

Reframing the **Filipina as a Militant:** The Ongoing Revolutionary History of the Philippines

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PHILIPPINES 101

***WHAT DO WE
KNOW ABOUT
THE PHILIPPINES?***





THE PHILIPPINES

600 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MAINLAND ASIA

JUST ABOVE THE EQUATOR



ARCHIPELAGO: A GROUP OF ISLANDS



WHAT IS THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE PHILIPPINES?

- A. 10 MILLION
- B. 20 MILLION
- C. 100 MILLION
- D. 250 MILLION



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WHERE DO THE MAJORITY OF FILIPINOS LIVE?

- A. URBAN CITIES
- B. COUNTRYSIDE
- C. OVERSEAS IN
OTHER COUNTRIES



**WHERE DO THE
MAJORITY OF
FILIPINOS LIVE?**

A. URBAN CITIES

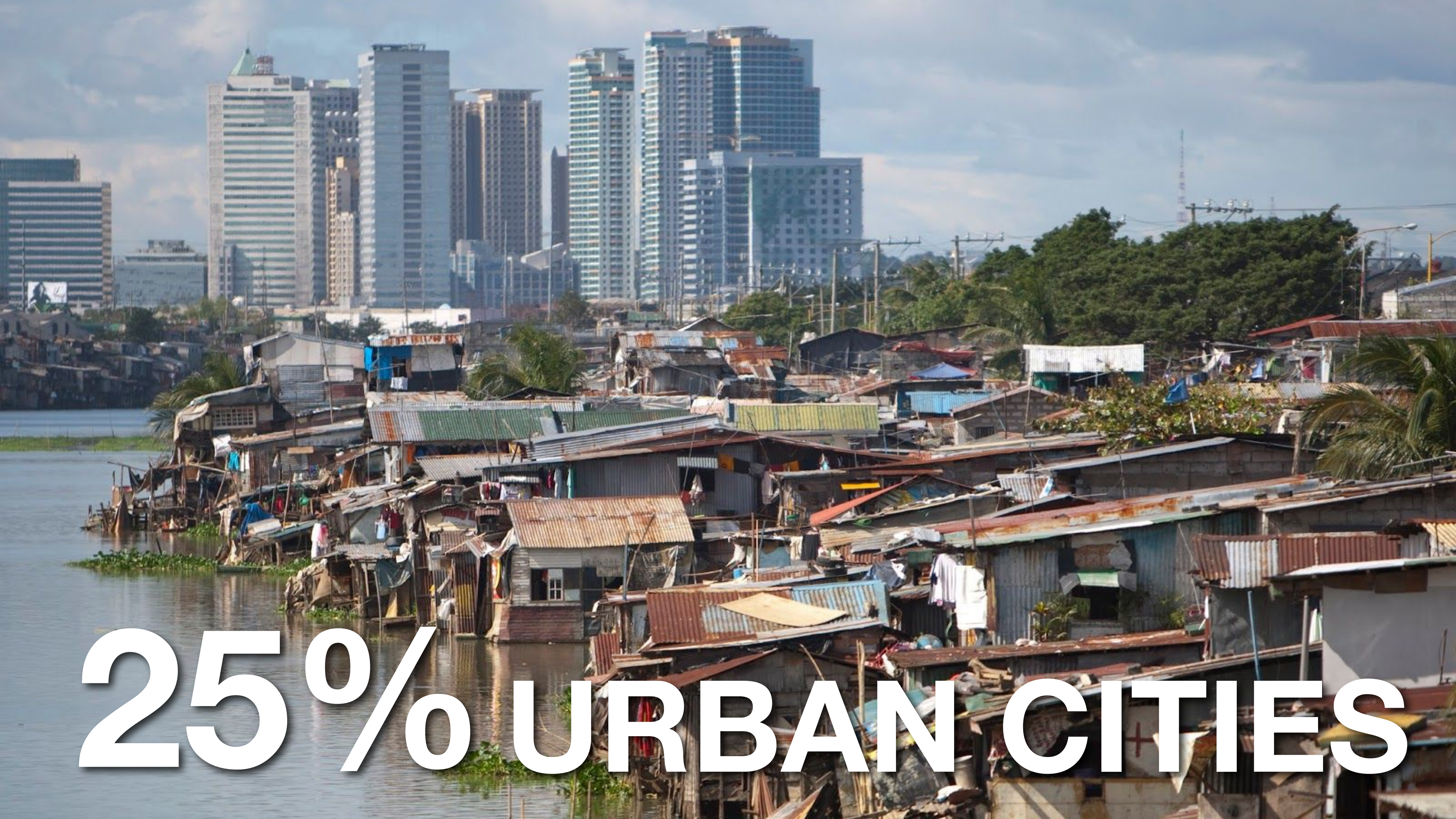
B. COUNTRYSIDE

**C. OVERSEAS IN
OTHER COUNTRIES**



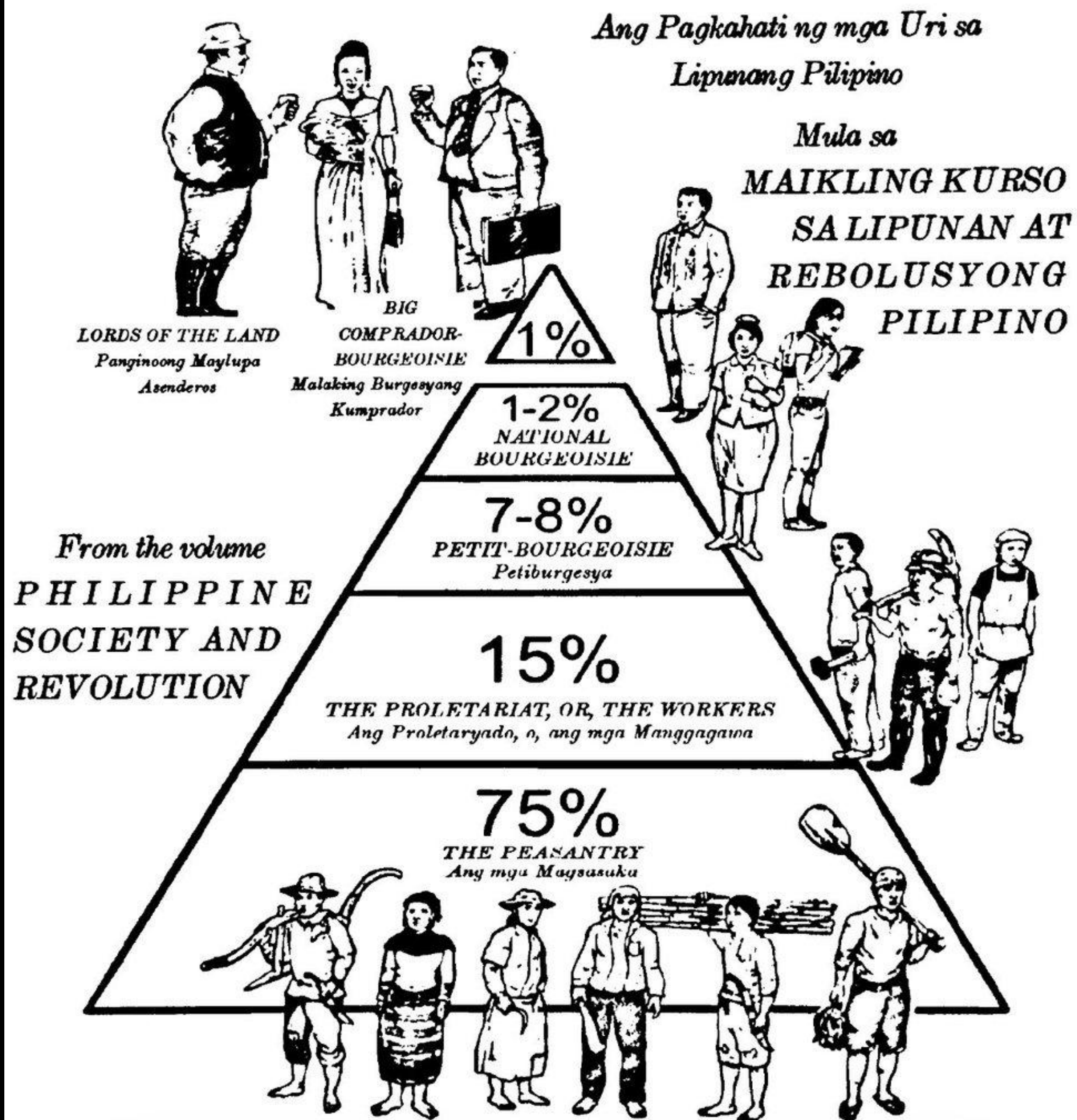


75% COUNTRYSIDE



25% URBAN CITIES

THE DIVISION OF CLASSES IN PILIPINO SOCIETY



25% “Urban Dwellers”

15% Workers

8% Petty Bourgeoisie

1% National Bourgeoisie

1% Comprador Big Bourgeoisie and
Big Landlords

75% Peasant Farmers

- Most are landless, living in the countryside of the Philippines
- A result of the feudalistic systems brought by Spanish colonialism

