

# Los primeros de FILIPINAS

*The First Spaniards to Reach the Philippines*



JUAN SEBASTIAN  
ELCANO



MIGUEL LOPEZ DE  
LEGAZPI



FERDINAND  
MAGELLAN



RUY LOPEZ DE  
VILLALOBOS







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**NOTE FROM THE WRITER:** The script is based on verified historical events, using as reference the book *Los primeros de Filipinas y Málaga* by the same author. We have allowed some artistic licenses in the speech balloons and captions solely to make the Spanish achievement in the Pacific easily understood by those for whom this work is intended.

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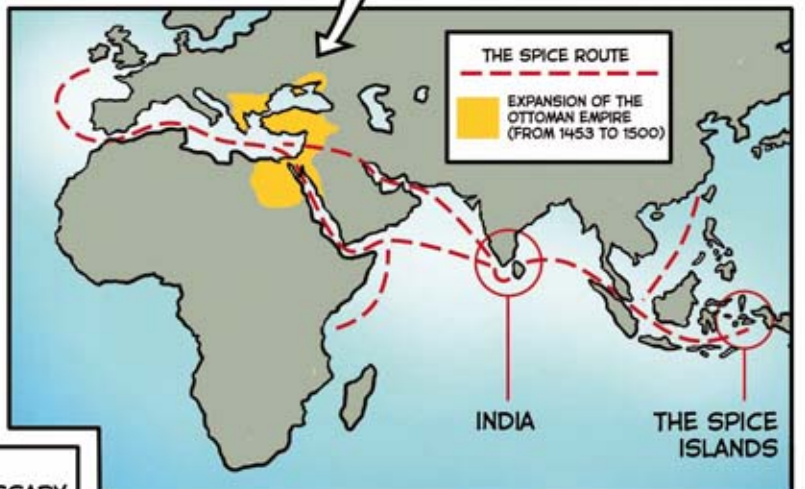
1453

CONSTANTINOPLE, THE CAPITAL OF THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE OR BYZANTINE EMPIRE, FALLS TO THE HANDS OF THE OTTOMAN TURKS.



THE OTTOMAN TURKS CUT OFF OVERLAND TRADE ROUTES TO INDIA AND THE SPICE ISLANDS.

SPICES HAVE BEEN USED AS MEDICINES AND FOOD PRESERVATIVES SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.



THE PRICE OF SPICES ROSE DRAMATICALLY. IT WAS THEN NECESSARY TO FIND A NEW ROUTE.



1492

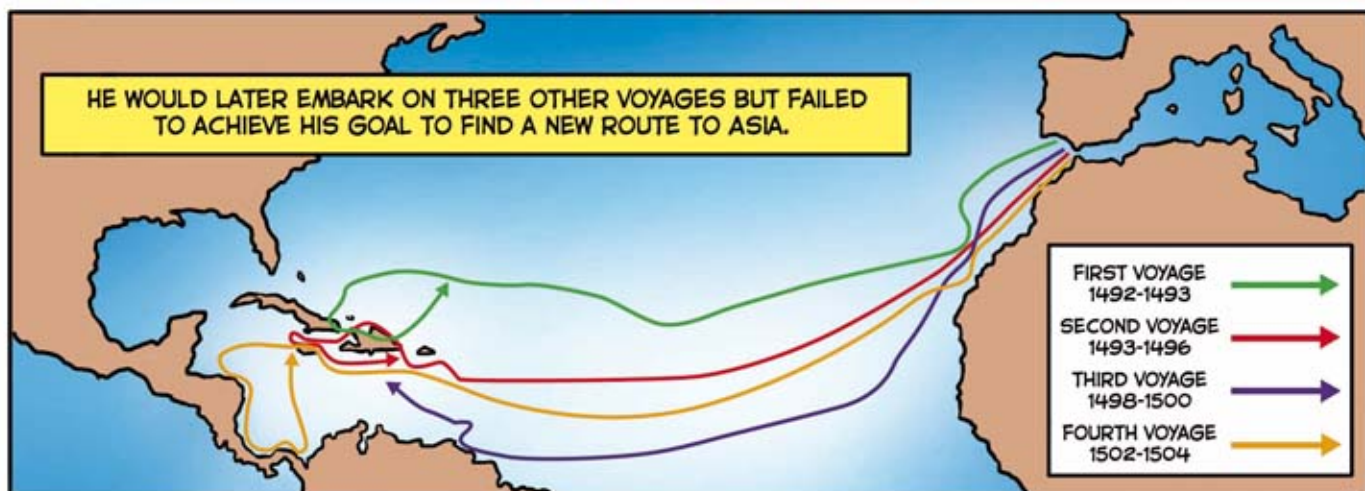
AND THAT WAS HOW CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, WHILE SAILING WESTWARD IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH ASIA, CAME ACROSS SEVERAL LANDS THAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE AMERICAS.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PERSONALLY INFORMED THE CATHOLIC MONARCHS, FERDINAND AND ISABELLA, OF THE NEWLY DISCOVERED TERRITORIES AND EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO REACH THE SPICE ISLANDS.



HE WOULD LATER EMBARK ON THREE OTHER VOYAGES BUT FAILED TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL TO FIND A NEW ROUTE TO ASIA.



