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The Bataan Death March and What It Means Today

By Crisanto de Guzman

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
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The Bataan Death March and What It Means Today

There have been many wars throughout American history. There have been many wars that America was in that involved Asian country. For example, World War I, World War II, The Korean War, and the Vietnam War. There was one battle of World War II that changed the course of history and it happened right after the Attack on Pearl Harbor; that battle was known as the Invasion of the Philippines and after that event was the Bataan Death March. This thesis will give an understanding of how the United States, Japan, and the Philippines described this “unknown” war. In addition to the information about the “unknown” war, these wars are more battle of races. Lastly, this thesis will also discuss how the Japanese and the United States talked about the Bataan Death March in each of their countries and the use and message of political cartoons. Bataan and the battle to retake the Philippines represented a rallying cry for the United States during World War II, a sign of victory and righteousness of the U.S. War effort following the defeat of the Japanese, and a cause for U.S. remembrance and memorial in the subsequent decades after the war.

Histography

My research for this thesis will include excerpts from Cameron’s “Race for Identity: The Cultural of Combat in the pacific, documents and primary sources about soldiers about the Bataan Death March featuring authors Richard, Devine, Dyess, Knox, Crebillo. In addition to the sources about the pacific, more sources will be added that include political cartoons and how it is discussed in their culture. For example, how are political cartoons used to describe Latin Americans and the people Islam. Using these sources will help enforce my thesis by explaining

the message of political cartoons. Lastly, the memorial section will be featured by an anonymous source that was there to witness the Shrine of Valour located in Mt. Samat, Bataan.

The Beginning: Attacks in the Pacific

On December 8, 1941, right after the Attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese Soldiers attacked and invaded the Philippines. The Japanese were trying to take the country by force. The Japanese killed, raped, and basically if not almost destroyed an entire nation and could've wiped the Filipinos from existence. Their main mission was to capture it and extend the Axis of Power's bases in the Pacific. After the United States lost a lot of soldiers (2,403 to be exact)¹ in Pearl Harbor, a man by the name of General Douglas MacArthur led his troops and aided their allies the Philippines. The American and Philippine soldiers were outnumbered and outgunned by the Japanese. General MacArthur was with Manuel L. Quezon, the former president of the Philippines. President Quezon was almost begging for more reinforcements. He told General MacArthur to head back and gather more troops. "I will bring you in triumph on the points of my bayonets to Manila,"² MacArthur said. President Quezon asked if he were to be captured by the Japanese, he would become a prisoner of war. It was almost likely that the president would become a prisoner of war when the Japanese is covering most of the area. The last hope of the Philippines was for General MacArthur to leave the country and find help. On March 11, 1942, General Douglas MacArthur escaped from the Philippines to Australia to find more reinforcements. When General MacArthur escaped, he left the remaining American and

¹ (<https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/pearl-harbor-fact-sheet-1.pdf>.)

² William Manchester, *American Caesar: Douglas MacArthur* (Little Brown & Co, 1978), 279.

Philippine soldiers in a vulnerable situation against the Japanese. The American and Philippine soldiers had to surrender to the Japanese.

On April 9th, 1942, the allied POWs (Prisoners of War) were forced on a grueling journey known as the Bataan Death March. This death march was “considered the largest surrender in American history since the Civil War.”³ What’s interesting about the Japanese; although the Japanese didn’t kill the Allied soldiers unlike the Filipino citizens when they first invaded and could have destroyed the entire nation, the Japanese’s plan is to use the Bataan Death March as a tactic for a fate that is superior than death.

On the other side of the globe, the Nazi Germans are at work trying to defeat the Allied forces in the European areas. The Nazis did not show mercy to the Jews or the Allied soldiers. An article by Jeff Kingston called “An account of POWs ‘in hell’” on TheJapanTimes has stated, “Many of the Japanese captors were cruel towards POWs because they viewed as contemptible for the very act of surrendering. The guards were conditioned to consider that inhumane treatment was no less than what the POW deserved; real warriors die.”⁴ Soldiers were giving up their lives in battle just to protect their country. An article by Mia Swart called “Explainer: What is a War Crime,” from Aljazeera gives us a firm definition to what is considered a war crime. Swart says, “The protection of civilians, as well as those who are no longer taking part in hostilities, lies at the foundation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) the law that regulates the conduct of war. A war crime occurs when superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering is inflicted upon an enemy.”⁵ As you can see the consequences of what would happen if you were

³ (Albrecht, “Bataan Death March Begins,” History.com (A&E Television Networks, March 3, 2010), <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/bataan-death-march-begins>.

⁴ Jeff Kingston, “An Account of POWs 'in Hell',” The Japan Times, accessed December 8, 2020, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2013/03/31/books/book-reviews/an-account-of-pows-in-hell/>.

⁵ (Mia Swart, “Explainer: What Is a War Crime?,” News | Al Jazeera (Al Jazeera, October 23, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/23/explainer-what-is-a-war-crime/>.

to disobey the law, go rouge, and thus conducting a war crime. This could also justify the case that the Japanese were just greedy with power and domination. They wanted their names in the books, but when the Japanese thought they were doing something good (methodically speaking), it actually turned out to be a war crime.

Continuing on of what happened to the Japanese soldiers in the Bataan Death March, the allied soldiers needed equal recognition as well. The allied soldiers were the prisoners to the Japanese and were forced to travel 85 miles from the Bataan Peninsula to San Fernando. They just a single meals worth of food for the entire journey. 11,000 American soldiers and 66,000 Filipino soldiers totaling to 77,000. During the march, 10,000 of Allied soldiers died from starvation, exhaustion, dehydration, illness, and disease. The remaining 65,000 were to be transported from their final destination Camp O'Donnell to a train that will take them to a prison camp. A thesis written by Gail Y. Richard gives a personal story called, "Miracle: Surviving the Bataan Death March," that's about her uncle Eddie Graham and his friend named Tillman Rutledge experienced the Bataan Death March firsthand. Rewinding to the attack on Pearl Harbor will help fill in the gaps to the Bataan Death March. At first glance, the events that happened and led by General Douglas MacArthur felt so real as if the reader is in the battle.