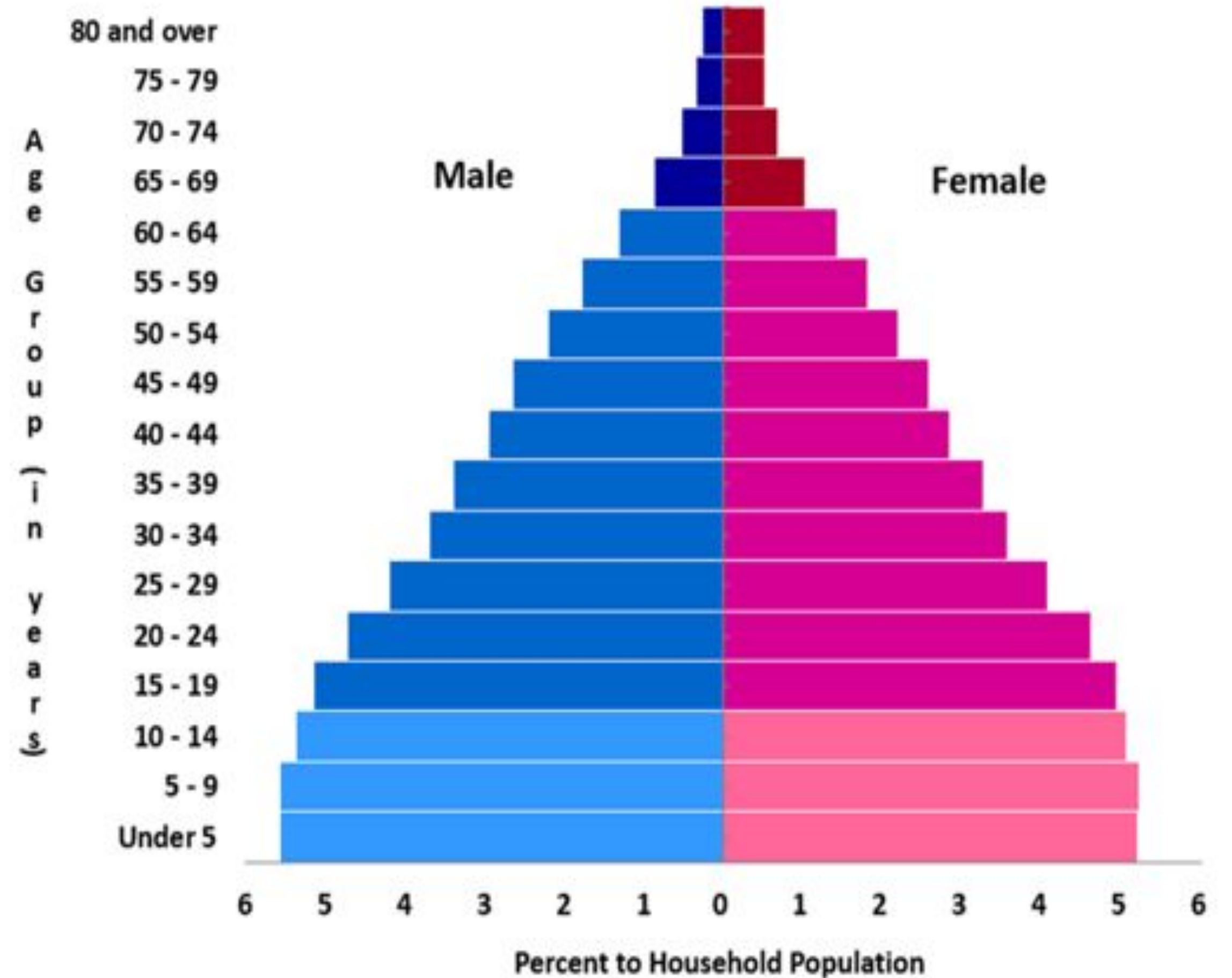
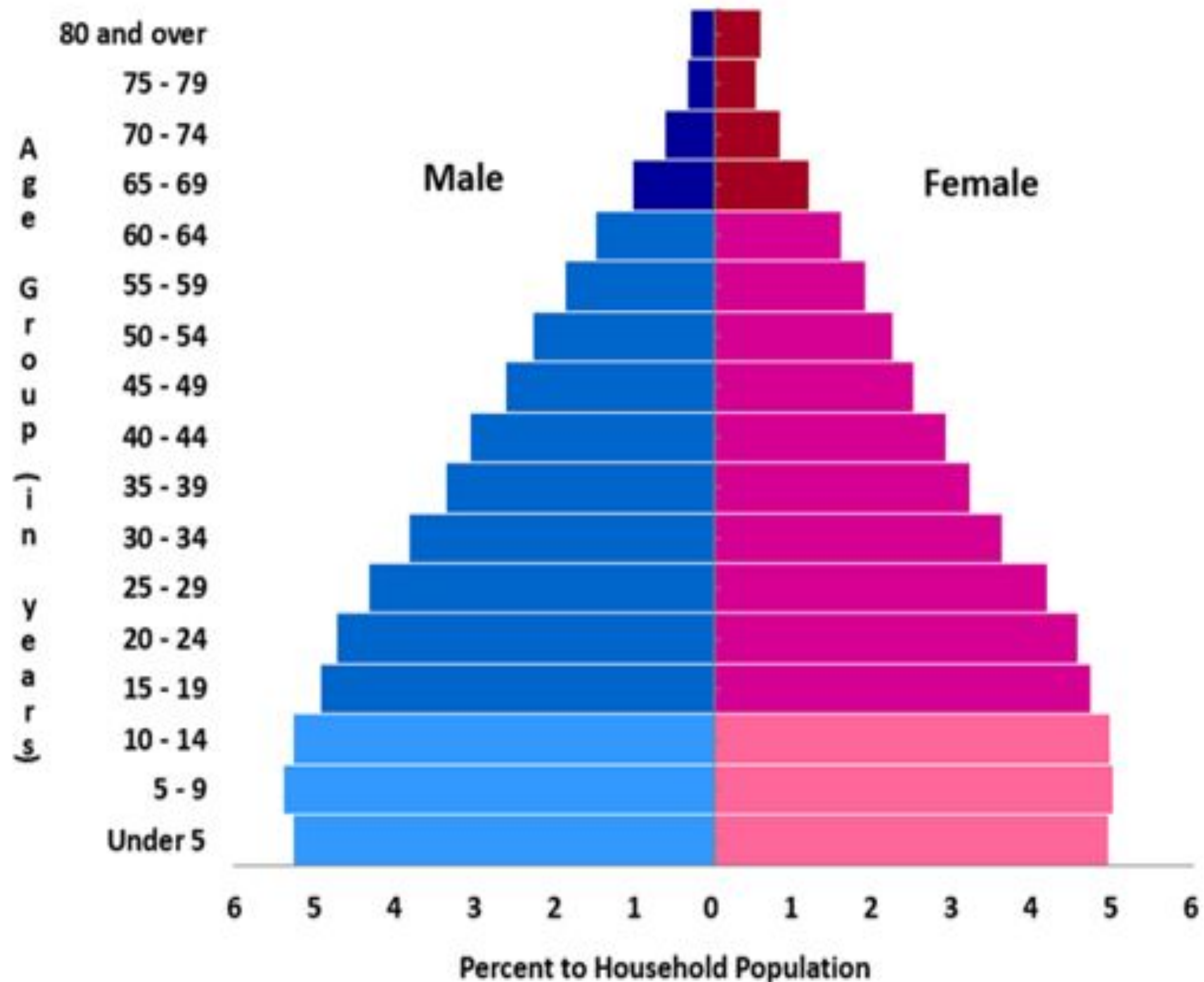
Figure 1. Age-Sex Pyramid of the Philippines: 2020 and 2015

