

## Domoguen: Days of black sunlight

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December 26, 2019

HISTORY is the only true teacher, the revolution the best school for the proletariat. -Rosa Luxemburg.

That was how Ms. Rosa Luxemburg (5 March 1871 – 15 January 1919), a Polish Marxist theorist, philosopher, economist, anti-war activist, and revolutionary socialist saw history during her time.

More than a century later, and several socialist and communist revolutions initiated in different parts of the globe in the name of Communism or Socialism, what lessons have humanity learned?

Communism and socialism have always been popular where revolutions are ripe to happen because of oppression and societal injustices.

However, history has witnessed that communist and socialist-inspired revolutions were among the most brutal, barbaric, and genocidal ever in the countries they were waged.

From Europe to Russia, Asia, and the Americas, the same hammer and sickle have been cracking skulls or cutting down anybody who would not bend or bow to the ruling elite that controlled the government.

Ilya Somin a law professor at George Mason University and an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, in an analysis written for the Washington Post, reported on November 7, 2017, that collectively, “communist states killed as many as 100 million people,” in the last century. That is “more than all other repressive regimes combined during the same time period,” he added.

According to Somin, “the biggest toll arose from communist efforts to collectivize agriculture and eliminate independent property-owning peasants.”

The other instruments employed by communist regimes for mass murders on an epic scale include slave labor camps such as the Gulag in Russia and the farming cooperatives of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. These countries also introduced more conventional mass executions, such as the Great Purge by Stalin, and the “Killing Fields” of Cambodia.

The lessons of history also reveal that the injustices of communism were not limited to mass murder alone. In communist countries, citizens are not free. They are subjected to severe repression, including violations of freedom, of speech, freedom of religion, loss of property rights, and the criminalization of ordinary economic activity. No previous tyranny sought such complete control over nearly every aspect of people's lives.

Filipino Communists understand that. Instead of escaping to communist states, Joma Sison and his key people fled to Holland and other democracies in the west for political asylum. Where they are now, the Filipino communist leadership in exile, live in style and exercise all the benefits and freedoms of a free and democratic society still insisting that Filipinos should perhaps follow in the footsteps of its neighbor, Cambodia.

In a foreword to the Cordillera ELCAC Regional Task Force accomplishment report for 2019, Dr. William Dar noted that the armed struggle launched by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its New People's Army (NPA) in the country is now 51 years old.

He said: "The longstanding Communist insurgency continues to pose peace and order problems and hinders the advancement of socio-economic development in several marginalized communities of the country infiltrated by the insurgents and where they established strong roots.

Unfortunately, hundreds of Filipinos die as casualties of this ideological conflict to include NPA regulars, government security forces (soldiers and police), and anyone the CPP and NPA consider as enemies of the people, a military informant, or collaborator."

Wherever the communists go, they promised a utopian society in which the working class would enjoy unprecedented prosperity. In Russia, only the members of the Nomenklatura (Communist ruling elite) enjoyed and benefitted from the labors of the working class who stayed poor. In reality, wherever the communist went and governed, they engendered massive poverty.

According to Winston Churchill, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Is communism's performance worth repeating the Philippines?

"If socialists understood economics, they wouldn't be socialists." - F.A.Hayek.