading port in Sitangkai, the southernmost part of Tawi-tawi province.

With due respect and acknowledgment of the Sulu Sultan's possession of Zamboanga and Palawan, the Spanish insular government had sent a priest as its emissary to seek the former's permission to occupy these points in 1720. The request was granted by the new young Sultan, who had just then inherited the throne from his father, Sultan Badar Uddin, who was retreating to Kutei, for his retirement.

The young Sultan's decision incensed his retiring father, who then immediately organized a large force and assaulted Zamboanga. Balisi, an Iranun warlord, was already on the scene when the Sultan arrived. Their joint forces laid the fort to siege for nearly four months. The coming of a supply ship was mistaken for reinforcement, forcing both forces to withdraw.

Over a decade later, Datu Bantilan attacked Taytay, the northeastern section of Palawan. The battle ensued for a two-week hand-to-hand combat within the newly constructed fort. At the end of the month-long fighting, Datu Bantilan had captured more than 150 Spanish troops whom he later sold to slavery.

Heretofore, the Spanish troops had been garrisoned on the north-eastern island fringes, moving from one to the other, due to a series of assaults by the Sulu braves. But even after the Taytay grim event, the Spaniards had not given up occupying mainland Palawan. The Tau Sug inhabitants were then forced farther south because the Spaniards had exiled the lepers of Luzon to the present Puerto Princesa. Today, those afflicted with the disease are still closeted at the peninsula's southern terminus.

How Sabah was Won

A few years before the Spanish troops were pulled out of Zamboanga, Caraga and Ternate in 1663, trouble had erupted in Brunei. Two cousins, Abdul Mubbin and the Pangiran Bungso (Muhiddin), posted their claims to the throne. The latter was said to have transferred his seat of power to an island, Palao Chermin, which guarded the entry to the mainland, to ably check the growing discontent among their people.

As this went on, the Pangiran Bungso entertained a devious intention. Even before his cousin could flee the island, he had already assumed the Sultanate. The subsequent re-alignment of forces and troops sparked war for the cousins. This caught the ruler in the island by surprise, puzzled at why the Sultan of Sulu had come. He was later made to under-

stand, however, that Muslims must not and did not wage war against each other, more importantly because they were related.

This enabled the Sultan of Sulu to move forward to the mainland to meet with Abdul Mubbin, who had primarily thought of seeking assistance and reinforcement from Sulu. The sad truth is, Abdul Mubbin could not marshal enough forces to ably assault Palao Chermin, so he immediately sent for help from Sulu. The two Sama brothers, Sangkalan and Angging, trooped over 800 men and the Sultan himself almost equaled the number of men in the other camp (although there have been earlier accounts tending to exaggerate the actual number of troops to 10,000). Abdul Mubbin had pledged to start from a point in Kimanis to an unspecified area, east of Borneo.

The defeat of the Sultan enthroned on the mainland was variably placed between 1704 and 1775. The year 1775 was actually the time when the area was formally ceded to the Sultan of Sulu. It took 10 years before the troops from Sulu finally triumphed and took over the island, after defeating Abdul Mubbin's forces.

In Sulu, the *tarsila* mentions that the actual cession was not so much a war booty, since the Tau Sugs had already exercised *de facto* governance over a vast expanse of the area which even covered Sabah. Brunei's control over these lands had later become weak, so much so that it had to be restructured and rehabilitated.

After having been successfully installed as the rightful Sultan, Abdul Mubbin had allowed the Sultan of Sulu to bring home part of the booty which included the efficient coat of arms of Sultan Muhiddin and some of his praetorians. Tuan Ligaddung's great grandson, Yap Liapel, was to become the mayor of an island municipality in present Tawitawi.

Sulu's predominance over a vast expanse of territory for over two centuries had been primarily attributed to the significant role of its religion. When the Arab religious teachers, popularly known as *Mahdumin* (plural of *mahdum*) had become few and scarce, the local converts had taken the initiative to teach and spread Islam to Borneo, Celebes and the Moluccas. If not otherwise told, Raja Hasan Uddin of Menado, who lost to the Dutch in 1565, was a Moslem.