2020

Household Population: 108.67 million

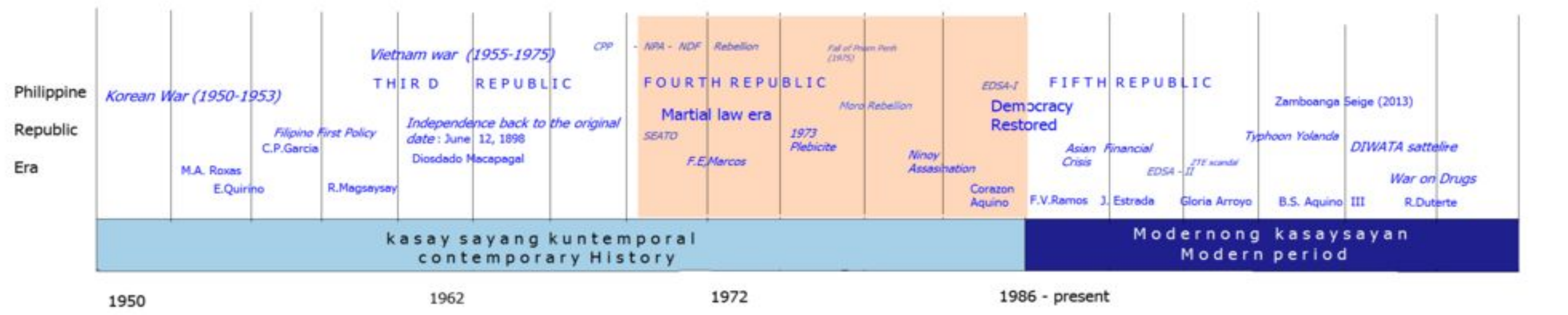
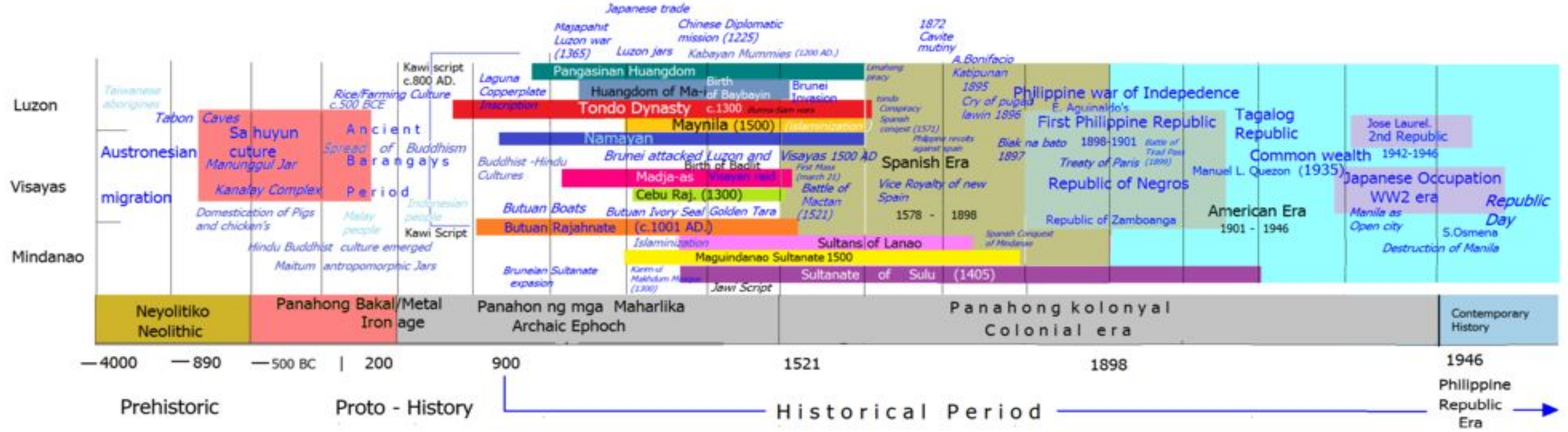
2015

