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Chapter 1 : Corazon Aquino and the Brushfire Revolution

*Corazon Aquino and the Brushfire Revolution [Robert H. Reid, Eileen Guerrero] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The authors, current AP bureau chief in Manila and former AP news editor in Manila, analyze the turbulent years of the Aquino administration and its aftermath.*

Governments of the World: Better known simply as Cory, she was responsible for galvanizing political opposition to the dictatorial rule of Ferdinand Marcos. She gained renown as one of the cardinal leaders of the "People Power Revolution": Her courageous stance and moral leadership also led to the rise of women leaders in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. Aquino was born on January 25, 1932; her parents hailed from two of the richest and most politically powerful families in the Philippines: She belonged to the clans that controlled the largest agricultural properties in the provinces of Tarlac and Rizal. Her father was a congressman and both her grandfathers had served as senators. Aquino received excellent academic training. In 1952 she received her B.A. in English from the University of the Philippines. Despite her background, Aquino was very disinterested in politics. Her marriage to Benigno Aquino, Jr. On February 7, 1964, Aquino battled Marcos in one of the most violent presidential elections in Philippine history. A power vacuum would ensue as the Commission on Elections and its watchdog organization produced conflicting tabulations. Eventually, the "People Power Revolution" would vanquish the dictatorship. However, her conservative positions and political inexperience prevented her from introducing critical socioeconomic reforms. Seven attempted military coups destabilized her leadership; the most violent one in nearly toppled it. In 1986 Aquino presided over a peaceful transfer of power to Fidel V. Ramos. By then she had retired from electoral politics, but she continued to play an active role in efforts to establish good governance in the Philippines. She has devoted most of her time to serving as the chairperson of the Benigno Aquino Jr. Foundation and as an advisor to the Metrobank Foundation. Both organizations provide academic scholarships to poor but deserving students and logistical support to non-governmental organizations working on local community development. Aquino has received numerous awards in recognition of her contributions to democracy and the empowerment of women.

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The "people power" revolution that brought Corazon Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, to the presidency of the Philippines in seemed to promise a new era in the troubled history of that nation.

Cory Aquino did not aspire to be a politician. In , after graduating from Mount St. Ninoy Aquino became a popular, outspoken opponent of Ferdinand Marcos, the dictator who held the presidency from In , Ninoy was imprisoned for eight long years, and then exiled to the United States. Ninoy was finally allowed to return to his homeland in , only to be assassinated the moment he arrived. The economic problems of the country deteriorated even further, and the government went further into debt. In , Ferdinand suddenly announced an election to legitimize his hold on the country. Cory was reluctant to run at first, but changed her mind after being presented with one million signatures urging her to run for president. Cory immediately called for peaceful civil disobedience protests, and for organized strikes and mass boycotts of the media and businesses owned by Marcos. Filipinos were enthusiastic in their support. These popular, peaceful demonstrations came to be known as the People Power Revolution. Though Marcos ordered troops against the thousands of protesters including whole families and nuns and priests , not a shot was fired and the troops withdrew and many defected. During the first few months of her presidency, the Philippines experienced radical changes and reforms. The new Corazon Aquino Administration gave strong emphasis and concern for civil liberties and human rights, and peace talks with communist insurgents and Muslim secessionists. Cory also focused on bringing back economic health and confidence. Cory was also a lifelong member of the Council of Women World Leaders , an international organization of former and current female heads of state and government that helps to mobilize women world leaders to take action on issues critical to the leadership, empowerment and development of women. In , President Aquino strongly declined the requests for her to seek reelection. She wanted to set an example to both citizens and politicians, in contrast to Ferdinand Marcos, that the presidency is not a lifetime position. She still remained active in the public eye, however, often voicing her views and opinions on the pressing political issues. Cory Aquino passed away in of cancer. Her death elicited a worldwide reaction, and thousands attended her wake and funeral. Filipino Catholics called on the Church to have Aquino canonized and declared as a saint. She accomplished so much in her life and was beloved by many people. Image of Corazon Aquino courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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A balanced and thoughtful analysis of the Philippines in the years since the fall of Marcos is very much needed. Unfortunately, this journalistic account is not it.

