

THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY
OF APOLINARIO MABINI

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Graduate School
University of San Carlos

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Philosophy

62993
C.1
UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS
~~LIBRARY~~

by
Adriano C. Reyno, Jr.
F
March 1962

3961
C.1
1962

The Thesis attached hereto, entitled
THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY
OF APOLINARIO MABINI

prepared and submitted by Mr. Adriano Calunsag Reyno, Jr.
in partial fulfillment for the degree of
MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY
is hereby accepted.

Joseph W. Lawler, S.V.D.
Adviser

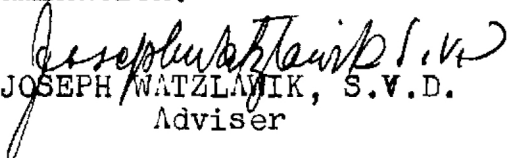
Censor

R.R.

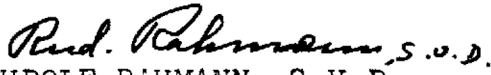
Paul. Rahmann, S.V.D.
Dean

APPROVAL SHEET

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Major in Philosophy), this Thesis entitled: "THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY OF APOLINARIO MABINI," has been prepared and submitted by Mr. Adriano Calunsag Reyno, Jr. who is hereby recommended for Oral Examination.

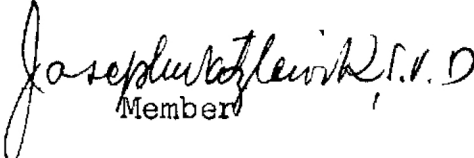

JOSEPH WATZLAWIK, S.V.D.
Adviser

ACCEPTED, as Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Philosophy.


RUDOLF RAHMANN, S.V.D.
Dean, Graduate School

APPROVED by the Tribunal at the Oral Examination with the grade of CUM LAUDE


Chairman


Member

Member R.R.

Oral examination conducted in the presence of:

Representative, Bureau of Private Schools

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

My debt of thanks must be paid to the following persons, who, in one way or another, have contributed to the realization of this thesis. Rev. Joseph Watzlawik, S.V.D., Ph. D., Head of the Philosophy Department and my adviser who has patiently spent much time and exerted great efforts in correcting the thesis, in improving its contents, especially its logical organization and the logical sequence of reasoning, and in offering numerous substantial suggestions without which the present form would have been different. Dr. Gertrudes Ang, Ph. D., who, for many weary hours, has sacrificed herself in 'doctoring' the grammatical deficiencies of this thesis and has added some important modifications to it. And Rev. Rudolf Rahmann, S.V.D., Ph. D., Dean of the Graduate School, who 'fatherly' exhorted me in working harder and even faster on my thesis and provided me with indispensable moral supports.

Adriano C. Reyno, Jr.

Cebu City
March, 1962

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
The Problems	1
Preliminary statements	1
Statement of the problems	2
Definition of the Terms Used	3
Scholasticism	3
Pueblo	4
Revolución	4
autonomistas and anexionistas	5
Pact of Biak-Na-Bato	6
Instinto de Conservación	6
Juez Instructor.	7
Commanding delegates	7
Volunté Générale	7
Importance of the Study	8
Method Used	9
Review of Literature	9
II. LIFE HISTORY OF MABINI	13
Early Days and Education	13
Political Life	18
Writer	24
III. THE POLITICAL IDEAS OF MABINI	30
The Municipal Government	30

CHAPTER	PAGE
Jefe del pueblo	30
Peace and order	31
The Provincial Government	32
Jefe de provincia	32
On The Central Government	33
The President of the Republic	33
His election	33
The powers of the president	35
Limitation of the presidential powers	36
The Congress	38
The powers of the congress	38
The Senate	42
On the Administration of Justice	43
Kinds of penalty	45
Crimes against honor	47
Crimes against the external security	
of the land	48
The guardians of justice	49
Military prosecution	49
On Revolution and Evolution	51
The Philippine Revolution	54
The nature of the Philippine-American War	54
The aim of the Philippine Revolution	55
Concept of a just revolution	56

CHAPTER	PAGE
On the International Law	57
On Political Authority	59
Origin and concept of authority	59
Qualities of a ruler	63
On the Republican Form of Government	66
An Ideal Government	67
The Natural Law and the Revolution	68
IV. SOCIAL IDEAS OF MABINI	71
Man and Society.	71
On Citizenship	73
The Basic Principles of Man	75
Social Freedom of Man	76
Individual Liberty and National Liberty	79
On Education	80
V. MORAL IDEAS OF MABINI	83
Moral Freedom	83
"El Verdadero Decálogo	85
Aim of the True Decalogue	85
The content of the True Decalogue	86
Mabini on Ecclesiastical Questions	91
VI. CRITICAL EVALUATION OF MABINI'S PHILOSOPHY	96
On Government	96
On authority and its Origin	101
On Civil Society	105

	vii
CHAPTER	PAGE
On Natural Law	107
On Human Law	111
On Tyranny and Revolution	113
On the Administration of Justice	119
On Individual and National Liberty	122
On Obedience	123
On the 'El Verdadero Decálogo'	124
On the Basic Principles of Man	128
On Moral and Social Freedom of Man	130
VII. CONCLUSION, SUMMARY, AND RECOMMENDATION	135
Conclusion	135
Summary	138
Recommendation	141
BIBLIOGRAPHY	142

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I. THE PROBLEMS

Preliminary statements. Many Filipinos know Apolinario Mabini as one of the Philippine heroes. They know who Mabini was, but they know little about what he did for his country and people. They may know Mabini as the 'Brain of the Revolution', as they repeatedly learned this from their teachers in the elementary and high school. Filipino teachers, unfortunately, impart to their pupils only the names, and scarcely do they discuss the ideas and ideals these dead heroes had been aspiring for. The author of this thesis never heard of his teachers, both in the elementary and high school, explaining fully the deeds of these heroes by which they had contributed to their country's welfare. The simple conclusion which can be drawn from this deficiency among Filipino teachers would be that they themselves lack full knowledge of these heroes. Thus, the ironical consequence is that, instead of learning first what is native to them, the Filipino teenagers switch to foreign practices for their recreation; they know many things foreign. Ask our teenagers to dance the rock and roll and they will be willing and able to shake their feet; ask them to tell something about the culture of their Moslem brothers and they know almost nothing.

There is much talk on nationalism in our country today, especially in the world of politics; but there is not enough action to realize such an ideal. There is imitation rather than nationalism.

Among Filipino intellectuals, Mabini is known as the mind behind the revolution, or as the prolific writer who wrote many books and articles on politics; but they do not know the philosophy of Mabini. Filipino scholars and writers have not written any critical study on Mabini's philosophical teachings. Thus, the writer of this thesis attempts at systematically presenting Mabini's ideas.

Statement of the problem. The thoughts of Mabini are very difficult to organize, especially for a beginner because his ideas on society, morality, and politics are intermingled with each other. It is hard to distinguish clearly his political teachings from his moral teachings, or his social ideas from his moral ideas. We find, for instance, his ideas on authority in his moral writings, especially in his "El Verdadero Decálogo".¹ In addition, Mabini has many contradictory ideas on politics and morals in his writings, and one of these is his teaching on Capital Punishment.²

¹Apolinario Mabini, "El Verdadero Decálogo", La Revolución Filipina Vol. I, (Manila: Bureau of Printing, 1931), pp. 106-107.

²Infra., p. 46.