

GREAT DECISIONS

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The Philippines and the U.S.: change with continuity?

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIIB—Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

ASEAN—Association of Southeast Asian Nations

EDCA—Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement

EDSA—Epifanio de los Santos Avenue

HUKs—Hukabalahap

ICAD—Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs

ICC—International Criminal Court

MDT—Mutual Defense Treaty

UNCLOS—United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

VIIRS—Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite

Corazon Aquino (1933–2009): was the eleventh president of the Philippines. Aquino was the leader of the “Power People Revolution” better known as EDSA (after the highway that runs through Manila). She led the EDSA after the assassination of her husband, Benigno Aquino Jr. She led the overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Emilio Aguinaldo (1869–1964): was a revolutionary leader in the Philippines. Aguinaldo led forces during the Philippine revolution against the Spanish (1896–98) and the United States (1899–1901).

Ferdinand Marcos (1917–89): was the tenth president of the Philippines and the founder of the “New Society Movement.” Marcos first won election in 1965, but began instituting constitution changes and issuing martial law in 1972. Marcos consolidated power until the EDSA Revolution of 1986 ousted him. Marcos was infamous in the Philippines for his excessive lifestyle and friendly relations with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Kirkpatrick Doctrine: refers to the controversial doctrine of former U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick based on her “Dictatorships and Double Standards” essay. The doctrine was used to justify the U.S. supporting a dictatorship if it was on the U.S. side of the Cold War.

Manuel Quezon (1878–1944): was the first president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and served from 1935–44. Quezon enacted many important policies for the young commonwealth including educational and land reforms.

Glossary

1993 East Asian Miracle: refers to the World Bank report regarding the rapid industrialization of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea. The four nations saw growth rates of 7% or more a year from the 1960s to early 1990s. The World Bank report credited neoliberal policies for the exceptional growth rate.

1997 Asian Financial Crisis: was a financial crisis that began in Thailand and spread to most of East and South East Asia. The crisis lasted until 1999 when IMF reforms and bailouts helped to stabilize the different economies in the region.

Rodrigo Duterte (1945–): is the 16th and current president of the Philippines. Duterte won election in 2016 after having been in the city government of Davao City since 1988. Duterte is infamous for his reported human rights violations as part of his war on drugs, which was a major feature of his campaign. Duterte is responsible for Philippines current pivot away from the United States toward China and Russia.

Rome Statute: is the United Nations treaty that establishes the International Criminal Court. Signed on July 17, 1998, the statute also establishes the four crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression) that the ICC can investigate countries for without being “subject to any statute of limitations.”

Spanish-American War: was a series of conflicts between Spanish colonial forces in the Caribbean and Pacific and the United States. The conflict began with the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in February 1898. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines all gained some measure of independence, but soon came under the growing U.S. sphere of influence.

Treaty of Paris (1898): was the treaty that ended the Spanish-American War in 1898. The treaty granted sovereignty over Cuba, Guam, the Philippines and Puerto Rico to the United States.

Tydings-McDuffie Act: is a U.S. Federal law that sets the process for the Philippines gaining independence and for Filipinos to immigrate to the United States.

West Philippine Sea: is how the Philippines refers to eastern parts of the South China Sea which are included in the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone. The term is also sometimes used to refer to the South China Sea as a whole. The name was used by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to object to China’s claim for sovereignty over the body of water.

Xi Jinping (1953–): is the seventh and current president of the People’s Republic of China and general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. Xi has been in charge of the Chinese government since 2012, when he was elected general secretary and chairman.

