

Reflection on the EDSA People Power Revolution

I was not able to spectate or most especially actively participate in the EDSA People Power Revolution because I was born at a much later year. Because of this, I only know EDSA as something we Filipinos celebrated as a holiday because of its role in our history. I was also familiar with its various prominent details because of what I was required to study throughout the years as a student who merely wanted to pass a subject in school. Because of this, I had several misconceptions about the People Power Revolution especially as to where the word “EDSA” actually came from, mistakenly thinking that it was the acronym for the person who started the aforementioned revolution. However, I became a lot more educated as I researched the topic at hand when I learned that it was the exact location where people marched, the Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue. Nonetheless, this is not the only valuable information I learned.

It still amuses me how a certain narrative can have various meanings when taken from different perspectives. If one reads the timeline of the revolution through the eyes of a child, it can be gathered that only the important things mattered such as who won and who lost. However, maturity can also affect the narrative differently through thinking about other factors of the rebellion such as the other people involved and how its impact can last up until the present and the future. As a person who is between the warmth of childhood and the harshness of adulthood, I can only hope to have a unique take on the People Power Revolution.

Before re-reading the recounts of this particular rebellion, I thought it was merely a political feud that somehow affected the people without meaning to. I never thought twice about the EDSA Revolution because it never seemed to actively affect me in any way. Moreover, I only paid attention to the ‘important’ people such as Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino. I have also noticed the sheer amount of people that showed their support through the renowned rally that took place, but I thought that they were first called upon by the two political personalities and that they were semi-forced to participate.

Upon reading further, I eventually noticed that other prominent people were involved in the making of history. I was then amazed that the Filipinos arrived and started the rally in their own accord without prompting from either the Aquinos or the Marcoses. Additionally, I was

impressed at how the people had the guts to ignore a direct order from their President when Ferdinand Marcos implemented a curfew to keep the people out of the streets.

After I finally concluded my research, I realized the overall effort the revolution took from the Filipinos, whether they were political leaders, military officers, or mere citizens. I thought more about the values the Filipinos were able to uphold such as their resolve to never resort to violence for them to get what they want. I understand how difficult it must be to control themselves from storming the Malacañang with guns ablaze and instead rely on their courage to form human barricades to protect themselves. I sincerely hope that I will internalize this virtue so I can become a better person.

Through these revelations, I was able to acknowledge a plethora of impact the EDSA People Power of Revolution. Albeit taking more time than I initially thought, I was able to dissect the various influences the uprising brought upon to many aspects of the country. To list a few, these are political, generational, and personal influences.

I gathered that the revolution had an apparent political influence on a majority of the Filipinos. Through this particular influence, Filipinos tend to support Aquino but hate Marcos. This can have the capacity to extend throughout time as people still incline to avoid Marcos's name and treat Ferdinand Marcos as a tyrant and a monster. On the other hand, people consider Corazon Aquino as their savior and light. I believe that we should not let these names overshadow the other figures who played a significant role in the revolution. However, we should never forget that we should not label and discriminate against various people for the actions of their kin; rather, we should consider the past, current, and potential actions they have done.

I also understood that the EDSA Revolution had a generational influence wherein it can vary whether the person had firsthand experience or was born after the events that unfolded. I have noticed that parents of the participating people were glad that their desires were fulfilled by their children while at the same time worried over their safety. On the other hand, the then young adults still have a unique fire within them that still burns to this day, knowing that their rage against the oppressive government paid off when they decided to support the people rather than the tyrannical president of the country they loved. However, the people who are not able

to have a recollection of the events—such as myself—have a prime example of the importance of unity and the sense of righteousness.

Additionally, the EDSA Revolution had a positive influence on me. In a personal context, the rebellion inspired me to use my voice more often for the people who are unable to do so. I have realized that I have the right to no longer stand in the shadows and allow people with evil intent to push me around. However, the values of pacifism also resonated within me that I should resolve various issues through peaceful ways to avoid unnecessary violence.

In conclusion, as a person who may not have actively joined the EDSA People Power Revolution, I am still proud of what my countrymen can achieve whether they participated in the human barricades or simply showed their support through their televisions and wholeheartedness. I hope that through reliving this historical event I can learn to become more brave and compassionate and that through the yearly celebration of the EDSA People Power Revolution, I will never forget the sacrifices our heroes have made for this country to become a better place for the future generations to come.