**1500**

COLUMBUS WAS ON HIS WAY BACK FROM HIS THIRD VOYAGE WHEN RUY LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS WAS BORN IN MALAGA TO A NOBLEMAN WHO TOOK PART IN THE CONQUEST OF THAT CITY FROM THE MUSLIMS IN 1487.



DADDY, I WANT TO SAIL THE SEAS LIKE ADMIRAL COLUMBUS...

WELL, TO DO THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO STUDY AND LEARN ASTROLOGY, MAP-MAKING AND THE ART OF SAILING.







1513

CROSSING THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA, VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA, A CONQUISTADOR FROM EXTREMADURA, CAUGHT SIGHT OF A SEA WEST OF THE AMERICAS...



...AND CLAIMED IT FOR EMPEROR CHARLES V, CALLING IT THE SOUTH SEA.



WE HAVE TO REACH THE SPICE ISLANDS BY SAILING WESTWARD.

YOUR MAJESTY, WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE THE SPICE ISLANDS MAY FALL UNDER THE REGION GRANTED BY THE POPE TO PORTUGAL.



ACCORDING TO THE TREATY OF TORDESILLAS, A PART OF THE DISCOVERED LANDS BELONGS TO PORTUGAL. BUT IF WE SAIL WESTWARD, YOUR MAJESTY SHALL HAVE CLAIM TO EVERY ISLAND FOUND IN THE AREA.



I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. I WILL SEND AN EXPEDITION TO FIND A ROUTE IN THE NEW WORLD TO REACH THE SOUTH SEA.



CHARLES V NAMED FERDINAND MAGELLAN CAPTAIN OF THE EXPEDITION. THE PORTUGUESE EXPLORER HAD EARLIER FORESEEN REACHING THE SPICE ISLANDS FROM THE WEST.

I SHALL PROVIDE FIVE SHIPS UNDER YOUR COMMAND. I AM SURE YOU WILL CONQUER GREAT EMPIRES IN THE WEST.

I SHALL STAKE MY LIFE ON IT.

ON AUGUST 1, 1519 THEY SET SAIL FROM SEVILLE, HEADING DOWN THE GUADALQUIR RIVER AND OUT INTO THE OCEAN.

MAGELLAN TOOK THE HELM OF THE FLAGSHIP *TRINIDAD*.

SAN ANTONIO

SANTIAGO

VICTORIA

JUAN SEBASTIAN ELCANO, AN INTREPID BASQUE SAILOR, WAS GIVEN THE POSITION OF SHIP'S MASTER ON BOARD *THE CONCEPCION*.

## Chapter 1 THE EXPEDITION OF MAGELLAN

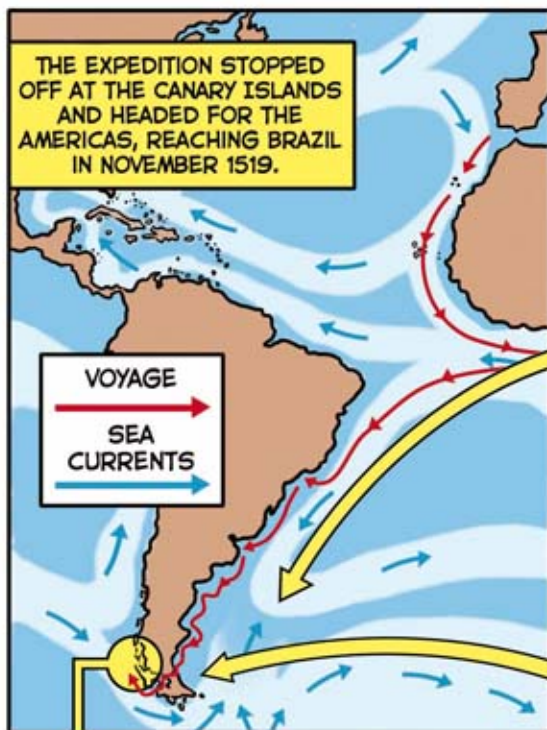
IT WILL BE A TOUGH VOYAGE. ONCE WE REACH THE NEW WORLD, WE WILL GO SOUTHWARDS TO FIND A ROUTE LEADING TO THE SOUTH SEA WHICH BALBOA DISCOVERED.

GENERAL, WILL WE FIND ISLANDS WHERE WE MAY STOCK UP ON WATER AND FOOD?

THERE SHOULD BE MANY ISLANDS BEFORE WE REACH OUR DESTINATION. ANYWAY, PROVISIONS SHOULD BE USED SPARINGLY.

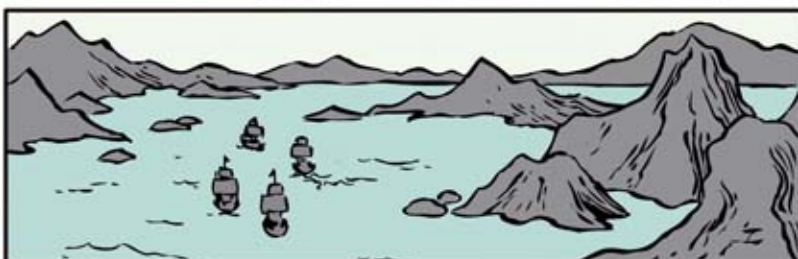


THE EXPEDITION STOPPED OFF AT THE CANARY ISLANDS AND HEADED FOR THE AMERICAS, REACHING BRAZIL IN NOVEMBER 1519.