She was the first female President in Philippines, and was chosen as the face and symbol of the opposition movement against Marcos. Martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino became the rallying point for the huge and diverse groundswell of revulsion of those who had become disgruntled by fourteen years of martial law. However, within months her administration had collapsed into a din of coup attempts, assassinations and political intrigue. Reid calls her presidency a bushfire revolution; just like dry weed which catches fire but burns out hot and fast. She had begun losing legitimacy among large sections of the population who accused her of false promises to ease poverty, stamp corruption and widen democracy. This paper argues that Corazon Aquino essentially left a mixed legacy. She led a peaceful democratic transition that did restore institutional democracy in Philippines but faced many deeply entrenched systematic and cultural obstacles in achieving democratic consolidation. She made little headway into championing the rights of rural poor, and improving the economy. Corruption and graft became widespread, and caciques hegemony once again revived that marred progress. Ultimately, she was a survivor, having outlived six coup attempts against her, and neutralizing the warring factions of communist rebels, Muslim insurgencies and military dissidents. Before I begin expounding on her achievements and failures, it would be perhaps useful to highlight the herculean task that confronted her, especially given that she had no political experience. Corazon Aquino essentially inherited a 28 billion foreign debt^[3] from the previous regime, massive poverty, poor dilapidated infrastructure, highly factionalized military, active communist insurgency, three Muslim secessionist movements, and huge expectations from a newly awakened civil society bursting with energy after fourteen years of one man rule. Very bluntly, she had a lot on her plate. She had to come to terms with a deeply embedded culture in Philippines which operates on a network of mutual obligations and favours "where alliances are built on personal links with influential family members and patrons. This culture eventually undermined many of her reforms. She did not have the luxury of an orderly transition. Decisions had to be made quickly and it reflected her lack of experience. Many of the problems she faced were often her own making. She was highly concerned about her image, and though stubborn, was widely accused of being soft and politically indecisive in the face of grave crisis. Her personality was a double edged sword. Aquino played an important role in restoring institutional democracy. Her administration became known for its strong emphasis and active concern for civil liberties and human rights. On the very first day of her political appointment, she announced the right to habeas corpus. These people had been convicted of purported cases of political subversion, sedition, or conspiracy and other offences against the requirements of the public. She allowed the free press and media to once again flourish, which had been repressed severely under martial law. A constitution limited the powers of the presidency and restored an American-style bicameral legislature independent of executive and functioning judiciary. Instead she indirectly became party to these acts of statecrafts. She displayed partiality to long-standing friends, especially by appointing them to positions of authority. This became evident in her cabinet selection after she gained presidency, following the traditional formula of rewarding people who had elevated her to power. He was immediately appointed as the Minister of Finance. In addition, many business portfolios went to Catholic business cliques. Close friends of late Ninoy were also appointed. At the forefront of the street demonstration, Ramon Mitra, who was a rich rancher and fellow senator of Ninoy, was given the agricultural portfolio. He had to be later dismissed because of tussle with the military. He was a very ambitious and self serving individual, whose main aim was to consolidate power to run for presidency in the next elections. As part of her military reform, she was supposed to remove Juan Ponce Enrile, protege of Marcos who later betrayed him and General V. Ramos but retained them due to the debt she owed to them. Favouritism towards those who had supported her, and hasty decisions to appoint those who