Islam, reached Sulu as early as the ninth century, when Arab merchants and traders had ventured into the Far East. They have even journeyed farther, and reached the eastern coastlines of China. It was safe to

assume that they trekked the trail-blazed tracks of the Indians who have reached this region as early as the third century B.C., eventually followed by the Srivijayas, and still later on, by the Majapahits.

The Arabs had come for trade. To safely secure their interests in their snowballing trade and business monopolies, they inter-married with the daughters of the local shoreline chieftains. They, in the process, had introduced the new faith to their newfound people. But the actual formal propagation of Islam in Sulu did not start until the year 1180, not until the *mahkdumin* started to arrive. Over the centuries, small waves of these *mahkdumin* came to our shores, further strengthening the now popularly growing religion.

The pioneering Tau Sug religious missionaries were eventually followed by traders who then established their business links with eastern Borneo, Celebes, Moluccas, and New Guinea. Up to this day, Sulu traders and importers journey to New Guinea for their prized nutmeg. They cruise around western Mindanao to pass at Sarangani, then to Moluccas, and finally to New Guinea.

The last wave to reach these regions were the political leaders. However, a majority of them were the *ma-adjul* (banished people). As was the usual practice and custom in old Sulu, a disgraced datu (noble) was ultimately exiled or banished to a land outside the realm of the Sultanate. In most instances, these banished datu and his men are a defeated and displaced group, who simply withdraw to far-off lands, in exile, farther away from Sulu.

But with ruling blood in his veins, this banished datu eventually establishes a disparate chiefdom, voluntarily placing it under the tutelage and rule of the Sultanate. This move eventually reasserts the fallen datu's lost grace and effectively assumes the character of finally having redeemed his honor, and no less than the sovereign Sultan, in a most moving human gesture, forgives the entire "prodigal" chiefdom, and welcomes them back to their fold -- to once again be an integral part of his Sultanate.

Thus far, religion, trade and politics had vastly expanded Sulu's rule and governance. To cite a clear example, Kutei in present Kalimantan, has become an integral part of the Sultanate, as it had served, on several occasions, as the designated retirement home of the Sultan of Sulu. Until 1936, Sultan Jamalul Kiram II had issued a decree, directing all port authorities of Kutei to exact revenues from foreign vessels.

Jakarta's Apprehension

It is not at all rare how Indonesian authorities nab and imprison straying Filipinos spotted off Kalimantan, or caught fishing in its waters. Jakarta has never ceased to entertain the insecure thought that by allowing them leniency to fish in these deemed forbidden waters, this could eventually lead to the Tau Sugs sparked attempts to recover their lost land, consequently paving the way for the Philippines to foresee a clearer chance to assume sovereignty over the land in question. Jakarta is still very much cognizant of the fact that these significant areas had once been ruled and governed by Sulu political leaders as an integral part of the entire Sultanate.

It is quite interesting to note that the Indonesians are not too keen about fighting it out with the Tau Sugs, who have distinctly demonstrated their enduring capacity to fight any given battle: no matter how long or unending it may be. Not to forget the recent case besetting the MNLF against the far superior AFP, or even the Brunei odyssey. They have been personal and actual witnesses to this Tau Sug sagacity in warfare.

At the height of Indonesia's struggle for independence after World War II, a great number of volunteers from Sulu had fought on their side against the Dutch, notwithstanding the problem that they were not at all familiar with Indonesia's terrain. In spite of this difficulty, their remarkably honed fighting skills and strong, unwavering determination to even die in battle, greatly astonished and moved the Indonesians. A good number of these brave volunteers met their death in battle, but many more returned home with much deserved and upgraded Indonesian Army ranks to as high as colonels. The Tau Sugs also took active part in the Iran-Iraq War and the Afghan-Soviet War. Embarrassing as it may seem, the Indonesians, although far advanced and fully-equipped with adequate arms and know-how, do not, in any way, wish to stir the Tau Sugs to any undue war, having been chronicled even by Arab writers as "the best Moslem fighters in the world."

When efforts were forged between Nur Misuari and then Sabah Chief Minister Tun Mustapha bin Datu Harun to allaise the SSS (State of Sulu and Sabah) with the MNLF the agreement did not arouse Kuala Lumpur's fears, although it evidently disturbed Jakarta. Had the plans found due realization, this could eventually bring about chaos and havoc in Kalimantan, and then most certainly after, Sulu's ultimate recovery of Celebes and other lying areas once part of the Sulu Sultanate.