VOYAGE  
SEA  
CURRENTS

SEA CURRENTS AND STORMS WOULD HAMPER SAILING SOUTHWARD.



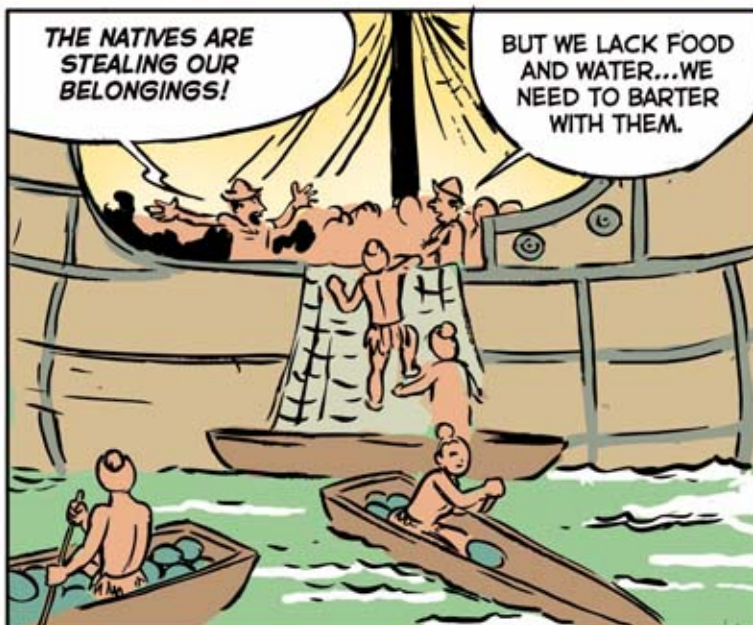
NOT UNTIL THE AUSTRAL SUMMER, BETWEEN DECEMBER 1519 AND MARCH 1520, WERE THEY ABLE TO COME ACROSS A PASSAGE THAT WOULD LATER BE KNOWN AS THE STRAIT OF MAGELLAN.

THEY HAD VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE NATIVES WHOM THEY CALLED "PATAGONES" BECAUSE OF THEIR UNUSUAL HEIGHT AND BIG FEET.



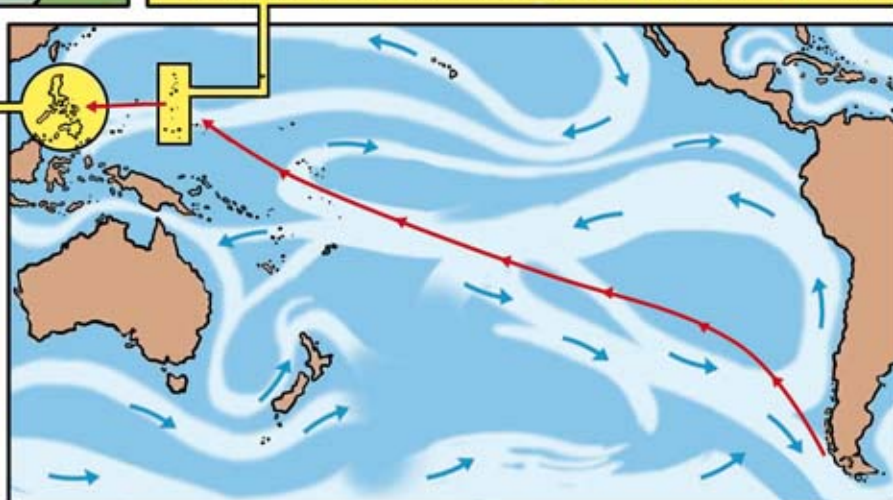
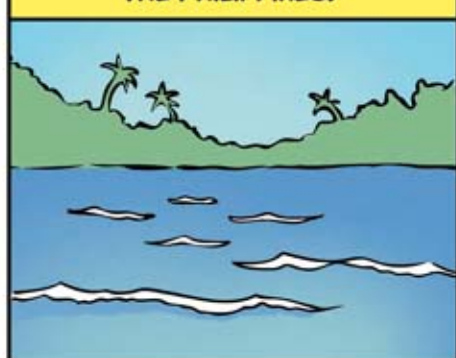
THE NATIVES ARE STEALING OUR BELONGINGS!

BUT WE LACK FOOD AND WATER...WE NEED TO BARTER WITH THEM.

