# Highlighting Filipino women in Philippine History

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# Introduction

During the pre-colonial Philippines, both men and women play important roles in society and enjoy the same rights.

#### ROLES AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN DURING THE PRE-COLONIAL PHILIPPINES





Can take leadership roles (priestess, healers, warriors)
Daughters of the Datu are part of the line of succession

# The arrival of the Spaniards and the status of Filipino women during their reign







During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Spanish friars brought with them their own idea of a Filipina woman is and where she is supposed to be placed in society



As the Spaniards tried to reduce the roles of Filipino women in the society, the fury and nationalistic that runs in the Filipina blood would never allow this to happen.

#### EDUCATIONAL DECREE OF 1863

- An educational decree mandated the establishment of free primary schools in each town. One for boys and one for girls.
- The decree also provided for a normal school run by the Jesuits to educate male teachers in Manila. Normal schools for women teachers were not established until 1875, in Nueva Caceres (now Naga City)

#### EDUCATIONAL DECREE OF 1863

 Despite the Decree of 1863, basic education in the Philippines remained inadequate for the rest of the Spanish period. Often, there were not enough schools built. Teachers tended to use corporal punishment. The friars exercised control over the schools and their teachers and obstructed attempts to properly educate the masses, as they considered widespread secular education to be a threat to their hold over the population.





### Filipina revolutionaries took up arms against their colonial masters in order to free their motherland.

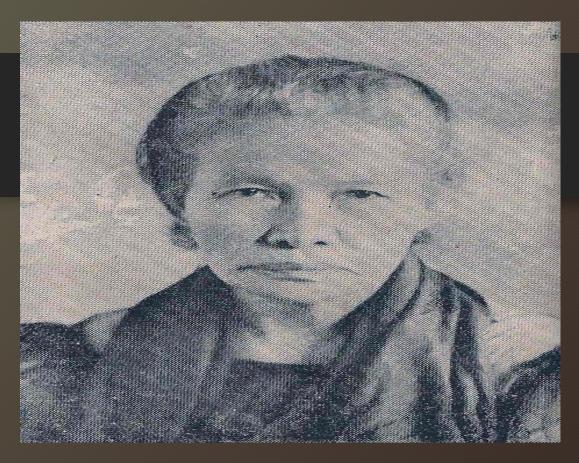
# **GABREILA SILANG**



# María Josefa Gabriela Cariño Silang

- Born in Santa, Ilocos Sur on March 19, 1731.
- Took over the revolutionary movement in Ilocos region after her husband Diego Silang was assassinated.
- Executed by hanging by Spanish Authorities in Vigan's central plaza on September 20, 1763.





# TERESA F. MAGBANUA "Joan of Arc" of Visayas



- Born in Pototan, Iloilo on October 13, 1868

- Obtained her Teachers certificate from the Colegio de Dona Cecilia and taught in several schools in her home province.

- She married Alejandro Baldero and by then, the Philippine revolution had started.

• - She volunteered her services to the motherland even with the objection of her husband.

- She outfought the Spanish troops at the Battle of Barrio Yating in Capiz and Battle of Sapong Hills.

- Four decades later she sold all her properties in Iloilo to help finance the guerilla resistance movement against the Japanese.

- After the war, she migrated in Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur where she died in August 1947 at the age of 78.

#### The American Period





- During the American period, Filipino women were no longer secluded within the narrow confines of the home.
- They can attend political meetings, participate in active sports.
- Women were given the freedom to acquire the opportunities of higher education and to practice any profession.



#### FE DEL MUNDO First female student at Harvard Medical School



- Born in Manila on November 27, 1911.
- At the age of 15, Fe enrolled at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and graduated in 1933.
- She finished her pre med within two years and obtained her Doctor of Medicine in 1933.

She was offered a full scholarship to any school in the United States for further training in a medical field of her choice by Manuel Quezon.

She decided to go to Harvard School of Medicine. The first woman ever admitted to the prestigious school.

Del Mundo returned to the Philippines in 1941 and joined the International Red Cross and volunteered to care for children internees.



In 1980, Pres. Ferdinand Marcos named Del Mundo as the first filipino woman National Scientist of the Philippines.

She died on August 6, 2011 and was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

#### Conclusion

• During the colonial Philippines until the Revolutionary Period of our country, when you talk of heroes, the first thing that comes into mind are Jose Rizal, Antonio Luna, Andres Bonifacio, etc.,- majority are men.

• How about the women?

- Through this, we remember their works and contributions to our nation not because their only women, but because they have helped shaped our country for today.
  - We honor them by commemorating their lives and works, so that we will never forget, that we are indebted to them, in ways we cannot measure.

## SALAMAT PO! ;)