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The Sakdal Movement, 1930-34

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INTRODUCTION

From the start of the United States occupation of the Philippines, the independence issue was a concern of the majority of the Filipino people. The only difference among them was the time of its realization. Various groups not only expressed their stand on the issue, but also worked for its implementation through legitimate political means or through radical, and at times violent, means. The most influential and visible group among them was that of the Filipino political leaders of the time, represented by Manuel L. Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, and Manuel Roxas. Other groups were opposed to their methods. One such group was the Sakdal Movement, which was active in Central and Southern Luzon.

The Sakdal Movement started in 1930 and lasted for at least fifteen years. Within this period, the Movement went through several phases: the Kilusang Sakdal phase from June 1930 to October 1933, the active Sakdalista Party phase from October 1933 to April 1935, the post-uprising phase from May 1935 to the end of 1938, the Partido Ganap phase from the end of 1938 to December 1941, and finally the Japanese Occupation from January 1942 to February 1945. Although the Sakdal Movement is considered to have died with the defeat of the Japanese Imperial Army in early 1945, it still exists today to some extent. However, the name of the organization, membership, tactics, and emphasis have changed.¹

1. Through interviews with former Sakdalistas, I came to know of the existence of organizations like Mga Hasik ng Bayani and Iglesia Sagrada ng Lahi. For more on the latter, see Motoe Terami-Wada, "Iglesia Sagrada ng Lahi: A Social Movement in the Philippines," February 1987 (unpublished).