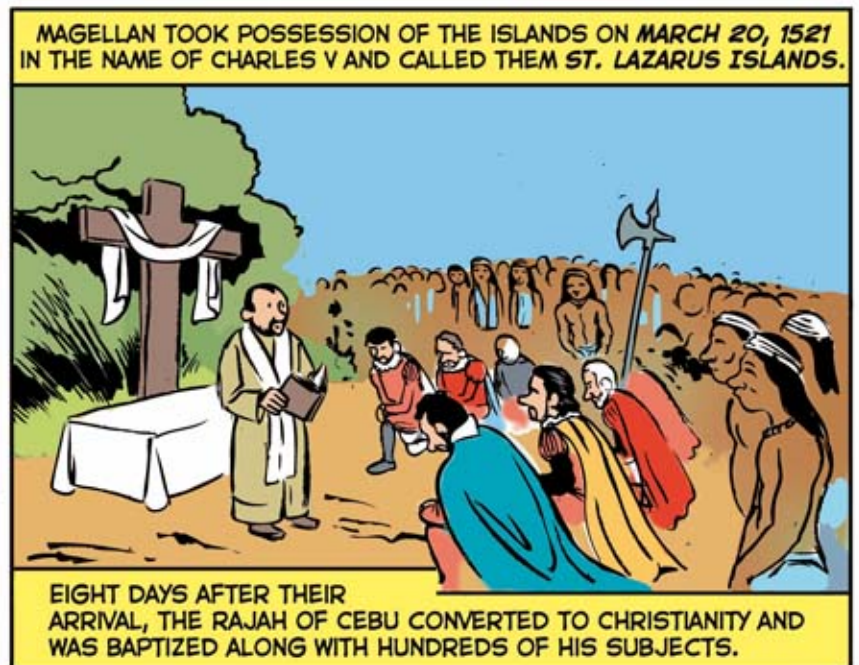
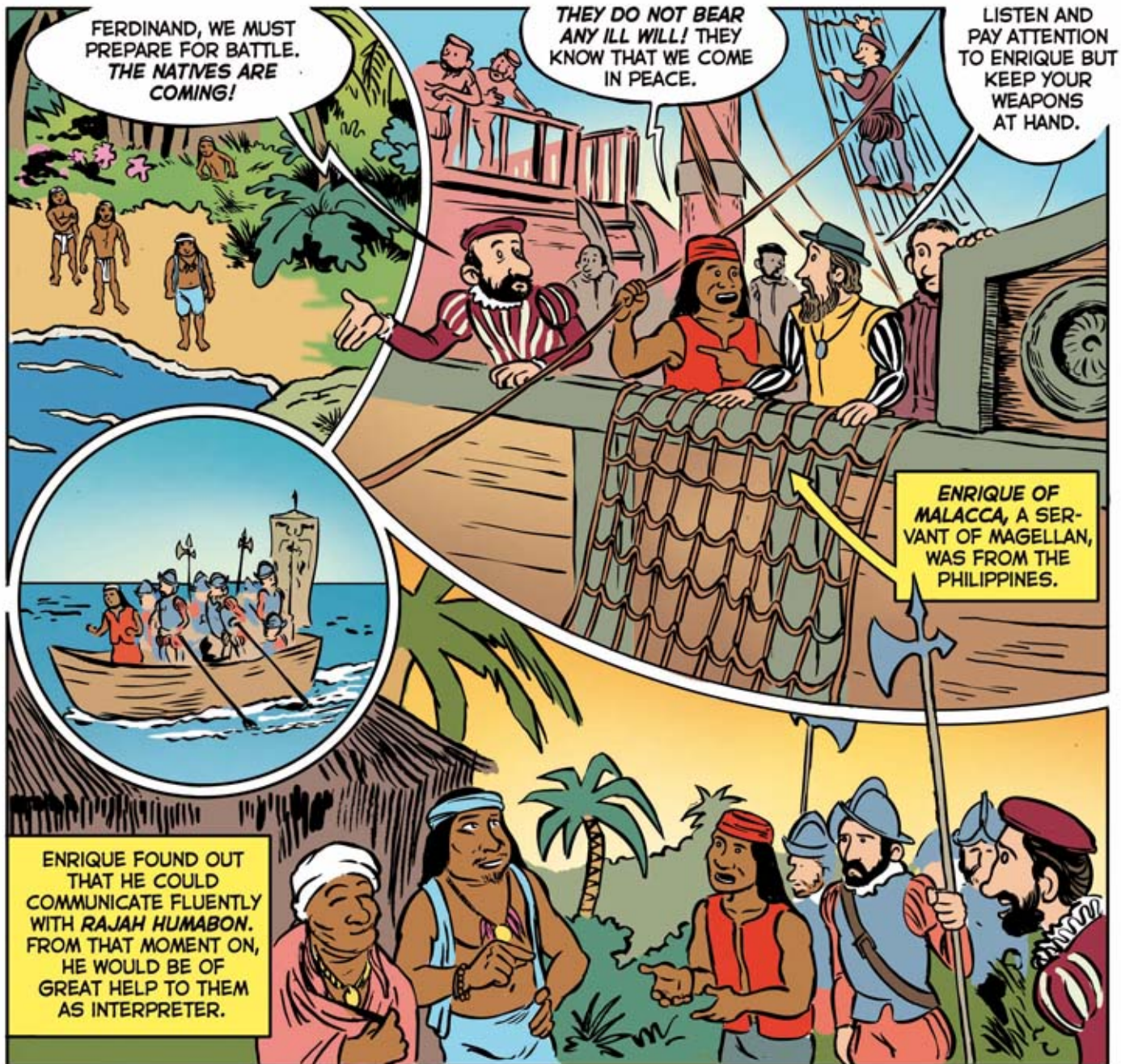


FOR THREE MONTHS THEY SAILED ACROSS THE SOUTH SEA, NOW KNOWN AS PACIFIC OCEAN, WITHOUT FINDING ANY DRY LAND UNTIL THEY CAME UPON *THE ISLAND OF THIEVES*, SO CALLED BECAUSE OF SOME MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIVES.

ON MARCH 16, 1521, THEY FINALLY CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE COASTS OF CEBU. THEY HAD REACHED THE PHILIPPINES.