When Eddie Graham described his experience as an army soldier when the Japanese began their attack on Pearl Harbor and the Bataan Death March, the events were so graphic that everyone should take notice before reading. "I could see them flying overhead with the red sun painted on the belly of the planes," Graham later recalled, "I recounted them all. I counted fifty-four of them. We could reach them with the big guns, but we couldn't shoot. We didn't have

orders to shoot.”⁶ Just imagining war happening and with cannons booming, people screaming in agony, and the smell of gun powder has different tone than just reading it. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Eddie Graham went to the Philippines to help the military in that area. This didn’t seem hopeful when the Japanese attacked and invaded the Philippines just hours after their attack on Pearl Harbor. Japanese bombers started to bomb cities in the Philippines with fire. American soldiers that were sent to the Philippines to help aid their allies were now scattered like ants finding shelter. Eddie Graham’s leader, Sergeant Brown was caught up in the blast. “Once they had run a distance, they stopped to catch their breath and noticed Sergeant Brown was bleeding profusely. “Go on,” he said. “I’m done for.” One man replied by saying that we are going to get help, but it was too late, Sergeant Brown died. Like him, other soldiers just died from the contact of the fire and other explosives. It was at this time where American soldiers had to gather around and made sure that they didn’t want to lose anymore. Make note that during this time was when General MacArthur was with President Luzon, protecting each other. So many soldiers are limited now because most of them died from the invasion. When the country had been captured and prisoners had been sent to San Fernando, Eddie Graham met soldier that would later be in the interview and his name is Tillman Rutledge. They met at the prison camp, but unfortunately that was the last he was heard during the war. “Following the end of the war, many of the POWS were returned home where they were placed in hospitals and treated for the contagious diseases. Eddie Graham was in and out of hospitals for three months until he was stable, and Tillman Rutledge stayed for several months before returning back home.”⁷ Many came into the war and only a handful came out alive. Even alive, soldiers had a hard time talking about their

⁶ (Richard, Gail Y. 2014.), 7

⁷ (Richard, Gail Y. 2014.), 42

experiences just like Eddie Graham and Tillman Rutledge. They know what happened out there and that are the only ones to experience something like that. The sights and sounds of war are not something to behold let alone something to fear, but just be ready for what's going to happen. Men and women are protecting their countries from evil forces.

Stories like this is something to behold! Men and women become soldiers in the military and put their lives on the line. Thank you to all the soldiers that have served in the military and have protected our country. Now another story about a different soldier is shared by Kenneth Crebillo and talking about his Great Uncle- Lolo Ulim. I had Kenneth email me about the life of his Lolo Ulim during the Bataan Death March. "My family is from Dulag, Leyte (which is southeast from Manila. The family member who was part of the Bataan Death March in 1942 was my Great Uncle – Lolo Ulim. His brother was my grandfather Tatay Agoy. Ulim was a member of the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) while the Philippines was under colonial rule of the United States. He didn't say much about being in the Bataan Death March or the USAFFE. He lived with us when I was little along with his wife Lola Conching. On veteran's day he would dress up in full uniform in honor of the United States Army Forces. I would describe my Lolo as a quiet and a very serious man. He would rarely smile, never in photos and I remember seeing him smile because I got scared of his eyepatch he would wear at night. My mom told me stories about her my Tatay Agoy (her dad) was a coward and if he got into trouble, my Lolo Ulim would be right outside the house armed with a machete or a gun. Lolo Ulim and Lola Conching would always take me to the Fil Am center where they would play mahjong, but Lolo would also be talking with folks that had also served in the war. After a few years Lolo Ulim and Lola Conching moved back to the Philippines. After they left the U.S., I never saw Lolo Ulim again, as he died in the early 2000s. I went back in 2006 to pay my

respects.”⁸ While reading this email, it felt like the presence of Lolo Ulim was present; this was his story. He hardly told Kenneth about his life in the Bataan Death March and the USAFFE because it probably impacted him a lot. I am very humble that Kenneth shared his Great Uncle story.

Now that the story of the allies has been told, this section will include in the depth details about the Japanese side and what they did to the citizens of the Philippines when they first invaded. “The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness,” written by Jintaro Ishida gives a strong analysis on both sides of the war (the Filipino natives and the Japanese invaders.) At the start of the book, in summary it says that the attack on Luzon in 1945 was “ordered by the commander of the Fuji Corps of the Japanese Imperial Army that ruled the area. According to War History 60, Army Operation Shun.”⁹ The orders were called guerilla containment or guerilla subjugation. When the guerillas dispatched for reinforcements, the Japanese soldiers were forced to fight against the U.S. Army. Again, another incident where the United States likes to poke its head into other people’s business. As the story continues, Japanese soldiers write out their thoughts in as a combined journal. A soldier by the name of Motochi Tanabe titled his story, “If I were a Young Filipino, I would be a Guerilla.” “Several years ago, a major newspaper had an article on a Filipino who was a victim of guerilla subjugation. I hid it so that my family could not read it. This topic is too taboo for me. I want to forget everything. When I recall it, I know that we committed dreadful acts. We stole food and crops. We killed men. It was reasonable that they

⁸ Crebillo, Kenneth. talking about his Great Uncle- Lolo Ulim

⁹ Ishida Jintarō and La Forte Robert S., *The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2002), 3.

acted against us Japanese. If I were a young Filipino, I surely would be a guerilla fighter.”¹⁰

When you see a Japanese soldier say, “I know that we committed dreadful acts,” it says something more about their personality. The Filipinos have every right to call the Japanese invaders, bad people, etc. The Japanese killed Filipinos on their land. But some of the Japanese soldiers were probably forced into the military and were just following orders from their commanders. It sounds like something the United States can relate to with being forced into the military. No matter how you are looking at this war, the Japanese will always be viewed as the villains just because of their alignment with the Axis of power, but that doesn’t make all Japanese soldiers bad. They are humans just like Filipinos and the American soldiers. Yes, the Japanese took over some parts of the Philippines, but at what cost for losing soldiers and other military supplies. Another entry comes from Tadoa Yoshikawa titling his piece: “War and Rumor of a Burning.” “In war, might is right. After Japan surrendered without a condition, we had no chance to complain. We were tried as vicious one-sidedly. When we surrendered, Filipinos shouted at us ‘Bakayaro, Dorobo Patay.’ ‘Why did Filipinos abuse you?’ I asked. “Perhaps because we stole their food,’ he said back.”¹¹ In short, Yoshikawa states he is true to the Japanese empire and did nothing to be blamed other than serving them. The question is can you blame someone who took more than food but is just following commands. The answer can be viewed in two different ways. The first answer being that the native Filipinos would be mad because the Japanese are taking a fraction of their land. An excuse of the Japanese could be, “I

¹⁰ Ishida Jintarō and La Forte Robert S., *The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2002), 14.

