



# Profiles in Courage

Filipino Women in the Resistance  
during the Second World War

**Pick a cause  
(a social justice/global or local issue)  
that you feel  
strongly about.**



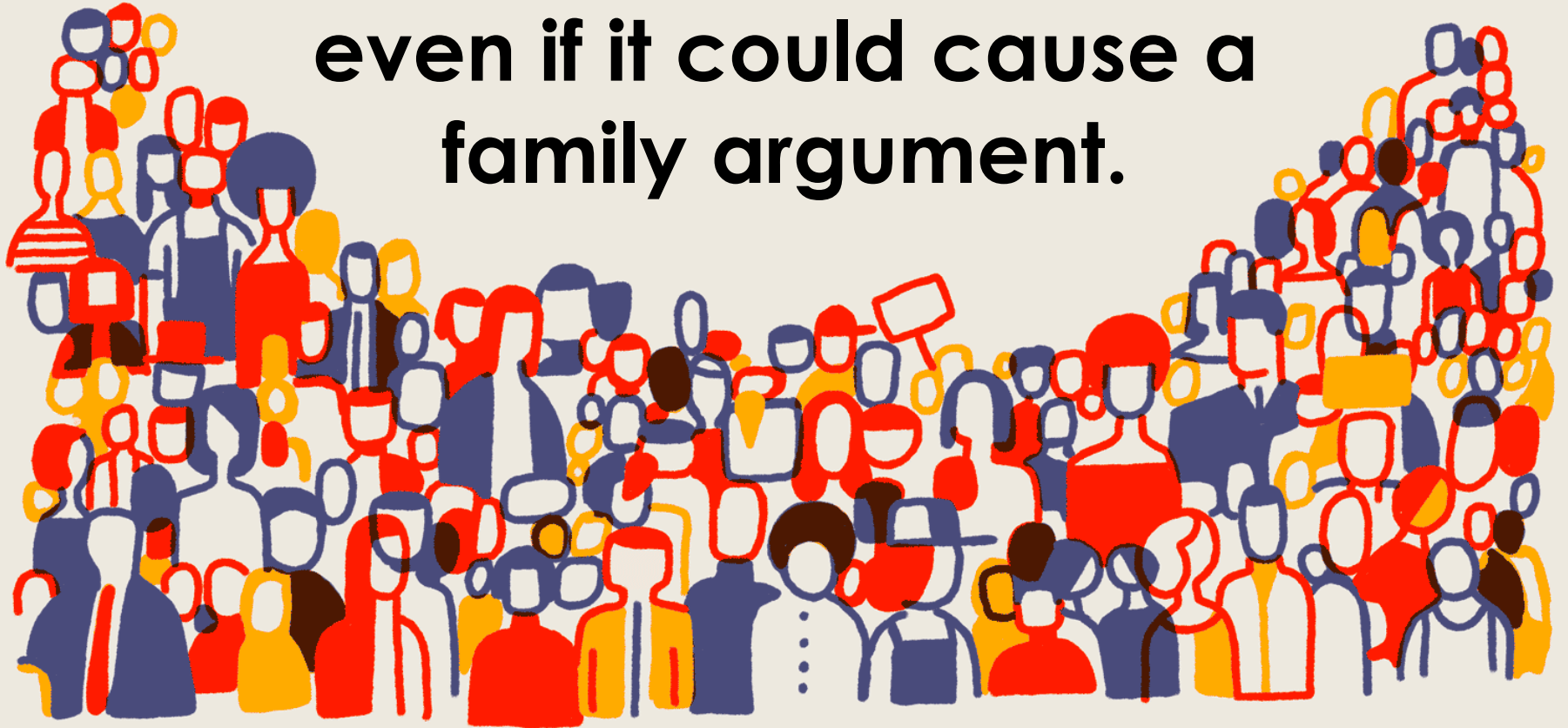
**I would join a protest if a law that I disagreed with were passed about this issue.**



**I would join a protest if a law that I disagreed with were passed about this issue.**



**I would join a protest  
even if it could cause a  
family argument.**



**I would join a protest  
even if there were a  
chance that I might be  
injured.**



# Discussion



**Who can participate in protests and  
engage in social action?**





**Are the consequences  
Of participation/non-  
participation the same for  
everybody?**



Japan invaded Manila on December 8, 1941. It occupied the Philippines from 1942-1945.



## Battle of Manila February 3 to March 3, 1945



As their defeat seemed imminent, the Japanese military forces exacted vengeance on Filipino civilians

# Background



“They are, as a rule, an illiterate, semi savage people who are waging war not against tyranny, but against Anglo-Saxon order and decency...”