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proved to be untrustworthy in the end, resulted in severe public criticism against Cory. The culture of crony capitalism continued. There was no change. However, the corruption watchdog itself had to be watched after several months. It was not a break from the past but the continuation of looting of state coffers. Benedict Anderson labeled her as an instructive liar and for good reason. She was not the champion of poor poverty stricken. Half of some 65 million people continued to live in poverty by the end of her presidency. In Manila, thousands of hungry homeless children were growing up in streets. In villages, sweet potato had replaced staple food rice which was an indication of growing impoverishment. Economic growth brought about by unleashing the economy to market-oriented forces and privatization benefited mainly the metropolitans. At the heart of economic disparity was land equity and limited land reforms. Contrary to her image as a simple lady, she was essentially from one of the wealthiest and most powerful dynasties within Filipino oligarchy. Land reforms were essential for Philippines because most of the wealth was concentrated in the powerful hands of large agricultural land owners and capitalists. Distribution of such power was required. After coming into power Aquino promised to expand agrarian reform to cover all agricultural land and not simply corn and rice producing holdings to which Marcos land reform was limited. However, like most of her policies, this was also marked by an exit clause. However, little was done to address this problem. Ben Anderson argues that elections for Senate and House of representatives was not only a triumph for Aquino because most of her supporters won, but it was after these elections that the power of the elected senior officials was felt. Caciques came back to power. Caciques began to claim their own. Bonifacio Gligo, chairman for the House on Committee of Agrarian Reforms lamented that 17 out of 21 members on the committee were landlords who eventually blocked land reforms. She had a tendency to delegate tasks to subordinates, and despite calls to step in to address these reforms, she left the decision to the legislature, cowered by the looming influence of elites who supported her. The legislature responded by passing a bill that exempted 70 percent of all agricultural land from redistribution. When Corazon came to power, she inherited a highly factionalized military. There were six coup attempts against her administration – testimony to the raging power struggles. Though she managed to neutralize the rebellious factions in the end, this came at a cost – that of greater military intrusion in civilian affairs. With each coup, she leaned more towards the right, making concessions with the armed forces and dismissing many cabinet members who were associated with the left. Once Aquino came into power, they felt that the place that rightfully belonged to them had been taken away. Moreover, to them nothing less than a military junta led government was acceptable. Her soft stance against the communist groups further aggravated the military which had witnessed the deaths of many comrades during military crackdowns against them. The army was also given less funding. Their defense budget of the military had also been slashed. Thus it was a combination of stifling of both economic and political interests of the military that resulted in such resentment. The result was several coup attempts against her administration. Supported by loyalists in the military and foreign ally United States, her regime was eventually protected. However, the near success of the coup revealed many was an indication of the growing dissent among members of AFP. The David Commission report of that help ten months of exhaustive hearings in the entire cycle of coup attempts revealed that soldiers had become increasingly disenfranchised by the corruption, poor military leadership, lack of genuine reconciliation and failure of government to improve economic conditions. Besides the military, even middle class segments which had propped her up into power were getting disillusioned by the widespread poverty. Even though, the coup attempts were essentially power struggle of the military rebels against civilian leadership, which she effectively neutralized, it did open a window into the weakness of her regime, and the many glaring problems in society that had not been promised but not fulfilled. The conflict in the South was a result of large numbers of Christian immigrants who moved during American colonialism, secretarian violence, and due to martial law and displaced the inhabitants who were Muslims. This region is now a self governing constitutionally mandated entity with its own legislative and executive branches. A popular peace advocate, Oblate priest Fr. She started the process of negotiation and stood by her decision to never resort to force. It was her spirit of peaceful political reconciliation which marked her presidency and was

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captured in her personal endeavors. She invited rebels to lay down arms in return for legitimizing the party. Upon gaining office, she released two prominent leftist prisoners, Sison and Buscayo, against the will of the military. In the infant stages of the negotiations, Dionko passed away due to health issues, and the reins were passed to Ramon Mitra, who became despised for his lack of professionalism and commitment to the negotiations. However, the military created obstacles to negotiations constantly; with Ramos making inflammatory and contradictory press statements and small scale abuses by military in communist villages. However, the January 22 incident spilt cold water on all the efforts. Jaime Tadeo, a leftist, was camping in front of Ministry of Agrarian Reforms to demand the government to turn over state lands promised to landless peasants. He was joined by ten thousand civilians who marched to the palace to see Aquino herself due to the lack of response from the ministry. The military fired and injured several of the civilians which resulted in the breakdown of the ceasefire. Efforts of reconciliation had failed and violence continued. The left made several strategic errors which resulted in its own isolation. Not only did they boycott the elections, which had become a massive popular movement in ousting Marcos, but also by placing emphasis on armed struggle in the countryside such as the assassination of police officers and army units in Summer it lost legitimacy among its rural supporters. In sum, In the end, though it was a combination of factors that helped neutralize the communist insurgency, Aquino did keep her commitment and promise to offered peace, and made efforts to accommodate the left. Just like the mixed legacy she left, she was herself a bundle of mixed contradictions. Reid writes that her image was very important to her and was also very cosmetic one. Her personality played a large role in both her achievements and failures. Personally she was a warm, simple, and supportive woman. Many women in her administration came to her with their personal problems.

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Chapter 4 : READ book Corazon Aquino and the Brushfire Revolution DOWNLOAD ONLINE - Video Daily

The "people power" revolution that brought Corazon Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, to the presidency of the Philippines in seemed to promise a new era in the troubled history of that nation. The downfall of the Marcos regime and the advent of a new leadership.