¹¹ Ishida Jintarō and La Forte Robert S., *The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2002), 17.

am protecting my family.” Again, this situation could be different, but as of right now the people who are invading are the Japanese with no other exception. As the story unfolds even more, the book finally comes through a Filipino native. His name is Mario Lantakong and he gives his insight when the Japanese invaded his area. “I was twenty years old then. The Japanese Army surrounded our barangay (barrio or small city) and summoned all the male residents of the houses. Because Salo, a female member of Makapili (Organization of Japanese collaborators established on Decemeber 8,1944), said ‘they were going to ask us for special work’. We were gathered at an elementary school where were accompanied the by several Japanese soldiers with rifles.”¹² How awful it must be to be escorted out of your home and serve with the enemy. Mario also stated, “Because I am Christian, I want to forgive the Japanese. But the Japanese killed us, Filipinos, the children of God, for their own selfish reasons.”¹³ It is strange that you would forgive the enemy that has done more than steal the food. It is interesting how religion plays a huge role during World War II. From many readings during war, it doesn’t say much about religion. Do the people favor more on the government rules or their own religious beliefs? What about if you were to kill someone. Shall you kill a man and take over his land just because you were commanded by the government or not and rebel because of your beliefs? No matter what side you are on, you are always entitled to your beliefs.

When comparing these stories, there are hundreds maybe thousands of American and Filipino soldiers and citizens suffered from the wrath of the Japanese. What was previously said, the Japanese tortured the allied soldiers was show them a fate that was worse than death. They

¹² Ishida Jintarō and La Forte Robert S., *The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2002), 21.

¹³ Ishida Jintarō and La Forte Robert S., *The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2002), 23.

probably knew the consequences that would happen when they invaded the Philippines to the Bataan Death March. The Japanese soldiers made sure that it was either you die, or you join our side. Analyzing “The Remains of War,” Filipino boys, young boys, became soldiers to serve either as a Filipino resistance soldier or join the Japanese. It sounded like the Filipinos wanted to fight back, but they were just citizens, townspeople. Some of them weren’t properly trained to fight in battle. In response, if you are a citizen who is trying to defend your home, you have every right to fight back.

The Filipinos want to put an end to these invaders. They were already invaded long ago in the 16th century by the Spaniards. The courage of the Filipino citizens is incredible! They went on to the battlefield while they fought and protected their families. The Manila Massacre was the event that took when the Japanese first invaded the Philippines. The death toll numbers of Filipinos are around 500,000 that were killed by Japanese soldiers. An article titled “Battlefield as Crime Scene: The Japanese Massacre in Manila,” written by James M. Scott gives the origins and the beginning parts to the invasion and the Massacre in Manila. “Four days earlier—just hours after American forces had rolled into the Philippine capital—Japanese troops had rounded up more than a hundred suspected guerillas and their families and herded them into this field less than three miles from the presidential place.”¹⁴ It looks like when the American soldiers came to help and support the Filipinos, most of the citizens have already been killed by Japanese. “For 29 days, as American troops battled through the Philippine capital, Japanese soldiers and marines systematically slaughtered tens of thousands of civilians in what investigators later described as an “orgy of mass murder.”¹⁵ Whilst reading these parts, it seemed that the Japanese were on the

¹⁴ James M Scott, “Battlefield as Crime Scene: The Japanese Massacre in Manila,” February 12, 2019, <https://www.historynet.com/worldwar2-japanese-massacre-in-manila.htm>.

¹⁵ James M Scott, “Battlefield as Crime Scene: The Japanese Massacre in Manila,” February 12, 2019, <https://www.historynet.com/worldwar2-japanese-massacre-in-manila.htm>.

brink of destroying and entire nation. Scott described the slaughter as an orgy of mass murder. It seems that in order to fully capture the Philippines, the Japanese needed to break down the heart of the country; which included the citizens of the Philippines. The citizens were just the first defense. The Japanese battled the American and the Filipino soldiers in order to capture the country. Scott continues, “The Japanese occupied Manila on January 2, 1942, rounding up thousands of American civilians and interning them at the University of Santo Tomas, in the city’s north. MacArthur endured 77 days in the tunnels of Corregidor before escaping, upon President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s order, on March 11, 1942, in a PT boat under the cover of darkness. For MacArthur, it was agonizing, being forced to leave behind thousands of American soldiers who had trusted him—troops who would soon face the Death March followed by years in Japan’s notorious prisoner-of-war camps.”¹⁶ Filipino and American citizens needed a voice. They needed freedom from the Japanese. Before General MacArthur arrived, the citizens were being treated like slaves for the Japanese soldiers. Scott then said, “Manila suffered greatly during the three-plus years of the enemy’s occupation. Japanese forces looted food supplies, medicines, and department stores, stole farm equipment, and left fields to rot. The city’s economy collapsed, and its social fabric began to unravel. “It is cheaper to buy a child than a hog in the City of Manila today,” one American intelligence report noted in 1944. Starvation claimed as many as 500 souls a day. American families, locked up behind the gates of Santo Tomas, suffered equally, forced to eat dogs, cats, and even rats to survive. “I was worried about a lump in my stomach,” internee Louise Goldthorpe wrote in her diary. “Then I found it

¹⁶ James M Scott, “Battlefield as Crime Scene: The Japanese Massacre in Manila,” February 12, 2019, <https://www.historynet.com/worldwar2-japanese-massacre-in-manila.htm>.

was my backbone.” All the Filipinos lives were greatly changed and negatively impacted by the way of the Japanese invaders.