Household Population: 100.57 million



Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing and 2015 Census of Population

Timeline of Philippine History Kronolohiya ng Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas



The Gendered History the Filipina

*And how we have
viewed them so far?*

The colonial and imperial lens versus the ongoing revolutionary history

Maria Clara

- Jose Rizal's main protagonist in his novel *Noli Me Tangere*
- Embodies the New Filipina: obedient, submissive, beautiful (Spanish standards), and religious
- Feudalistic family structures viewing women as property



DIEGO & GABRIELA SILANG

- **Fed up with Spanish rule and treatment of women as objects and property**
- **1763 Diego was assassinated, Gabriela took on role as leader**
- **First female leader for Filipino Liberation**



Filipino Comfort Women

- WW2 Japanese imperialism
- Abducted between 1942-1945 and forced into sexual slavery
- Rampant commodification of sexuality promoted by Hollywood and Western media presenting women as sex objects



WOMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE JAPANESE (WW2)



WOMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE JAPANESE (WW2) TODAY





“The new woman, the new Filipina, is first and foremost a militant.”

Reframing the Filipina as a Militant

*Why is, “The new
Filipina first and
foremost a militant?”*

The conditions that prime a woman for revolution

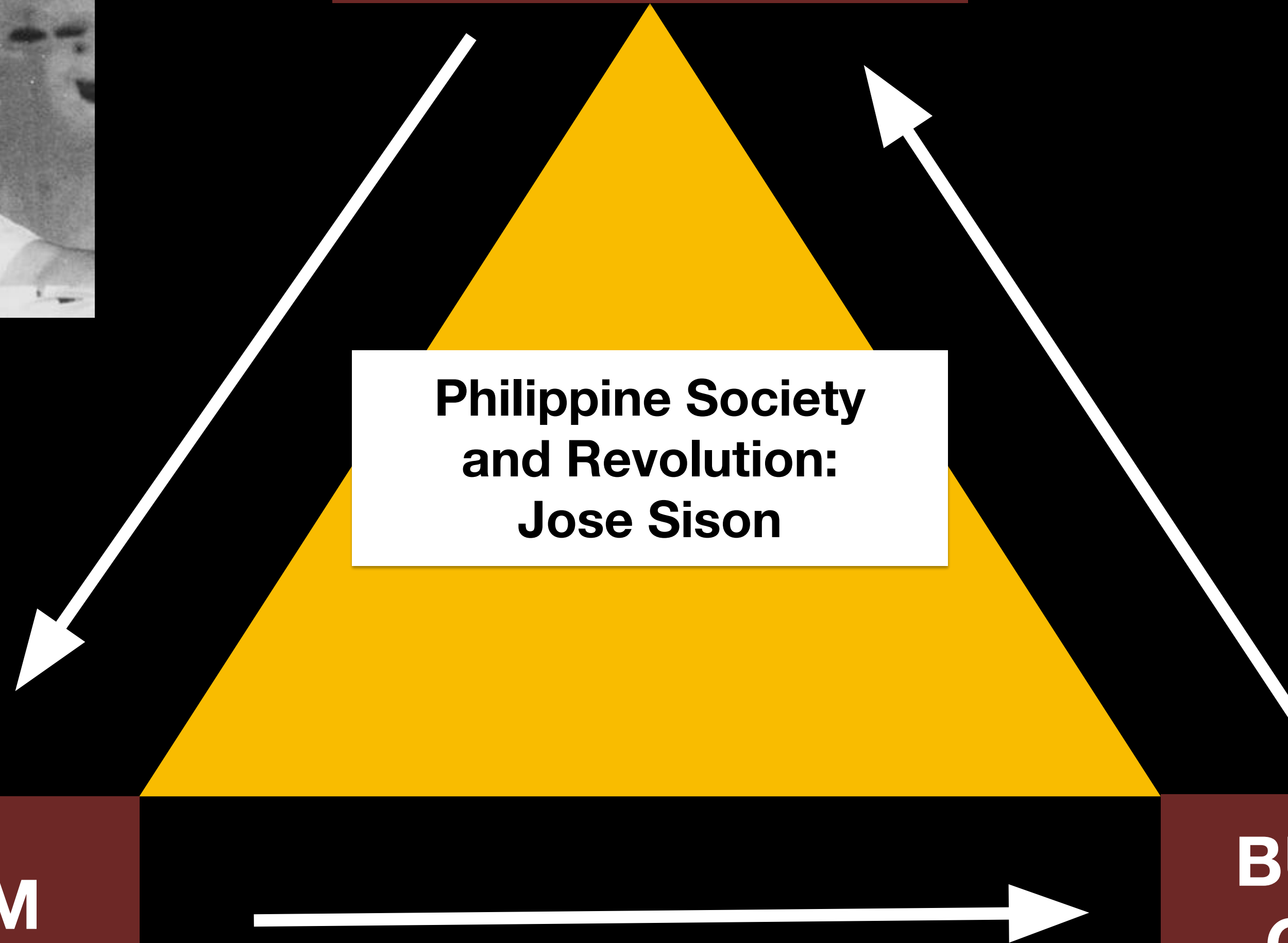


**US
IMPERIALISM**

**Philippine Society
and Revolution:
Jose Sison**

FEUDALISM

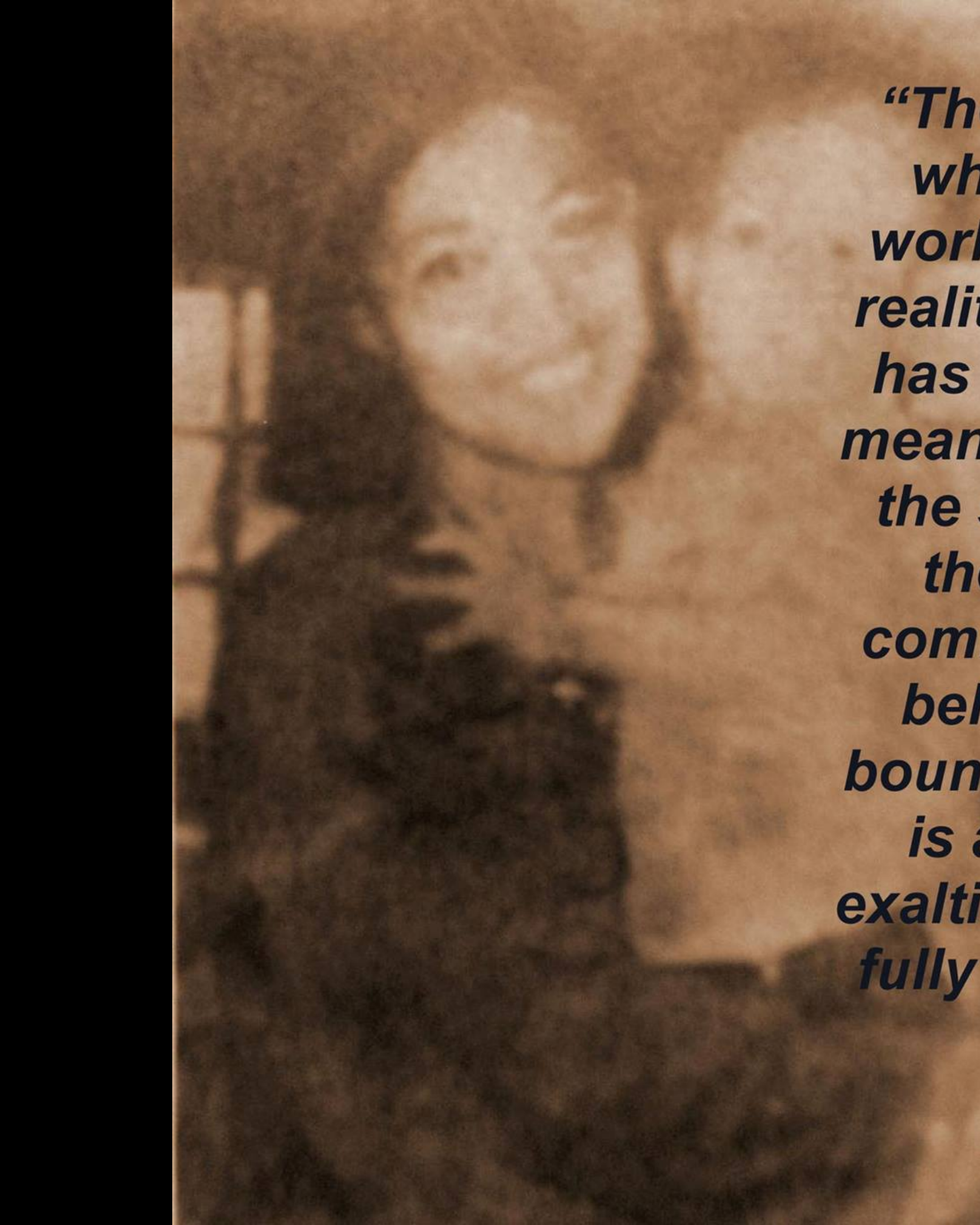
**BUREAUCRAT
CAPITALISM**



Maria Lorena Barros

- **Founder of MAKIBAKA**
- **“The new Filipina is one who can stay whole days and nights striking with workers... she is a woman who has discovered the exalting realm of responsibility, a woman fully engaged in the making of history”**





“The new Filipina is one who can stay whole days and nights with striking workers, learning from them the social realities which her bourgeois education has kept from her. More important this means she has convinced her parents of the seriousness of her commitment to the workers and peasants cause, a commitment which requires all sorts of behavior previously way beyond the bounds of respectable womanhood. She is a woman who has discovered the exalting realm of responsibility, a woman fully engaged in the making of history.”

-Maria Lorena Barros-

(March 18, 1948—March 24, 1976)



noong 1970, inorganisa ng Women's Organizing Committee (WOC) ng Sadeka sa pangunguna ni Lorie Barros ang Makibaka, ang kauna-unahang