The Kiram heirs' claim to Sabah also avers that the descendants of Angging and Sangkalan had made it known and clear that Sabah was ceded to the latter, and not to the Sultanate of Sulu. However, they also insisted that what the Sultanate actually only possessed were Celebes and the present Kalimantan. Although backed by its historical legitimacy, this claim was never accepted nor entertained and was totally denied and rejected.

On Misuari's part, he had admitted having been under extreme pressure, without revealing who was entirely behind it. He may have mentioned Saudi Arabia, which has bankrolled his long hard struggle for vast autonomy in the South, as having been hard pressed due to the presence of the American military and its bases in its kingdom, which it also subsidizes.

To Indonesia's convenience, it was actually the Secretariat of the Ministerial Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) which has played the crucial role. Thus, the Indonesian Prime Minister only had to do its part of brokering the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the MNLF through hosting their peace dialogues in Jakarta's opulent hotels at very enormous costs.

Underneath Indonesia's mediation lies its fervent prayer for Sulu to completely detach itself from the Kalimantan and Celebes issue, and in like manner, Malaysia's legal hold over the State of Sabah.

The pressure, in the end, greatly proved most beneficial to Malaysia and Indonesia, while simultaneously keeping Manila quite content and happy that peace has finally been negotiated for the troubled South.

President Ramos had his share of smiles and thumbs-up, as his name will go down in our history as the only Philippine President who has ably bridged the yawning gap with our brothers in the South, bringing about the long desired and much-awaited peace in Mindanao, at least, for quite a few months.

Much against his principles, Misuari was persuaded to run as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, slightly counter to his much desired dream for autonomy for all 13 provinces in the South. He had accepted the governorship of the region, since it complemented with the Southern Philippine Council for Peace and Development, whose jurisdiction extends over 14 provinces and nine chartered cities in the South.

With Misuari enjoying much broader powers and vast land base, this will mean the end to the Tau Sug's remarkably relentless struggle to reclaim the once old-prized possessions of the Sultanate of Sulu.

Now, we can clearly see and aptly understand Indonesia's eager interests to successfully broker the peace for Southern Philippines. It definitely has made another interesting chapter in our history, and most especially (for very obvious reasons) in theirs.

With the foregoing unfolding of confidential facts, this was primarily meant to right a wrong, and in this case, to rectify misreported valuable historical data running contrary to the undisclosed truth.

And certainly now, it can truly be told, again and again.

Are We the Next Domino to Fall?

Just before his forced resignation (much like President Marcos' cutting cleanly), Indonesian President Suharto, who is known for having forged national unity during his 32-year strongman rule, warned that without national cohesion a "great conflict could threaten our development and even give rise to civil war."

Suharto's warning was echoed by no less than Amien Rais, head of the 28-million strong *Muhammadiyah*, Indonesia's second-largest Muslim organization: "I find that the syndrome of Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union is creeping into Indonesia. There is the danger that the country may go the way those two states have gone -- crumbling into pieces."

According to Michael Billington, a political analyst from the La Rouche Movement, Rais sounded this alarm to a prominent think-tank group in Malaysia; following a meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad. (*Executive Intelligence Review*, July 31, 1998).

Reports received by the *Executive Intelligence Review (EIR)* reveal that the primary initial targets of globalist-funded separatists are the provinces of East Timor, a Portuguese colony until 1975. and Irian Jaya, a Dutch colony until 1963. "The headquarters for these operations is in London, where TAPOL, for years the leading clearinghouse for anti-Indonesia propaganda in support of East Timor, functions under the protection of Lord Avebury, the British House of Lords' leading supporter of international terrorist and separatist movements." writes Michael Billington.

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-(Ret.) *Gen. Honesto Isleta*



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In July 2000, San Juan was chosen to become a member of the Board of Advisors of the prestigious American Biographical Institute. He was included in the 1999 “Who’s Who in the World,” and recently, in the Honor’s List of the “Outstanding People of the 20th Century” given by the International Biographical Center of Cambridge, England. He was also named by Baron’s Who’s Who to be among Asia’s elite group of 500 admired individuals through its annual “Asia 500: Leaders for the New Century,” and was among the most respected In and Writers Who’s Who for 2001-2002.

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