The Effects of Political Cartoons

Political cartoons and propaganda posters play a critical role in wars. For example, if a soldier is being attacked by a foreign soldier, what kind of message does that send to the reader? More on that, a book called “Latin America in Caricature,” by John J. Johnson gives descriptions and political cartoons to what America did when they trying to colonize Latin America. Reading Johnson’s book makes a person think that the enemy is the United States for colonizing almost everything. The Philippines was colonized by Spain in the 16th century.¹⁷ Johnson says, “United States responses to the more nationalistic directions taken in the post-World War II era proved marked negative and unaccompanied by serious or constructive proposals.”¹⁸ The image below gives an analysis of what the United States did when they tried colonize other countries and



make them a territory of their own.

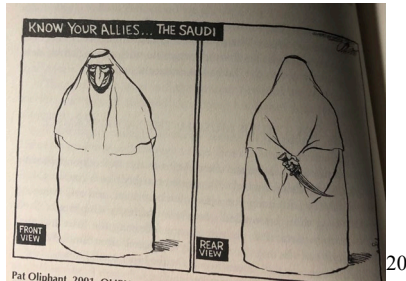
In this picture called “The Trouble Is as Close to Him as His Own Coat-tails,” Mexican and Nicaraguan politicians can be seen trying to rip the coat tail off the U.S. man. The non-

¹⁷ “Philippine Independence Declared,” February 9, 2010, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/philippine-independence-declared>.

¹⁸ John J. Johnson, *Latin America in Caricature* (Austin, TX, 1980), 9.

¹⁹ John J. Johnson, *Latin America in Caricature* (Austin, TX, 1980), 231.

American people want their land and property back. Referring back to my thesis, propaganda posters like this are messages for not only the two opposing sides but for the whole world to see.



In this picture above is illustrated a man that is wearing a robe. From Gottschalk and Greenberg's, "Islamophobia: Making Muslims the Enemy," titles this picture is titled: "Allies, the Saudi" The image on the right shows that the man is holding a knife. The message about this image is about the Saudi are bad people. The two previous images aren't directly related to the thesis about Bataan, however citizens from all over the world can see this image. The message is about how will you celebrate victory.

An article called "Anti-Japanese Media in the 20th century," by Samantha Nelson explains the "wartime" propaganda between Japan and the U.S as well as the incidents between them. Nelson stated, "Propaganda is arguably the most useful political tool a government can possibly use, especially in times of war. The power of propaganda was debatably most successful in World War II in Nazi Germany, as the government was able to keep its citizens in the dark on the severity of its own crimes and also keep them convinced the Germany was winning the war,

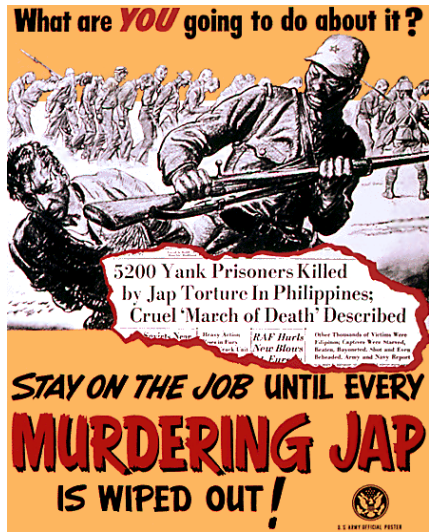
²⁰ Peter Gottschalk and Gary Greenberg, *Islamophobia: Making Muslims the Enemy* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008), 78.

up until the very end when the Allies began occupation.”²¹ As viewers, this is the message that is sent in the form of political cartoons. How is the U.S. shown versus the Japanese or the Filipinos? On top of that, what about the author of the political cartoons, where does their allegiance lie. Nelson continues, “All of this is not to say that Japanese did not provide fuel for the fire created by these cartoons and ads. The Bataan Death March was tragic and brutal, and the media did not pass up the opportunity to spin the event into a propaganda. The photo below is an American GI being abused by a Japanese soldier. This image is so powerful because it became universal to its audience; that the American GI could be anyone.”²²

The message that they are sending is that the Japanese is the enemy. Adding more from Nelson, a poster titled “What are you going to do about it,” gives a negative view on the Japanese. The Americans made it seem like a job or even an advertisement to murder the Japanese. The author of this poster used a newspaper article and put down numbers and statistics so that the audience would have a better understanding to what the Japanese did to the Americans. And this wasn’t a U.S. soldier killed in battle, it was 5200 Yank Prisoners killed By Jap torture in the Philippines. The soldiers were tortured and by making this poster, it shows what kind of pain they went through just by illustrating a picture like that.

²¹ Samantha Nelson, “Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America,” Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America, December 7, 2014, <https://po394.wordpress.com/>.

²² Samantha Nelson, “Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America,” Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America, December 7, 2014, <https://po394.wordpress.com/>.



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This picture that Nelson attached shows the Japanese as a villain. “Stay on the Job until every murdering Jap is wiped out.” It sounds weird when the opposite force would say something like. First the Japanese could have killed all the Filipinos and Americans when they invaded their countries. But what kind of message does the U.S. want to send after posting this poster. Is this about a power struggle, An eye for an eye, or is about something else? The United States bombed your area so now the opponent is going to strike back. Nelson talks about the political cartoon titled, “A Dose/Tate of His Own Medicine.” Arguably the most powerfully ironic cartoons are the two following ones; they call for giving the Japanese “a dose of [their] own medicine,” implying attacking the Japanese with bombs in return for Pearl Harbor. In both, an arm representing the Allies (and Uncle Sam in the one on the right) shoves bombs down a Japanese man’s throat. Of course, this *was* the end result of the Pacific War: America *did* deliver “a dose of [their] own medicine” in the form of atomic bombs. These cartoons reflected the general desire to inflict as much damage on the Japanese as possible, in the names of vengeance

²³ Samantha Nelson, “Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America,” Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America, December 7, 2014, <https://po394.wordpress.com/>.

and victory.”²⁴ Not only is this a message to the Japanese, but this is a message that is sent to everyone on the United States view on the Japanese. The question is, which side will you join?