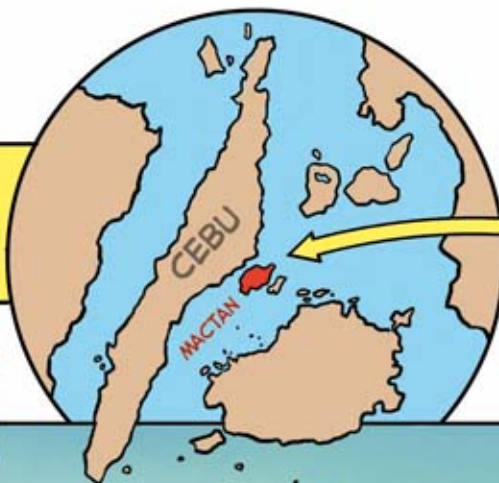








BUT LAPU-LAPU, CHIEFTAIN OF THE NEIGHBORING ISLAND OF MACTAN, REFUSED TO YIELD.



AN OLD ENEMY OF HIS, THE RAJAH OF CEBU PERSUADED MAGELLAN TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST LAPU-LAPU TO CONQUER THE ISLAND.



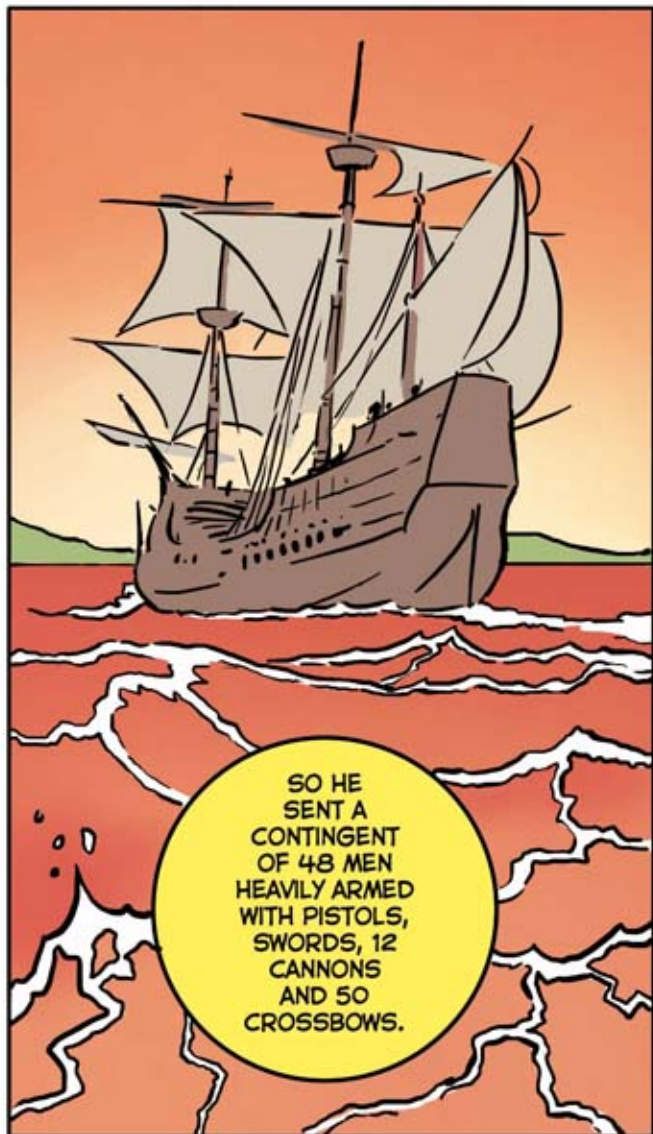
BUT AS THEY DREW NEAR THE ISLAND...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

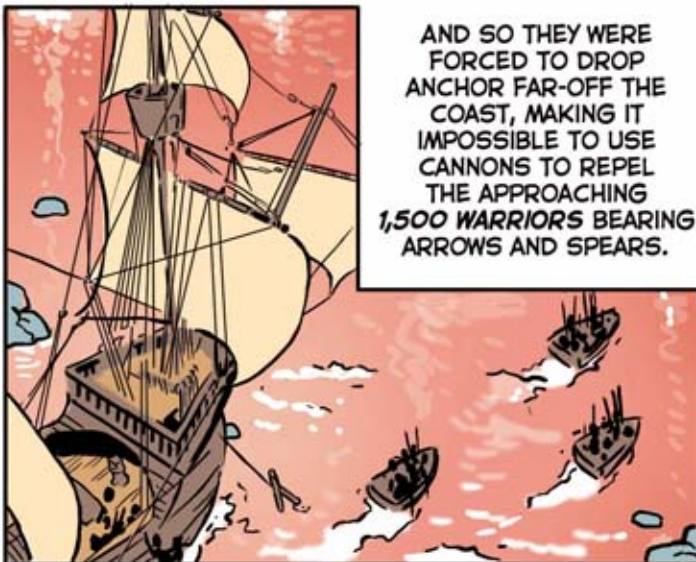
CORALS AND ROCKS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE FORWARD...



SO HE SENT A CONTINGENT OF 48 MEN HEAVILY ARMED WITH PISTOLS, SWORDS, 12 CANNONS AND 50 CROSSBOWS.