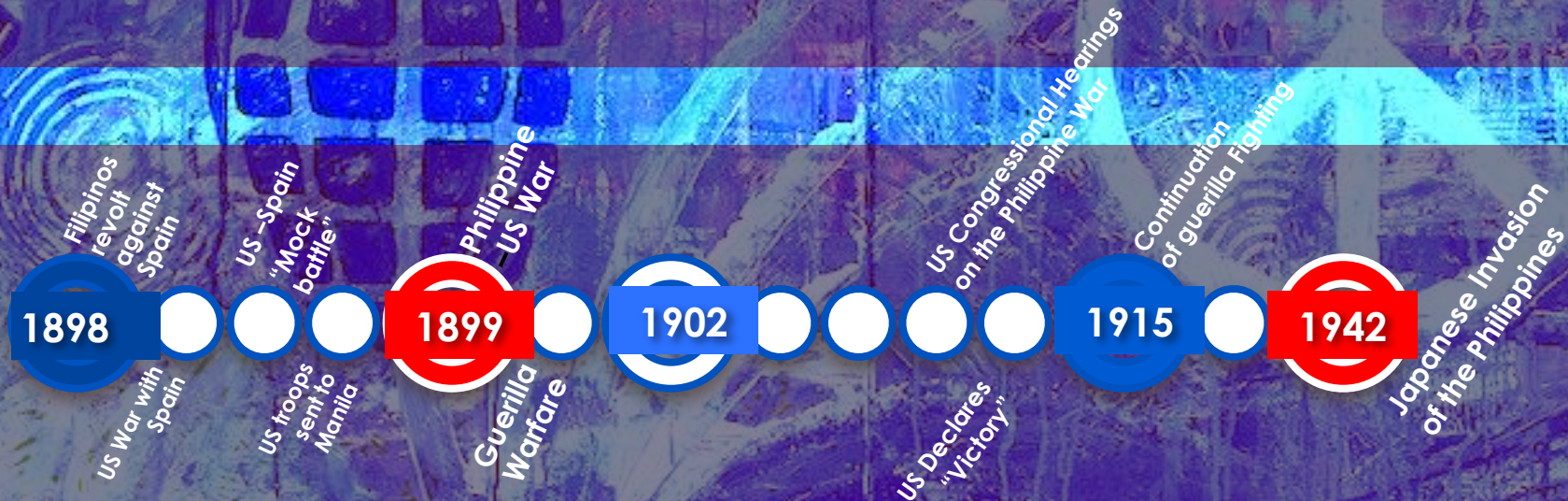
“I, for one, hope that Uncle Sam will apply the chastening rod good, hard and plenty, and lay it on until they come in to the reservation and promise to be good ‘Injuns.’”

Col. Frederick Funston, US Army

From 1898-1942, the Philippines was under US colonial rule

# Background

- Organized Revolutionary Movements against colonial rule in the Philippines started as early as the 1840s and culminated in the 1898 revolt
  - There were always female leaders in the anti-colonial movement
- The resistance (known as the HUKBALAHAP or HUK) rose up against the Japanese Occupation
  - Once more, women joined the movement



# Profiles in Courage

Simeona Punsalan "Tapang"  
a.k.a. "Commander Guerrero"



Simeona

Joined the resistance after hearing about cases of rape and kidnapping by the Japanese Military

Served as a political advisor and networking courier



Yay Panlilo



Yay

Recruited as a US Intelligence agent when invasion was imminent because of her broadcasting background

Worked as a broadcaster and conducted counter propaganda

Magdalena Leones  
a.k.a. "Lioness of Agents"



Magdalena

Joined the resistance after witnessing mass killings during the early stages of Japanese invasion and shortly after her release from internment.

Engaged in espionage, learned Japanese and served as a defence liaison for Allied forces







Guedelia

Along with volunteer nurses, she treated the wounded and sick survivors from the “Bataan Death March”

