

Cory Aquino's Legacy: Oligarchy, Plunder, and Fraudulent Elections

By Bong V

<http://antipinoy.com/cory-aquinos-legacy-oligarchy-plunder-and-fraudulent-elections/>

As a private person, may she rest in peace. As a public figure, she is a wretched creature who served as the lynchpin of the Philippine oligarchy's restoration. Cory's claim to have abolished martial law and restored democracy is a myth for the simple reason that she did not repeal the repressive constitutional provisions imposed under martial law and in fact expanded it.

Cory's legacy has got nothing to do with abolishing martial law. The decrees issued during martial law are still existing – albeit enforced by a civilian bureaucracy headed mostly by retired generals. The restrictions on foreign investments are still in place. Cory's legacy has got nothing to do with democracy considering that she was not freely elected in a credible election. We cannot say for sure who really won the snap election called by Marcos. For all we know, Marcos won that election and Cory lost. Without a credible election – all Cory had really was a de facto government.

People power? Frankly – why would a mob in Manila claim to speak in behalf of the people in Visayas and Mindanao?

So what really was Cory's legacy? Here are the three defining legacies of Cory Aquino:

1. De Facto Government – Usurpation of Legitimate Authority

Cory marks the beginning of the open hijacking of the Philippine electoral process. In case you haven't noticed – there were only two instances of a legitimate government in the Philippines since 1986 – that of Erap Estrada and that of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The recent two general elections are shams and don't have any inch of legitimacy. The laws which govern the conduct of general election were ran roughshod with impunity. Any person with a sane mind (a rare commodity in the Philippines) will hold the election results highly suspect, dubious, a complete fraud and totally unacceptable. Most Filipinos however will go with the charade. After all they have already gone through the motion of voting, what's one more motion to accept the fraudulent results of the elections right? So, if you think Marcos had a monopoly of fraudulent elections – think again, Cory Aquino and her camp are equally capable of fraud.

2. Restoration of the Tyranny of the Oligarchy

One of the most surreal moments in Philippine history took place after Cory and her clique usurped government power. The Filipinos thought that by removing Marcos, things will get better and poverty will be reduced. My oh my, the Filipinos were so wrong. Marcos was removed – but the policies which enriched Marcos were retained. So guess what the outcomes of retaining these policies would be? The same protectionist policies which enriched the nouveau riche clique of Marcos would be used by Aquino to enrich her cronies and expand the pre-martial law economic monopolies of the oligarchs.

3. The Plunderous Yellow Welfare State

Not content with imposing economic restrictions that protected her cronies and consigned Filipinos to eternal poverty, Cory made it worse by adding the socialist-inspired welfare state provisions to the constitution by way of Article 13 – Social Justice and Human Rights. It is the job of individuals

to take care of their own welfare because government does not have any money. The only way for government to have money so it can “take care” of its wards is by taking money away from the productive sectors of society – backed by the coercive power of the state. Try not paying your taxes and the BIR will run after you and put you in jail. As you can see, the BIR feels entitled to wasting your income and giving it to the congressmen, senators, mayors, governors, presidents so they can assist, develop, and prioritize the assistance to their scams.

So, how effective has Cory Aquino’s constitutionally-embedded welfare state government been?

Labor – unemployment is constant, underemployment has expanded, Filipinos have to look for jobs overseas

Agrarian and Natural Resources Reform – Hacienda Luisita... need I say more?

Urban Land Reform and Housing – protecting squatters who form the political base of traps at the expense of law abiding citizens

Health – Universal access to LOUSY LOW QUALITY health care isn’t much of a service – not to mention the SIN TAX increases used to pay for INFERIOR health care.

Women – protecting the OFW remittances coming from the stream of prostitutes, strippers, and domestic helpers deployed overseas, so that the BSP can lend \$1B to the EU’s horrendously wasteful and overpaid tax guzzling government bureaucrats.

People’s Organizations – the front organizations of the traps and the leftists which receive funds for non-existent projects and overpriced projects, too.

Human Rights – When even an ex-president’s human rights are being trampled on in violation of the constitution, what human rights does the Corykong constitution talk about?

Education – After all the public spending, the Filipino universities land lower in the global rankings. It’s ridiculous how the PHL government restricts foreign investments in education – then raises more taxes, incurs more loans – to “invest” in education. Not to mention the lack of jobs which the new graduates will face upon graduation.

Language – Using Tagalog as a medium of instruction does not help Filipinos land jobs at all. All it does is create more functional illiterates whose only “utility” is voting the traps back into power.

Science and Technology – Science and technology, knows no national boundaries. PHL science and technology is one big joke. Filipinos do excel in the science and technology of plunder.

Arts and Culture – You mean those tacky artifacts featured in that icon of pinoy tastelessness, ABS-CBN? Or the insipid gyrations of Ai-ai de las Alas as she screeches a Lady Gaga number? Or the culture of being proud of someone else’s achievement just because they had the misfortune of being born in da Pinas?

The long tail of martial law is still stepping on you every time you go through the labyrinthine maze of clearances and fees, the limited number of media channels, and the shackles of a Cold War economic model. The bad news is – the 1986 “revolution” was not truly people power but an oligarch rent-a-mob. The good news is – if 1986 “revolution” wasn’t really people power, inasmuch as the Arab Spring wasn’t economically liberating – then perhaps the best (or the worst) is yet to come.