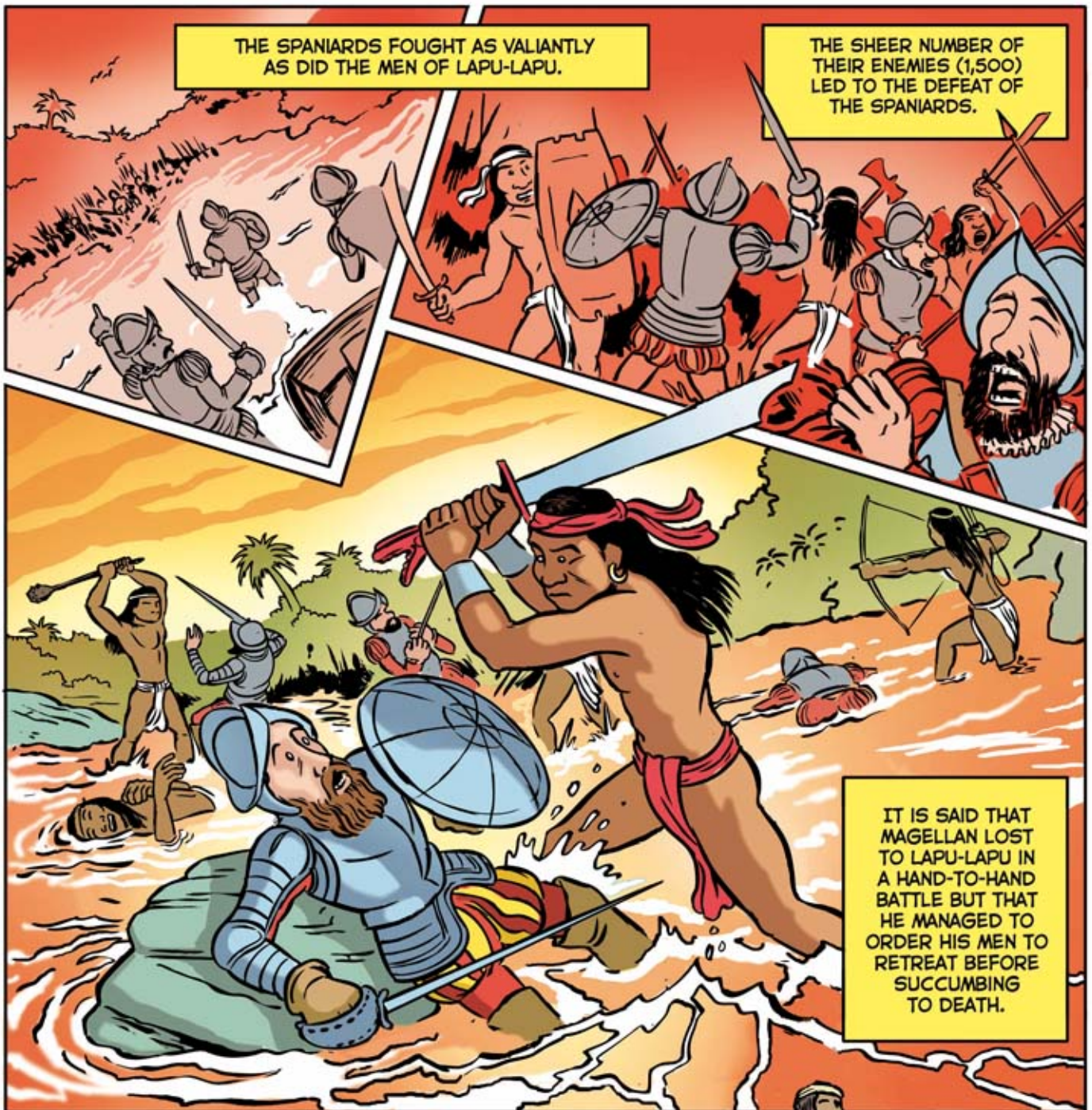
AND SO THEY WERE FORCED TO DROP ANCHOR FAR-OFF THE COAST, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO USE CANNONS TO REPEL THE APPROACHING 1,500 WARRIORS BEARING ARROWS AND SPEARS.





THE SPANIARDS FOUGHT AS VALIANTLY  
AS DID THE MEN OF LAPU-LAPU.