Adds that Filipino women experience a fourth oppression, male authority

- benefits from
- enforces

**MALE
AUTHORITY?**

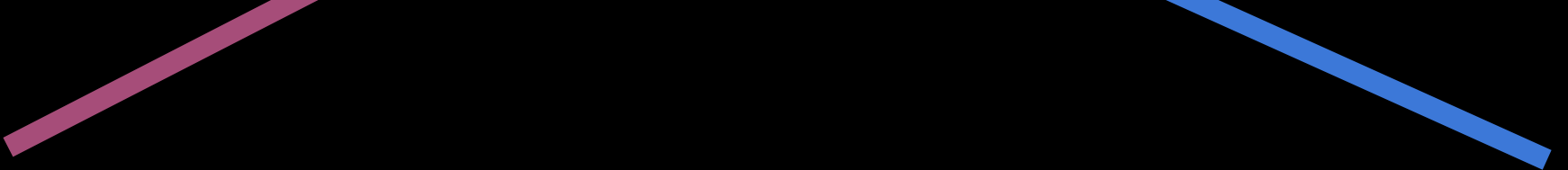
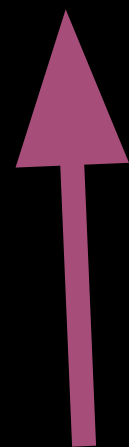
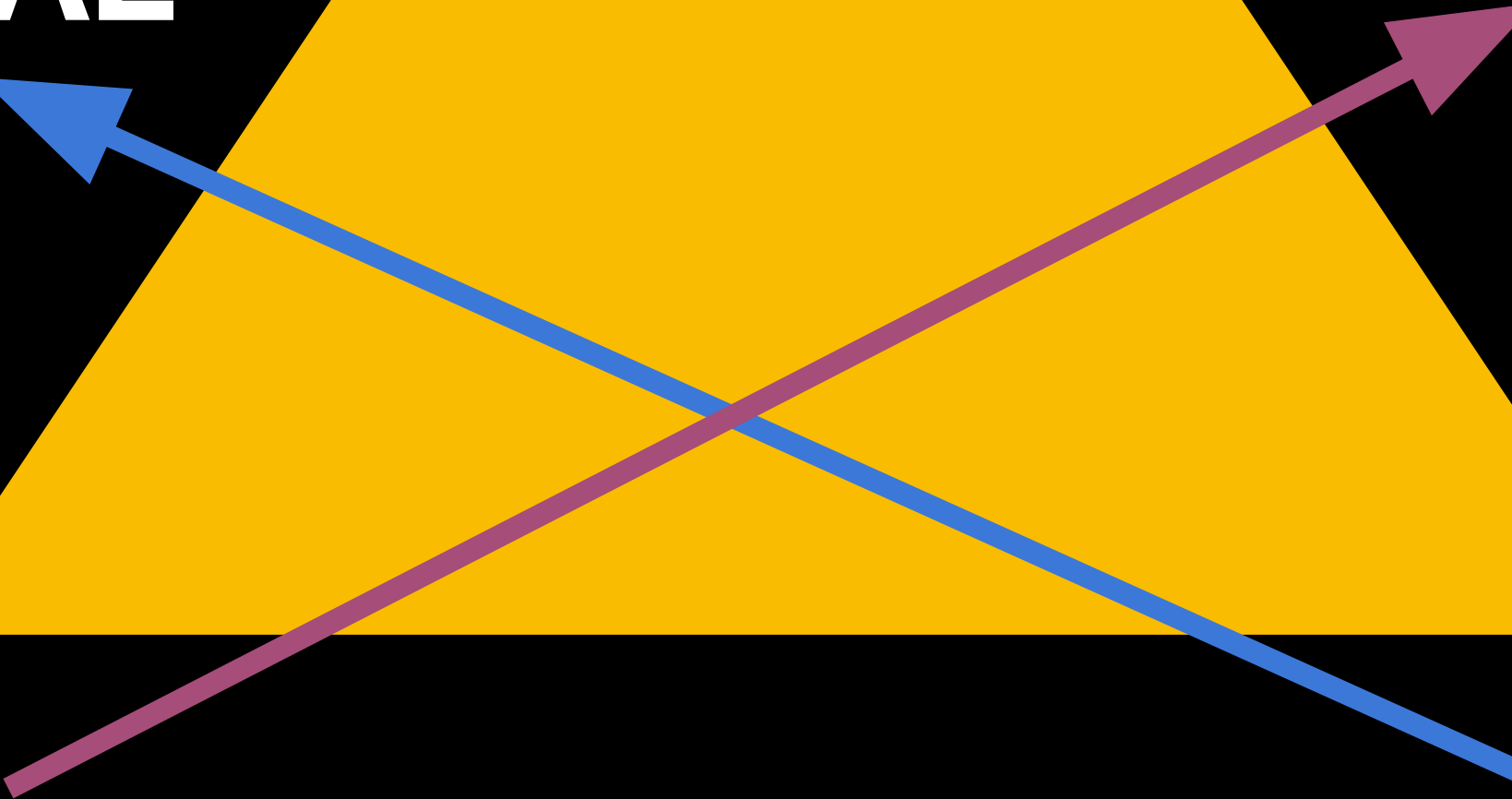