The N. Y. World Telegram
 “A Dose of His Own Medicine”



The N. Y. Sun
 “A Taste of His Own Medicine”

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There are multiple sides to every story, whether it’s a POW or a Japanese soldier, the soldiers who did the rescuing after the Bataan Death March? Another notable perspective from the Bataan Death March was the soldiers who rescued the men from the Japanese. Hampton Sides written a story called the “Ghost Soldiers, The Epic Account of World War II’s Greatest Rescue Mission.” The Greatest Mission that Sides is talking about is the Bataan Death March rescue that saved 513 POWs.²⁶ While reading, Hampton goes in-depth of both the POWs and the

²⁴ Samantha Nelson, “Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America,” Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America, December 7, 2014, <https://po394.wordpress.com/>.

²⁵ Samantha Nelson, “Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America,” Anti-Japanese Media in 20th Century America, December 7, 2014, <https://po394.wordpress.com/>.

²⁶ Sides, Ghost Stories Backpage.

rescuers. So, the story starts off when the POWs are captured at the Cabanauan Prison Camp. The rescuers are the U.S Army 6th Ranger Battalion led by Colonel Henry Mucci. “The prison camp was out there in no-man’s land, a barbed wire vision thirty miles off. The Rangers faced a twelve-hour march across roads patrolled by Japanese tanks, across Japanese help bridges, across open country infested with Japanese pillboxes.”²⁷ As the Rangers marched, American artillery shells would occasionally lob high over their heads and explode deep into the Japanese territory, sending up magnificent clouds of dust. The Yank tank firepower was impressive, Mucci thought, so impressive that it became worrisome. In confusion of a porous and a fast-moving front, there was a distinct possibility that forward units of the Sixth Army could momentarily mistake the Rangers for Japanese.”²⁸ It seemed that the plan of the Sixth Army was to settle on surprise, however, they were supplied with heavy artillery with tanks and weapons I. This operation was a hybrid search and rescue. Hybrid because of the artillery that was supplied on the mission. Rangers could see that regular citizens with weapons are allied with the Japanese.

From the information that was gathered so far, the Japanese were treated during and after the Bataan Death March, how the country of Japan would separate themselves from society. As stated before, “The Japanese soldiers who were present during the march has brought shame and dishonor to their country. Although they were on the side of the Axis, they shouldn’t have done something like this, a war crime.” Were the orders from that of the Nazi Germans for them to commit a war crime? Many people also see that Americans were public enemy number one against the Japanese when they made political posters about them. A picture tells a thousand

²⁷ Hampton Sides, *Ghost Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission* (NY: Anchor Books, 2001), 67.

²⁸ Hampton Sides, *Ghost Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission* (NY: Anchor Books, 2001), 71.

words. Some of those words are words kill and threaten, that is what the United States did. Adding to that, the interview with a 3rd party whose family member was in the Bataan Death March. When linking events together from the Bataan Death March and using that information today, the picture becomes a bit clearer as that there are many views (both positive and negative) on the Bataan Death March. The thesis that was stated at the beginning of this paper was about the Japanese didn't show mercy to the citizens. Why so many died of exhaustion and/or dehydration during the transfer. An additional source came from the rescuers from the 6th Army Ranger Battalion and their views on the Bataan Death March. What this source brought in were the thoughts from the soldiers that were under Colonel Henry Mucci. In addition, the information that was provided stated that either the Americans or the Japanese say that Bataan is a bad place. Aside from the obvious answer, the Americans being ones called the "heroes." What about the political cartoons and their views on the Japanese. Is it morally right to get revenge on your enemy than it is to settle for peace? And what about the Japanese before they committed the war crime? The question to ask is who is the enemy? From what has been said, it can be the Americans or the Japanese, but from what I have observed it would be the Japanese because they were the ones that attacked first. On December of 1941, Japanese military invaded and bombed Pearl Harbor killing around 2,000 soldiers aboard a ship. Not long after the invasion in Pearl Harbor, the Americans traveled to the Philippines and sought out revenge against the Japanese. While the allies were there, a lot of the allied soldiers were killed and even the leader, General Douglas MacArthur had to retreat. Only a handful of allied soldiers were left, and they surrendered to the Japanese. The allied soldiers and now prisoners of war had to go on a brutal march that would last for days and killed a large percent of the POWs. After the allied soldiers were rescued from their reinforcements, it only took a couple months later in 1945 for the U.S. to strike back at the

Japanese. For killing and torturing American soldiers, the U.S. bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August of 1945 killing over 200 thousand people.²⁹ An eye for an eye and retaliation.

The Battle of Race and Discrimination

When observing a war, it might just be two sides clashing; however, there is politics, sovereignty and autonomy, and race. When looking at World War Two from a general perspective, a question to keep in mind is “how does one state view the other.” Think about that state and why do they despise the other state. John W. Dower’s “War Without Mercy,” states that

“such discrimination provided grist for the propaganda mills of the Axis...The Japanese, acutely sensitive to “color” issues from an entirely differently perspective, exploited every display of racial conflict on the United States in their appeals to other Asians (while necessarily ignoring the white supremacism of their German ally.)”³⁰

What this means is that there is racial battle between the United States and the Japanese. The Japanese are keeping the Germans out of this just because they are an ally. Analyzing from previous content, Samantha Nelson’s political cartoons gives an illustration the hatred between the United States and the Japanese. From that moment, it went back and forth, death in numbers from either side increased. Which superpower would fall or submit first? The United States then made comics and their encounters with the Japanese. Continuing on the effects during and after the war, Dower argues the rage and race is a huge factor in the war. “I realize that the emotion I

²⁹ Sarah Pruitt, “Hiroshima, Then Nagasaki: Why the US Deployed the Second A-Bomb,” History.com (A&E Television Networks, July 21, 2020), <https://www.history.com/news/hiroshima-nagasaki-second-atomic-bomb-japan-surrender-wwii>.

³⁰ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 5.

felt just now was not personal pity but manifestation of magnanimity that becomes a chivalrous Samurai and into rage and racism. Here's something for the other day—take that, and then goes that remark that “these thick-headed white bastards are thick bellied too. The gross obscenity of death (the severed head drop” like a white doll” the trunk left with “not a drop of blood” in it). And the nonchalance of the casual gossip (“If I get back alive this will make a good story to tell. That's why I wrote it down.”)³¹

Another word from Dower who gives more information about how Japanese are depicted in American culture.