Her father was a prominent Tarlac businessman and politician, and her grandfather, Melecio Cojuangco, was a member of the historic Malolos Congress. Her mother belonged to the Sumulong family of Rizal province who were also politically influential; Juan Sumulong , a prominent member of the clan, ran against Commonwealth President Manuel L. She transferred to Assumption Convent to pursue high school studies. Afterwards, she and her family went to the United States and attended the Assumption-run Ravenhill Academy in Philadelphia. She then pursued her college education in the U. During her stay in the United States, Aquino volunteered for the campaign of U. Republican presidential candidate Thomas Dewey against then Democratic U. Truman during the U. Aquino found herself bored in Concepcion, and welcomed the opportunity to have dinner with her husband inside the American military facility at nearby Clark Field. She led a modest existence in a bungalow in suburban Quezon City. He was then touted as a strong candidate for president to succeed Marcos in the elections. However, Marcos, being barred by the Constitution to seek a third term, declared martial law on September 21, , and later abolished the existing Constitution , thereby allowing him to remain in office. As a consequence, her husband was among those to be first arrested at the onset of martial law, later being sentenced to death. During his incarceration, Ninoy sought strength from prayer, attending daily Mass and saying the rosary three times a day. As a measure of sacrifice and solidarity with her husband and all other political prisoners, she enjoined her children from attending parties and she also stopped going to the beauty salon or buying new clothes until a priest advised her and her children to instead live as normal lives as possible. A reluctant speaker, Corazon Aquino campaigned on behalf of her husband, and for the first time in her life delivered a political speech. In , upon the intervention of U. President Jimmy Carter , [2] Marcos allowed Senator Aquino and his family to leave for exile in the United States, where he sought medical treatment. She began to assume the mantle of leadership left by her husband Ninoy and started to become the symbolic figurehead of the anti-Marcos political opposition. Salvador Laurel only gave way to Cory after a political deal which was later renegeed by Cory after the election. With that, the Aquino-Laurel tandem was formally launched to challenge Marcos and finally put an end to his two-decade rule. The snap election called by Marcos which was held on February 7, , was marred by massive electoral fraud, violence, intimidation, coercion and disenfranchisement of voters. Furthermore, during the counting and tallying of votes conducted by the Commission on Elections COMELEC , 30 poll computer technicians walked out to dispute and contest the alleged election-rigging being done in favor of Marcos. Further, the dubious election results drew sharp reactions from both local quarters and foreign countries. The United States Senate likewise condemned the election. President Ronald Reagan to help defuse the tension. This was the same day that Ferdinand E. Marcos fled the country. Ramos , surprised the entire nation and the international community when they announced their defection from the Marcos government, citing strong belief that Aquino was the real winner in the contested presidential elections. Cardinal Sin appealed to the public in a broadcast over Church-run Radio Veritas , and millions of Filipinos trooped to the part of Epifanio De los Santos Avenue between the two camps to give their support and prayers for the rebels. Aquino flew back to Manila to prepare for the takeover of the government, and after three days of peaceful mass protests , was sworn in as the eleventh President of the Philippines on February 25, The triumph of the peaceful People Power Revolution and the ascension of Corazon Aquino into power signaled the end of authoritarian rule in the Philippines and the dawning of a new era for Filipinos. The relatively peaceful manner by which Aquino came into power drew international acclaim and admiration not only for her but for the Filipino people, as well. She was the first female president of the country and the only president with no political background. She is also regarded

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as the first female president in Asia. Constitutional and political reforms[edit] Presidential styles of.

