



Revisiting the *Basi* Revolt of 1807: Its Historical and Axiological Relevance

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Abstract: This study focused on the historical and axiological relevance of the *Basi* Revolt of 1807.

This historical research employed archival work method in gathering and collecting data necessary to the topic being studied. Since most of the documents were written in Spanish, the researcher sought the help and assistance of an accredited Spanish interpreter/translator. The voluminous data gathered were grouped, sorted out and dealt with according to the precipitating events, the phases of the revolt, the aftermath of the revolt, the key players, the causes of the revolts in general and the historical and axiological relevance of the *Basi* Revolt. Archival documents were carefully studied and analysed and therefrom, themes and sub-themes were drawn out and presented in narrative forms.

The humble lives the Ilocanos lived during the Spanish occupation in the Philippines changed when the Spanish authorities imposed monopoly to their products, the *basi* and tobacco. The Ilocanos fought bravely against the Spaniards. They suffered from great pain, trials, and torture brought about by the brutality and viciousness of the Spaniards.

The heroism and sacrifices of the Ilocanos proved that they are worthy of a niche. The Ilocanos today pay tribute to the indomitable courage which was the *Basi* Revolt. The Ilocanos risked their lives to give meaning to our lives. Their ideas lived on amidst the holocaust of battle.

The significant events that transpired in the *Basi* Revolt are: the disruption of the lifestyle of the Ilocanos, loss of a major source of livelihood, pent-up frustration and anger over Spanish abuses, social desperation, inspiration from the Ilocano revolts, the outbreak of the rebellion and the march toward the south, the *Garasgas* Bridge and the defeat of Escobedo, the re-structuring of the defense by the Augustinian friars, conclusion of the revolt, the defeat of the insurgents, the aftermath of the revolt and the causes of the revolts in general.

An analysis of the events in the *Basi* Revolt revealed that: blatant disregard for a treasured practice is a form of rejection; that curtailment of basic freedoms is a violation of human rights; that curtailment of the right to own property triggered revolts; that censorship is curtailment of freedom and political and economic persecution engender courage; sporadic, uncoordinated revolts are bound to fail and regionalism and lack of unity weakens an endeavour.

The values derived from the *Basi* Revolt are courage in the face of insurmountable odds, love and concern for family, love for freedom, industry and diligence and love for country.

Key Words: *Basi*; Revolt; History; Axiology; Values

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