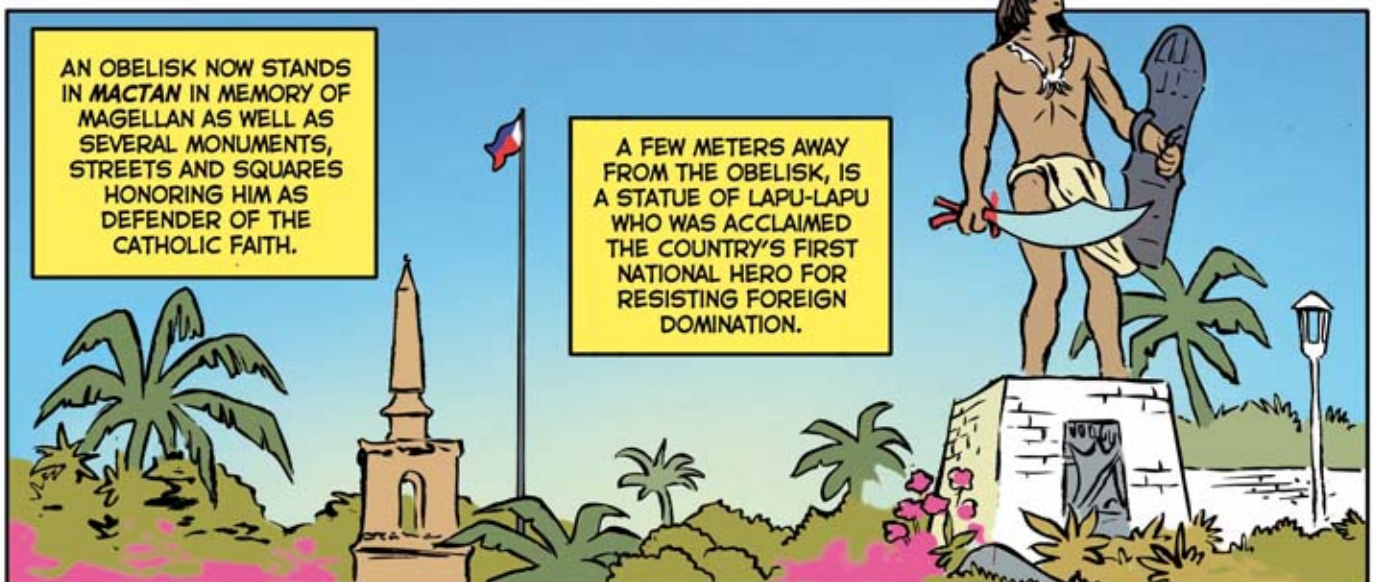
THE SHEER NUMBER OF  
THEIR ENEMIES (1,500)  
LED TO THE DEFEAT OF  
THE SPANIARDS.



IT IS SAID THAT  
MAGELLAN LOST  
TO LAPU-LAPU IN  
A HAND-TO-HAND  
BATTLE BUT THAT  
HE MANAGED TO  
ORDER HIS MEN TO  
RETREAT BEFORE  
SUCCEUNGB TO DEATH.

AN OBELISK NOW STANDS  
IN MACTAN IN MEMORY OF  
MAGELLAN AS WELL AS  
SEVERAL MONUMENTS,  
STREETS AND SQUARES  
HONORING HIM AS  
DEFENDER OF THE  
CATHOLIC FAITH.

A FEW METERS AWAY  
FROM THE OBELISK,  
IS A STATUE OF LAPU-LAPU  
WHO WAS ACCLAIMED  
THE COUNTRY'S FIRST  
NATIONAL HERO FOR  
RESISTING FOREIGN  
DOMINATION.



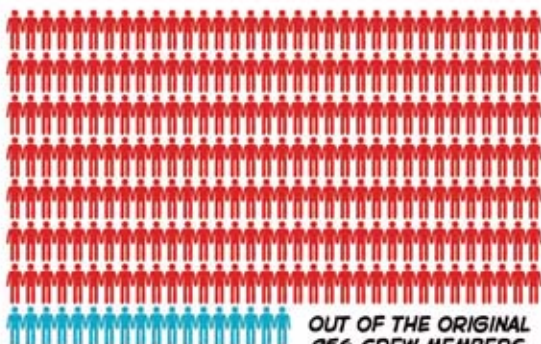


JUAN SEBASTIAN ELCANO TOOK COMMAND OF THE EXPEDITION AND CAPTAINED THE VICTORIA BACK TO SPAIN.



THEY SAILED TOWARDS THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE ALONG THE COAST OF AFRICA WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF REPLENISHING THEIR WATER SUPPLY.

THE VICTORIA ARRIVED IN SEVILLE ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1522.



OUT OF THE ORIGINAL 256 CREW MEMBERS, ONLY 18 MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE VOYAGE THAT LASTED THREE YEARS.