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Other military units would take over key strategic facilities, such as the airport, military bases, the GHQAFP in Camp Aguinaldo, and major highway junctions to restrict counteroffensive by Marcos-loyal troops. Saulito Aromin and Maj. Ramos agreed to resign from his position and support the plotters. Enrile also contacted the highly influential Cardinal Archbishop of Manila Jaime Sin for his support. Marcos himself later conducted his own news conference calling on Enrile and Ramos to surrender, urging them to "stop this stupidity". For many this seemed an unwise decision since civilians would not stand a chance against a dispersal by government troops. Many people, especially priests and nuns, still trooped to EDSA. Former University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo stated that: At dawn, Sunday, government troops arrived to knock down the main transmitter of Radio Veritas, cutting off broadcasts to people in the provinces. The station switched to a standby transmitter with a limited range of broadcast. The mood in the street was actually very festive, with many bringing whole families. Performers entertained the crowds, nuns and priests led prayer vigils, and people set up barricades and makeshift sandbags, trees, and vehicles in several places along EDSA and intersecting streets such as Santolan and Ortigas Avenue. Everywhere, people listened to Radio Veritas on their radios. Several groups sang *Bayan Ko My Homeland*, [35] which, since, had become a patriotic anthem of the opposition. After lunch on February 23, Enrile and Ramos decided to consolidate their positions. A contingent of Marines with tanks and armored vans, led by Brigadier General Artemio Tadiar, was stopped along Ortigas Avenue, about two kilometers from the camps, by tens of thousands of people. In the end, the troops retreated with no shots fired. Shortly after midnight, the staff were able to go to another station to begin broadcasting from a secret location under the moniker "Radyo Bandido" Outlaw Radio, which is now known as DZRJ-AM. June Keithley, with her husband Angelo Castro, Jr. Marines marching from Libis, in the east, lobbed tear gas at the demonstrators, who quickly dispersed. Some 3, Marines then entered and held the east side of Camp Aguinaldo. The presence of the helicopters boosted the morale of Enrile and Ramos who had been continually encouraging their fellow soldiers to join the opposition movement. The crowd celebrated and even Ramos and Enrile came out from Crame to appear to the crowds. The jubilation was however short-lived as Marcos later appeared on television on the government-controlled Channel 4, [40] using the foreclosed ABS-CBN facilities, transmitter and compound declaring that he would not step down. It was thereafter speculated that the false report was a calculated move against Marcos to encourage more defections. A contingent of rebels, under Colonel Mariano Santiago, had captured the station. Channel 4 was put back on line shortly after noon, with Orly Punzalan announcing on live television, "Channel 4 is on the air again to serve the people. Some estimates placed them at two million. In the late afternoon, rebel helicopters attacked Villamor Airbase, destroying presidential air assets. The majority of the Armed Forces had already changed sides. Problems playing this file? Prior dialogues to stop the revolution have not succeeded with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which was led by General Fabian Ver. AFP was ready to mount an air strike on the day but was halted under orders of Marcos. The Ambush there is aiming to mount there in the top. Very quickly, you must immediately leave to conquer them, immediately, Mr. Just wait, come here. Please, Your Honor, so we can immediately strike them. We have two fighter planes flying now to strike at any time, sir. My order is not to attack. They are massing civilians near our troops and we cannot keep on withdrawing. You asked me to withdraw yesterday- Marcos interrupting: Uh yes, but ah My order is to disperse without shooting them. We cannot withdraw all the time You disperse the crowd without shooting them. On the morning of Tuesday, February 25, at around 7 a. Snipers stationed atop the government-owned Channel 9 tower, near Channel 4, began shooting at the reformists. Many rebel soldiers surged to the station, [33] and a rebel S

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helicopter later shot the snipers at the broadcast tower. The troops later left after a V was blocked by the crowd assembled. Later in the morning, Corazon Aquino was inaugurated as President of the Philippines in a simple ceremony at Club Filipino [42] in Greenhills, about a kilometer from Camp Crame. Attending the ceremonies were Ramos, who was then promoted to General, Enrile, and many politicians. Loyalist civilians attended the ceremony, shouting "Marcos, Marcos, Marcos pa rin! Marcos, Marcos, still Marcos! The couple finally emerged on the balcony of the Palace before 3, KBL loyalists who were shouting, "Capture the snakes! Because of you, I became happy Loving I shall offer you If it is true I shall be enslaved by you All of this because of you. They were prevented from storming the Palace by loyal government troops securing the area. The angry demonstrators were pacified by priests who warned them not to be violent. Laxalt advised him to "cut and cut clean", [44] to which Marcos expressed his disappointment after a short pause. In the afternoon, Marcos talked to Minister Enrile, asking for safe passage for him, his family, and close allies such as General Ver. Aquino vetoed the request. President Reagan privately derided Cory Aquino for denying Marcos a last look at his home province. Over at Mendiola, the demonstrators stormed the Palace, which was closed to ordinary people for around a decade. Despite looting by some angry protesters, the majority wandered about inside through rooms where national history was shaped, looking at objects extravagant and mundane that the Marcos clan and its court had abandoned in their flight. CBS anchorman Bob Simon reported: Well, tonight they are teaching the world. Marcos permitted the peaceful transition to popular, democratic rule.

Chapter 6 : Corazon Aquino, revolutionary president of the Philippines - Amazing Women In History

Corazon Aquino and the Brushfire Revolution by Robert H. Reid, Eileen Guerrero 'An insightful, convincing, and richly informative account of the Aquino Presidency and the post-Marcos years, Corazon Aquino and the Brushfire Revolution is a valuable documentation and thoroughly detailed reference to this important period in Philippine history.

Chapter 7 : Corazon Aquino and the Brushfire Revolution.(Book Review) - Version details - Trove

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Chapter 8 : Corazon Aquino: Bibliography

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Chapter 9 : Who is Corazon Aquino?

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