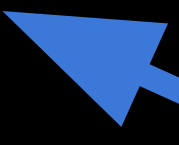
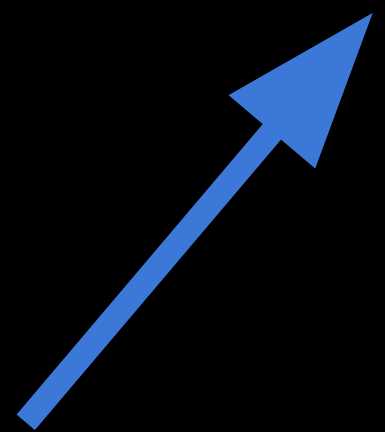
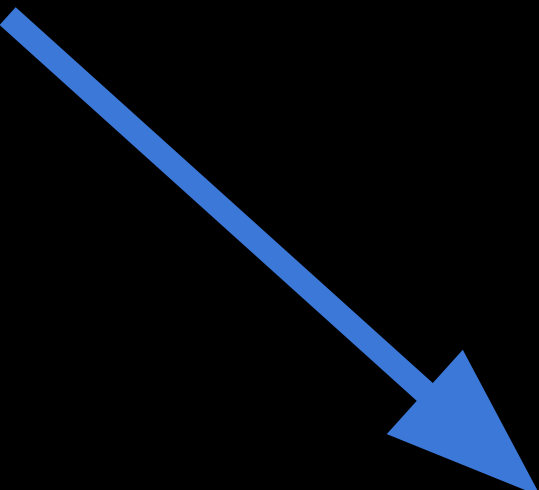
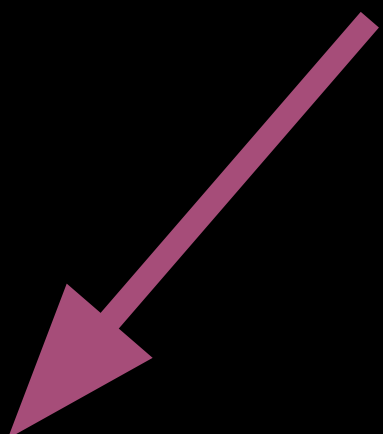
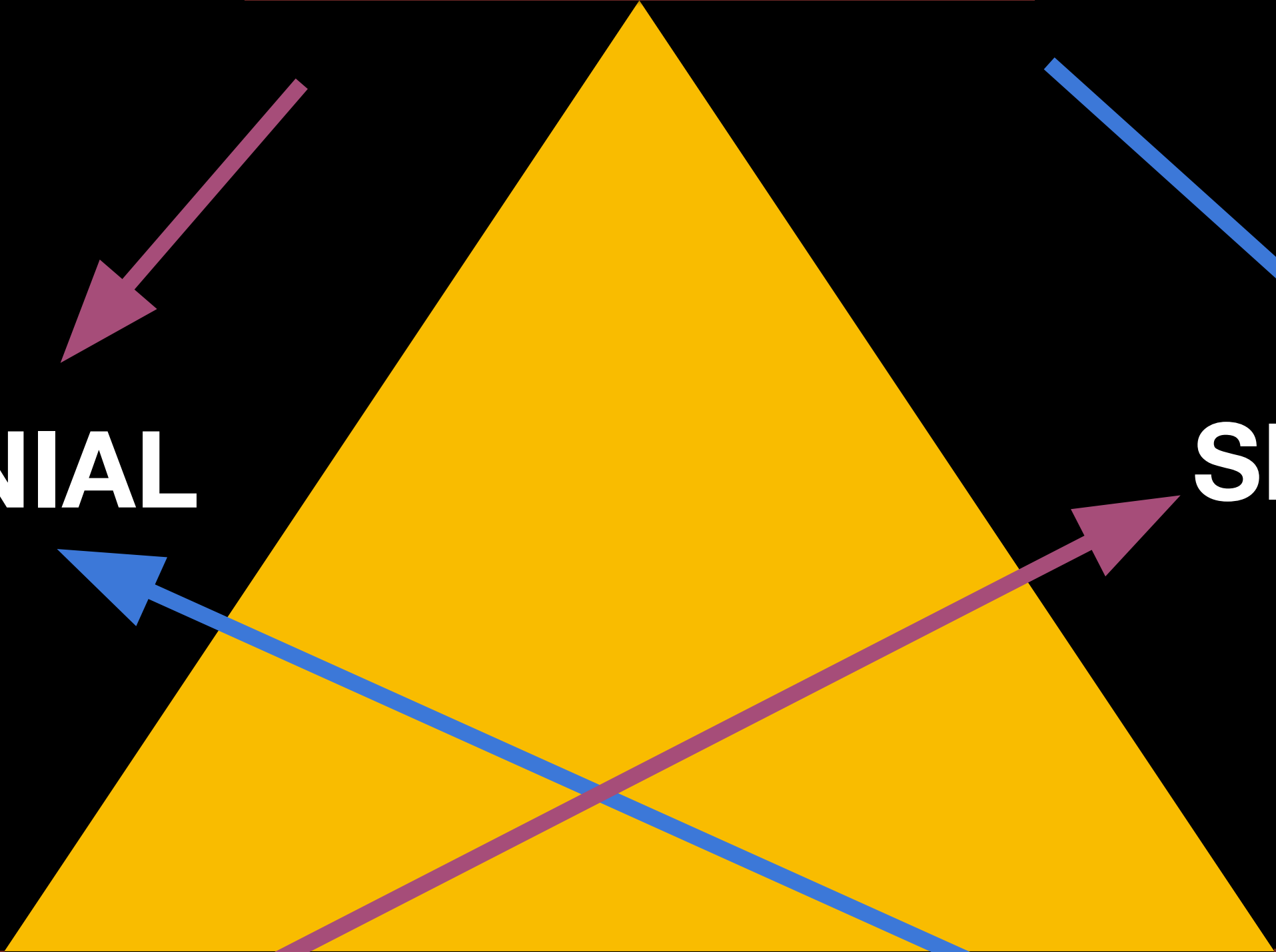
**US
IMPERIALISM**

