



**Constantino
Foundation**

The Constantino Foundation promotes integrative pedagogy by combining history with the humanities and science, using visual art, poetry, and active mobility-driven advocacy. Dedicated to a usable history, where lessons from the past are used to shape the future, the foundation provides lectures and workshops while supporting initiatives such as the IYAS National Writers Workshop, the #SintangLakbay history bicycle tour, the Leonard L. Co Collection, and public art. Some of the foundation's titles are available at the Yuchengco Museum's YSpace Shop on the second floor. Find out more from the QR Code below.

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PASTS REVISITED

An Exhibit on Usable History and the Romance of
Renato Constantino and Letizia Roxas Constantino



11 June - 11 July 2026

Exhibit Opening June 11, 3PM

YSpace at the Yuchengco Museum
RCBC Plaza, Corner Ayala & Gil Puyat Ave., Makati

Hunters-ROTC Historical Society



Statement on 50 years of "A Past Revisited"

The Philippine history book "A Past Revisited" by Renato Constantino came out in 1975. Its appearance under the Martial Law regime was something of a publishing phenomenon. Its nationalist stance, its critique of Philippine class politics and its adherence to a consistently Filipino point of view was more consistent, factual and coherent than alternative histories. It escaped censorship probably because, Marcos, who had a Philippine history project already in the works would rather avoid controversy when he came out with his own volume "Tadhana: A History of the Filipino People" in 1976.

Although Marcos appears as author it is actually a commissioned work that involved some of the well-known historians of the time. It was simply assumed that the massive funding, the collective brain power mobilized behind the project and the magnitude of "Tadhana" would overwhelm competing perspectives and establish "Tadhana" as the de facto history book of the Philippines.

Within a year or two, however, APR had become the standard text in Philippine history in UP and later other universities.

Ever since the Philippine Revolution started to break apart into factions after the Tejeros Convention, its account by Filipino historians has similarly been affected by partisanship which highlighted the achievements of one faction over another right up to the end of the Phil-American War.

Other historians, seeking to avoid being sucked into this divisive historical sectarianism came out with thoroughly bland histories that was neither helpful, insightful or interesting to read.

In APR, Constantino had constructed a framework on how to look at the historical events in the islands of the Spanish East Indies into a cogent view that ultimately leads to the emergence of a Filipino nation in the late 19th century, the challenges that it has faced since, and how it has adapted as a small nation surrounded by great powers up until it finally won independence.

Every history book must over time become surpassed by others that follow it. New research, new perspectives, new theories, new insights will eventually catch up with any history book. A history book however can remain relevant in that as a factual, well reasoned and insightful assessment of the history of a people up to that time, a history book now matter how imperfect can become the touchstone, reference point or foundation of those that follow.

Fifty years after it first appeared, amidst new research and publications, APR remains relevant. We have reached the end of globalization and arrived at a multi-polar world. And in this world where the erstwhile leader of the Western world, America, now cries "America first", Constantino has the honor of writing APR in 1975, with "Filipino first" in mind. # # #

Hunters-ROTC President Rhett Daza

August 23, 2025

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