“The New York Times found the latter cartoon so effective that it reproduced it on the front page of its Sunday book-review section, as an illustration for a review of books on Japanese policy. The Times's practice of featuring political cartoons from other newspapers in its Sunday edition provides a convenient source through which to gain an impression of thoroughly conventional nature of the simian fixation. Thus, in mid-1942 Japanese soldiers in the Aleutians (who died almost to the last man) were depicted as an ape on a springboard.”³²

Dower then continues by saying that Hitler was also depicted as a monkey. The message soon got around and that was when “England's Public Enemy #1 was Hitler.”³³ It is strange to see that the Americans would label the Japanese as monkeys. Dower's explanation to this is, “Fighting the Japs is like fighting a wild animal... The Japs take all kinds of chances, they love to die.” A profile of the Japanese fighting man in a serviceman's magazine also argued that “he isn't afraid to die.”³⁴ Analyzing this makes a person think, “do the Americans really want to commit genocide on this country?” “By such

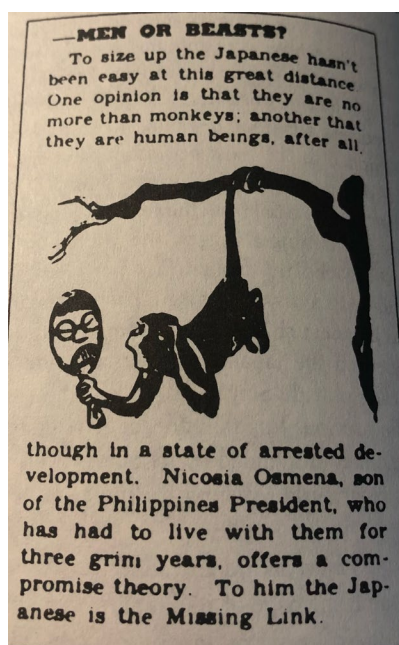
³¹ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 51.

³² John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 87.

³³ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 88.

³⁴ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 89.

reasoning, it was almost a favor to kill the Japanese. Beyond this, of course, being beats they deserved to die.”³⁵ The Japanese were about to genocide the Philippines during their invasion after they attacked Pearl Harbor. They could’ve but they didn’t; instead they put the pain and suffering on the allied soldiers. This may be a case of revenge, as stated before, the United States bombed Nagasaki then that’s when went on



the offensive.

³⁶

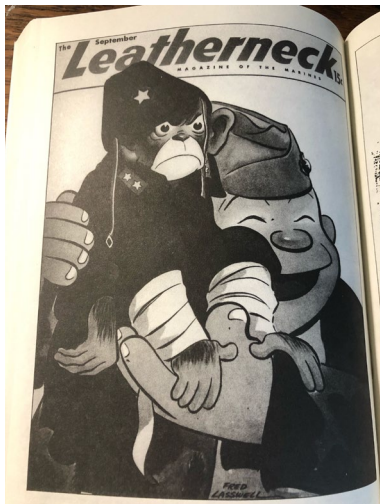
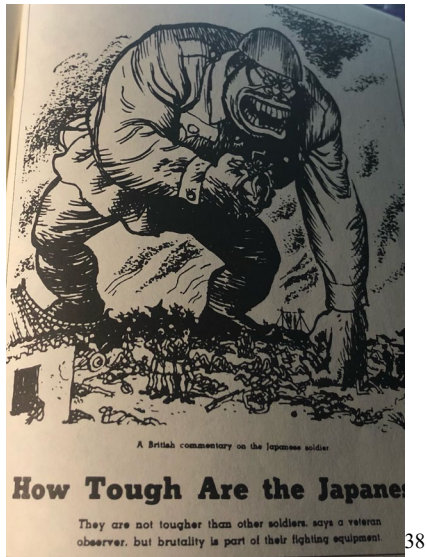
Not only was the United States labeling the Japanese as a threat, but the United Kingdom as well. Since the UK was allied with the United States during that time, whatever came out of the mouth of the Americans was also understood by the British. This image that Dower inserted is what the British thought about the Japanese. The image titled “How tough are the Japanese?” Below the inscription says “they are not tougher than other soldiers, says a veteran observer, but brutally is part of their fighting equipment.”³⁷ In addition to the caption, Dower says, that the Japanese resembles apes or lesser men. Analyzing this makes you think why would the Allies or let alone anyone would label a country after an animal? Earlier I mentioned about how race plays a critical part in war. Every nation that is fighting in World War Two

³⁵ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 89.

³⁶ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 88

³⁷ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 187.

wants to prove to their enemies and their allies that they are the strongest. Political comics help motivate people and it gives them more of a reason to hate. The view on the Japanese by the Americans are correct, however they are animals themselves because they posted something like this to the public. The public needs to decide, who is the real enemy or the real animal?



³⁹ The next photo was from Leatherneck: magazine of the marines. The caption says: “The cover of “Leatherneck’s September 1945 issue, celebrating

³⁸ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 187.

³⁹ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 187.

Japan's surrender, revealed the malleability of wartime stereotypes, as the simian caricature was almost immediately transformed into an irritated but already domesticated and even charming, pet."⁴⁰ Although people do celebrate in victory, it necessary to celebrate in this sort of manner because the stronger country will show who is more superior and who is weaker. Another thing to compare if this racial war happening right now. Racism has been happening for over a hundred years. It happened before the Bataan Death March and it sadly continues today.

The following pictures illustrate of Japanese folklore and how it connects with modern



warfare.

41



42

The caption reads:

⁴⁰ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 186.

⁴¹ John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 198.

⁴² John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2014), 199.

“In this classic folklore rendering (above), Japan’s wartime mission is associated with the divinely born Momotaro (the “Peach Boy”), who with the aid of a dog, pheasant and monkey subdued threatening demons from a distant land... The humorous boxing sequence on the opposite page is a “modernized” version of the fable. Chiang Kai-shek is on the ropes. Roosevelt and Churchill, flabby and elderly, step in to save him but are roundly defeated by an exemplary Momotaro-type symbol of Japan: young, clean, wearing a Rising Sun headband. In the final panel, black Americans cheer lustily at Japan’s victory, while whites are shocked and chagrined.”