SEMI-COLONIAL

SEMI-FEUDAL

FEUDALISM

**BUREAUCRAT
CAPITALISM**



- **benefits from**
- **enforces**

US IMPERIALISM

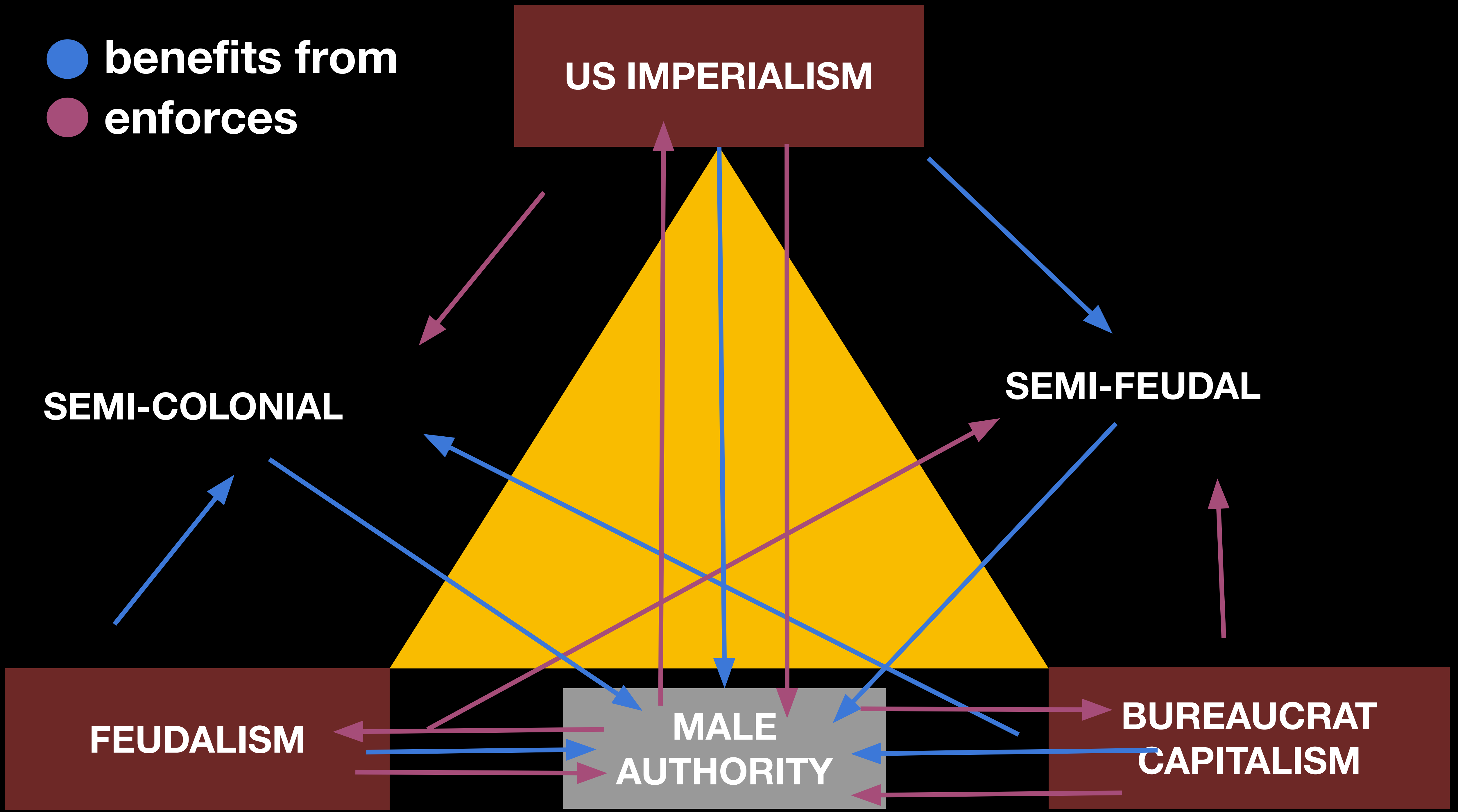
SEMI-COLONIAL

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FEUDALISM

**MALE
AUTHORITY**

**BUREAUCRAT
CAPITALISM**



Global Connections

Why is reframing the Filipina in this framework and lens significant?

Deconstructing the colonial and imperial frameworks

THE MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IS ALIVE

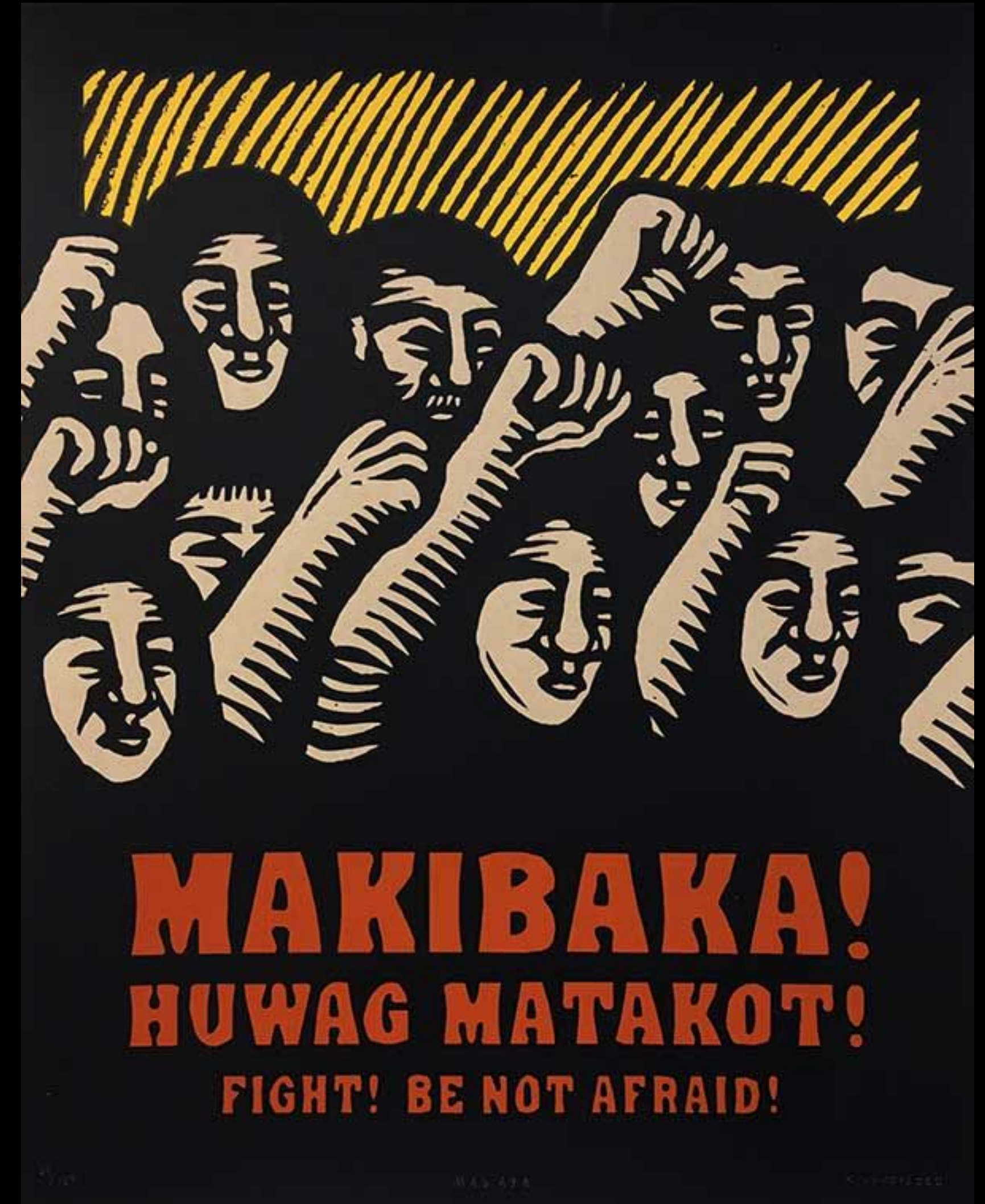
- **Diaspora of Filipino women: Overseas Filipino workers**
- **GABRIELA: How MAKIBAKA continues to persist in the modern day**
- **Active participations to achieve transformative justice and restoration through community**



"Abante babae, palabang militante!"

LIBERATORY PRACTICES ON A GLOBAL LEVEL

- The experiences and roles of women in resistance and revolution should be recognized as valid
- Other women's activist movements and their impacts on the global society
- Anti-colonial, imperial feminism



Conclusion

- Deep historical analysis is necessary to understand pre-existing frameworks and oppressions that shape the experiences of the Filipina
- The contributions of MAKIBAKA is not only significant in women's revolutionary history but **the ongoing revolutionary history** of the Philippines
- Reframing the Filipina as a militant provides a basis for analyzing other women's movements across the globe