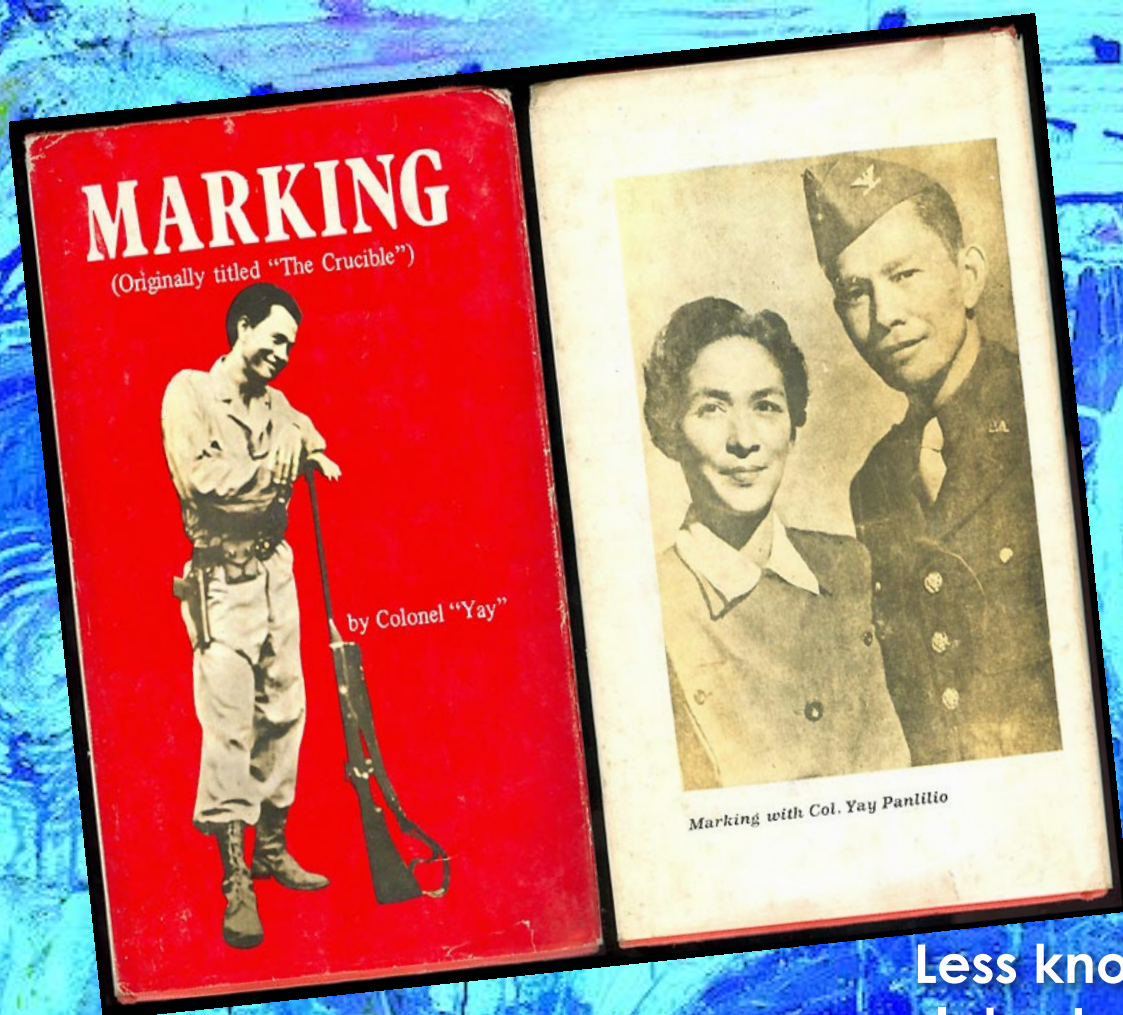
Stayed in Bataan even after the hospital was burned down by Japanese troops. Helped establish a makeshift clinic at a convent.

Dr. Guedelia Pablan



## Barriers to Women's Participation in the resistance

- **Male guerrilla fighters' refusal to obey orders from a female superior**
  - "We fight. We don't eat. We don't sleep...And now we take orders from a woman."
- **Danger of sexual violence (military sexual slavery and rape)**



## Yay Panlilio's Memoir

"The cover centers attention on Marking despite the wartime memoir based on Panlilio's experiences."

Stacey Ann Baterina Salinas,  
2019

Postwar Era:  
Less known about than the usual  
celebrated "heroes" from the war.

- 
- The background is a collage of images. On the left, there's a close-up of a woman's hands working with a wooden frame, possibly a loom or a similar textile tool. In the center, a woman is seen from behind, wearing a headscarf and a patterned top, working in a rural field. On the right, a woman is shown in a similar rural setting. A large, prominent white wheel, resembling a traditional spinning wheel or a similar mechanical device, is overlaid on the right side of the collage. The overall color palette is dominated by earthy tones like brown, tan, and grey, with some vibrant colors like red and blue in the woman's clothing.
- What do you think the women gained from participating?
  - What did their participation contribute?





**Who makes Social Change?**

**How does Social Change happen?**

# Barriers to participation / Benefits of civic and social engagement/

## Benefits

- Higher self-esteem
- A greater sense of community
- Community pride
- Acquiring new skills

Source: D'Agostino & Visser  
IPM Review

## Barriers to Participation

- Social
  - Cost, time, access
- Cultural
  - Stereotype, lack of belonging
- Political
  - Lack of funding and support
  - Project ownership



# Memory Game



Simeona

**broadcaster for  
propaganda  
operations**



Yay

**doctor  
(aided guerrilla  
soldiers)**



Magdalena

**political advisor  
and networking  
courier**



Guedelia

**guerrilla spy and  
defence liaison  
for the Allied  
forces**