Like the Americans, the Japanese also created political comics to send as a message for the world. The demons are the Americans and the Japanese are the warriors that will kill the demons. The hatred the Japanese between the Americans is like a blazing fire that won’t stop.

Referring back to the thesis and how it talked about that the lives were affected post-World War Two, some countries were celebration, but others suffered in defeat. There can’t just be a period in time where opposing armies come together and write in a truce? Can honor be achieved even for our enemies? From what has happened, what has been observed and during this time, no. There was conflict brewing between the Americans and Filipinos verses the Japanese for more than just a couple of years. People say that, “a picture tells a thousand words.” I stand by this statement because the messengers don’t know what would happen if you sent out a picture like that, unless it was to purposely taunt your enemies. Earlier, I discussed the invasion of the Philippines, the prisoners of war and how they felt during the Bataan Death March and got a soldier’s perspective from Lolo Ulim, then ending how the rescue went after the march. On top of that, there was the aftermath on how Japan separated itself from society. What they did was against their policy as a military and as a country. They tortured soldiers and made them go on a historical march that was negatively remembered. The Japanese wanted to break the will of the Americans and so they did.

Fast forward and the prisoners of war were rescued from Colonel Henry Mucci along with the Army 6th Ranger Battalion in early 1945. There was still a war going on in the western area. But as of that moment, the Japanese have lost the battle fled the country of the Philippines. Their plans to use the country as a base have failed. In March of 1945, World War II ended. But was that the end of the feud between countries.

The Discussion About the Bataan Death March

Some might not know how bad the Bataan Death March was because it wasn't really discussed in books or talked during class. It was probably something that nobody talked about because it was considered a taboo. In addition to what has been previously said by the Japanese, more information will be added to this section of the paper. When Kevin C. Murphy wrote "Inside the Bataan Death March: Defeat, Travail, and Memory," the aftermath of what happens to the Japanese unfolds and becomes clear. Before looking at the text, Murphy indicated that the Bataan Death March was a defeat, a travail, and a memory. However, he did not say it was a victory for both sides. Both sides have lost a significant number of soldiers and on the opposite side, the Japanese committed a war crime. On to Murphy's novel, in chapter 4 titled "Chaos Meets Kata," this section is about what happened after the Bataan Death March in the Japanese side. "For Japanese, vulnerable to nature's violence, inured to the demands of cooperative labor, and subject to a heritage of strict authoritarian rule."⁴³ Looks like when the Japanese made the allied soldiers their prisoners, they broke a code they were supposed to follow. Japanese are often as unable as they are willing to deal with foreigners without significant trauma. Four

⁴³ Kevin C. Murphy, *Inside the Bataan Death March: Defeat, Travail and Memory* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2014), 95.

decades after the Bataan Death March, nearly two thirds of the Japanese population expressed unwillingness to have any contact with foreigners. Such discomfort stems in a large measure because foreign behavior is, according to Japanese lights, unpredictable For Japanese, the unexpected is particularly unwelcome.⁴⁴ Looks like that the Japanese didn't want to have any contact with outsiders. In the 1980s, the Japanese came out of their shell and had contact with outsiders. The Japanese couldn't forgive themselves for what they did. The things they did while on the Bataan Death March were unforgivable and inhumane. The Japanese soldiers who were present during the march has brought shame and dishonor to their country. Although they were on the side of the Axis, they shouldn't have done something like this, a war crime.

Seems like the Japanese had strong negative feelings towards the Americans. The feud started before the Bataan Death March when the Japanese soldiers invaded the United States and bombed Pearl Harbor. The intense hate between the Japanese and the United States is indescribable. In the same topic of race, a book written by Craig M. Cameron called "Race and Identity: The Culture of Combat in the Pacific" gives an explanation of why race is so important in world politics. Cameron starts off by mentioning John A. Lynn's assessment in the Pacific. "Lynn balances his larger argument that scholars who characterize the Pacific War as a race war over-generalize and over-state their case. Lynn also states that "the heinous, racist behavior was common throughout the Asian and Pacific theaters, but argues, that racism did not cause the war, determine overall US strategy, or shape combat doctrine."⁴⁵ What is interesting is that my initial thought was that this war had some characteristics of racism. According to what Lynn said, he said that the war was not determined by race. "Lynn hits the historiography of the Pacific war

⁴⁴Kevin C. Murphy, *Inside the Bataan Death March: Defeat, Travail and Memory* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2014), 95.

⁴⁵Craig M. Cameron "Race and Identity: The Culture of Combat in the Pacific War." *International History Review* 27, no. 3 (2005): 550-66.

along a seam. Unlike the well-known military historians such as Victor Davis Hanson and Geoffrey Parker he uses to frame the discussion of earlier periods, Dower and Takaki have limited interest or expertise in military strategy or doctrine.⁴⁶ It is the battle of races of who is superior: the Americans or the Japanese. Continuing on about why racism is a bigger picture, “The moral and legal definitions of legitimacy from the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) were themselves racialized in ways that did not happen in Nuremburg. The ele did not happen at Nuremburg. The eleven judges who presided included Delfin Juranilla, a Filipino, Radha- binod Pal, an Indian nationalist still awaiting independence, and Mei Ju-ao of China, but the other eight were not Asian. Justice for the UN-estimated four million Indonesians who died was the responsibility of the Dutch representative; Burmese, Malays, and Indo-Chinese were represented by their restored British and French imperial overlords; and Koreans, perhaps the most extensively exploited Asian society, had no voice at all. Of an estimated 920 Japanese class B and C criminals executed, those judged by the restored imperialists received harsher treatment than those judged by fellow Asians. For example, the Dutch executed 236 and the British 223, compared to 149 executed by the Chinese and 17 by the Filipinos.⁴⁷ Just looking back and reacting to something like this and say who is the enemy? At one point some of these countries were aligned simultaneously, then they separated, and now they are enemies, then the cycle repeats itself. One year the allies become our enemies and then the next a new army were supplied with new allies.

An excerpt by a U.S. Representative named John Rarick wrote an article on May 14, 1971 titled “Those Antiwar Veterans: The untold story” explains more of what happened during

⁴⁶ Craig M. Cameron "Race and Identity: The Culture of Combat in the Pacific War." *International History Review* 27, no. 3 (2005): 550

⁴⁷ Craig, M. Cameron "Race and Identity: The Culture of Combat in the Pacific War." *International History Review* 27, no. 3 (2005): 564

the Bataan Death March. Rarick states, “This was April 10 to 16, 1942. The march was the infamous Bataan Death March. The author said: ‘the reason that it happened exists again in our nation today. We were complacent and unprepared. We had failed to keep our country strong and ready and we had failed to recognize the clear dangers of our times. Dupes and fools among us told us we could ‘negotiate’ peace with enemies who hated- us. In 1939 and 1940 there were Americans marching, meeting, shouting, and posturing in the uniforms and trappings of a foreign ideology, proclaiming their treasonous loyalty to an alien and totalitarian philosophy. We were all saying, ‘it can’t happen here.’”⁴⁸ The common question would be what would happen if the Bataan Death March did not exist. As stated before, it would be a catastrophe for the Allies and the Japanese would use that country as another Axis base. It seemed that when Rarick wrote this, he had intentions on being blunt on the Allies performance in the war. He said that “we failed to recognize the clear dangers our times and dupes and fools among us told us we could ‘negotiate’ peace with enemies who hated us.” Some might think the U.S. wouldn’t bother to negotiate until it was a last resort. My hypothesis is that the U.S. could have settled a peace treaty with their enemies, however they went in recklessly, sent in soldiers and aided the Filipinos. Can anybody blame the actions of the U.S. after they were invaded by the Japanese in December of 1941? The U.S. wanted to retaliate against the Japanese. But for the U.S., was the war on the more about defending the Philippines or avenging a loss?

The Memorial

The events of the Bataan Death March have been dark, but in today’s society there have been a couple of ways that the Death March was remembered. First was the Shrine of Valour located in Mt. Samat, Bataan. This giant cross is a memorial that was built in memorial after the

⁴⁸ John Rarick, “Life Lines: Those Antiwar Veterans: The Untold Story” May 14, 1971

battles in World War II. This cross was designed by Lorenzo de Castillo in 1970⁴⁹ “Within the colonnade itself stand two bronze urns, an altar and behind, three large stained glass windows that signify ‘The Supreme Sacrifice’, ‘The Call to Arms’ and ‘Peace’, all designed by the national Filipino artist Ceno Rivera.”⁵⁰ During this research my friend who I want to keep their name anonymous has been to the shine in Bataan. They said, “I was excited and in awe on how big it the cross was and how beautiful the place was itself. The museum is under a big cross and there’s some weapons that display outside just to show what they used back in the day.”⁵¹

Even though this was considered one of America’s largest surrender’s, people today need to recognize the things that happened over time, including the ones that are the most gruesome. The next memorial site is located in the United States. Lauren Larson wrote an article titled, “The toughest race in America is the Bataan Memorial Death March.”⁵² This memorial march is located in New Mexico and is “26 miles of high desert and 26 miles of pure perseverance.” According to bataanmarch.com, the website states, “The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging march through the high desert terrain of the White Sands Missile Range. The memorial march is conducted in honor of the heroic service

⁴⁹ “Shrine of Valour (Dambana Ng Kagitingan) & World War II Museum, Mt. Samat, Bataan,” *WARMAP*, accessed December 8, 2020, <http://www.warinasia.com/shrine-of-valour-dambana-ng-kagitingan-world-war-ii-museum-mt-samat-bataan>.

⁵⁰ “Shrine of Valour (Dambana Ng Kagitingan) & World War II Museum, Mt. Samat, Bataan.” *WARMAP*, www.warinasia.com/shrine-of-valour-dambana-ng-kagitingan-world-war-ii-museum-mt-samat-bataan.

⁵¹ November 20, Seattle, Washington, phone call, Mt. Samat, anonymous

⁵² “Bataan Death March Marathon,” Yahoo! (Yahoo!), accessed December 8, 2020, <https://search.yahoo.com/news/search?q=bataan+death+march+marathon>.

members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom health, and, in many cases, their lives.”⁵³The more people today learn more about these memorials, the more information they can get from the Bataan Death March.

Conclusion

In conclusion, by observing the events that happened before, during, and after the Bataan Death March, we can see that the Japanese, Americans, and the Filipino had to fight for their country. These political cartoons were a way for the public to view the foreigners. An excerpt written by Thomas Knieper captures the definition of what a political cartoon means:

“Political cartoon, a drawing (often including caricature) made for the purpose of conveying editorial commentary on politics, politicians, and current events. Such cartoons play a role in a political discourse of a society that provides for freedom of speech of the press. Their subject matter is usually that of current and newsworthy political issues, and, in order for them to be understood, they require that readers possess some basic background knowledge about their subject matter, ideally that provided by the medium in which they are published.”⁵⁴

What this means is that the cartoons made an impact on the current events. Think about how the cartoon is displayed and the message being sent out. Most of the political cartoons that were sent out during the era were used as a warning or a caution sign. For example, the comic titled “How Tough are the Japanese,” this motivates the Americans to fight against the Japanese. Each country wanted to show their allies and more of their enemies what pride they had. The

⁵³ “Home,” Bataan Memorial Death March, September 15, 2020, <https://bataanmarch.com/>.

⁵⁴ Thomas Knieper, “Political Cartoon,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed December 8, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/political-cartoon>.

Bataan Death March was just a small segment of the events that happened in the bigger picture of World War II. These political cartoons are messages from the past to show them during the present time and to feel what it was like during those times.

In addition to observing the political cartoons, the events in the Bataan Death March should be widely known to everyone and not just people who study it. From personal experience, there have been high school history classes that taught the Attack on Pearl Harbor, but don't progress forward in the pacific timeline. It always seems that after the Attack on Pearl Harbor lesson is finished, a new lesson emerges and moves to the European region during World War II. Students might question, "What else happened in that area?" or "What happened to the Japanese or the Americans after the Attack on Pearl Harbor." Discovering the secrets about an unknown war and learning about one of the largest surrenders since the Civil War is something that everyone should know. World War Two is a huge event that has small battles that make up smaller territories. It is important to look at war from not just the main points of success, but also the points of loss and surrender. That way there is a better understanding from all the events from the start of World War Two (and not just how the United States was involved) to the end and how it ended in different areas on the globe.

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