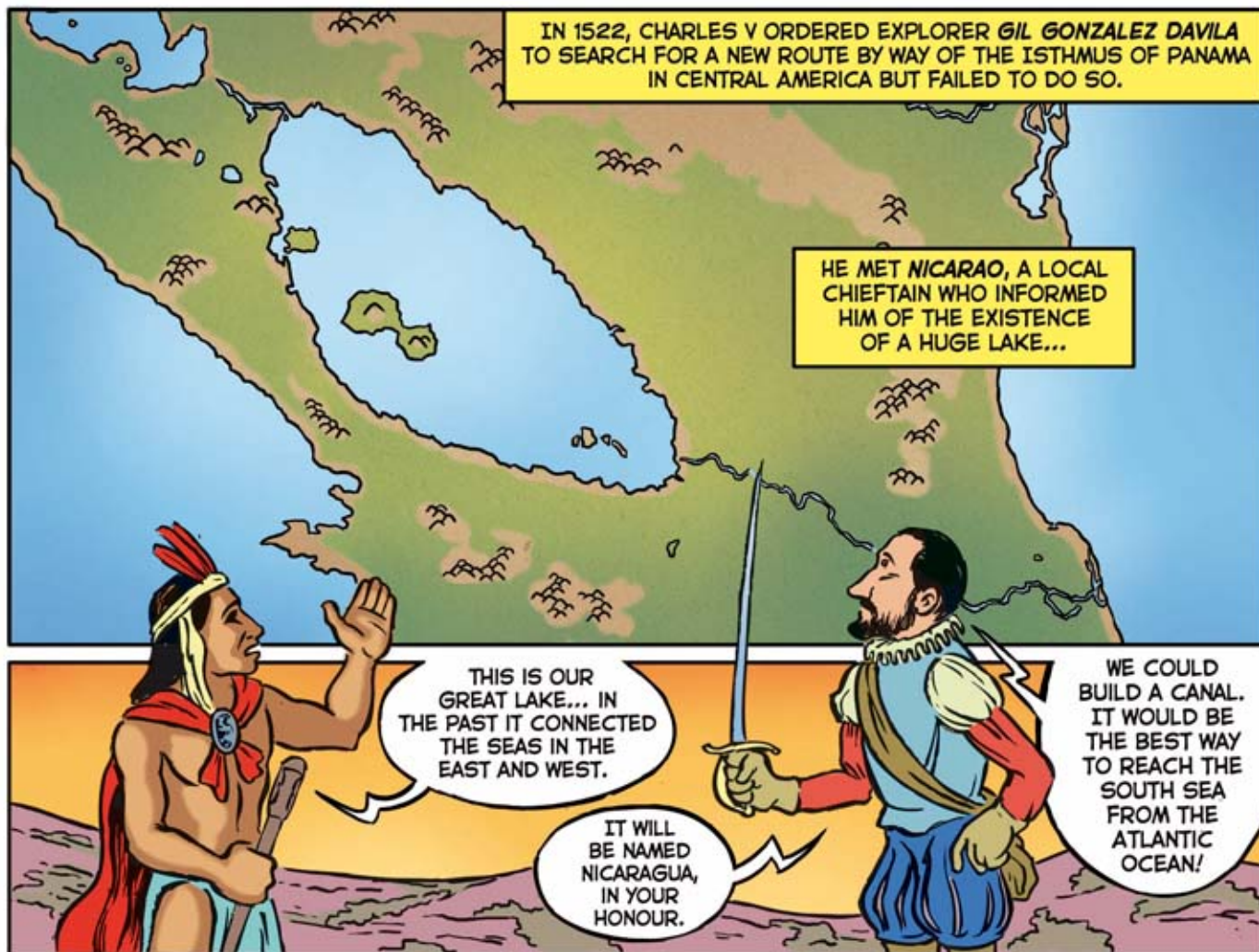
THE VALUE OF THE SPICES THAT THEY BROUGHT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE EXPEDITION.

OUT OF THE FIVE SHIPS THAT FORMED THE EXPEDITION, ONLY THE VICTORIA WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO SPAIN, MAKING IT THE FIRST TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE WORLD.



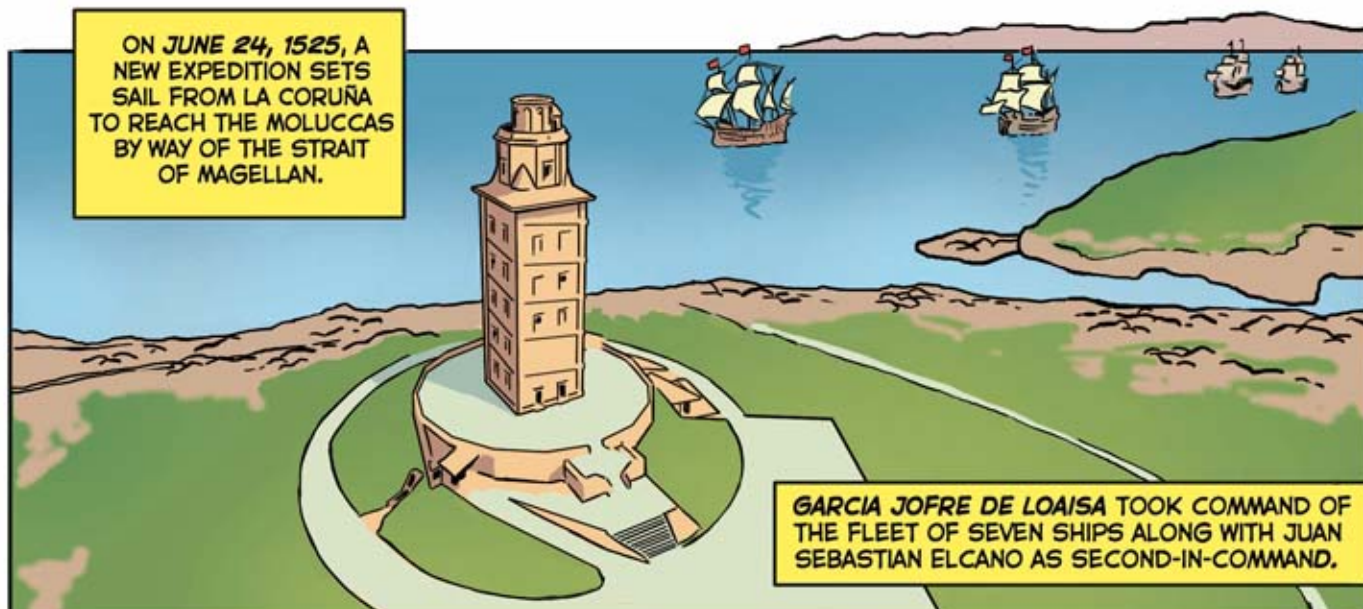
CHARLES V RECEIVED ELCANO AND HONORED HIM WITH A COAT OF ARMS BEARING A GLOBE WITH THE INSCRIPTION PRIMUS CIRCUMDEDESTI ME (FIRST TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE ME).



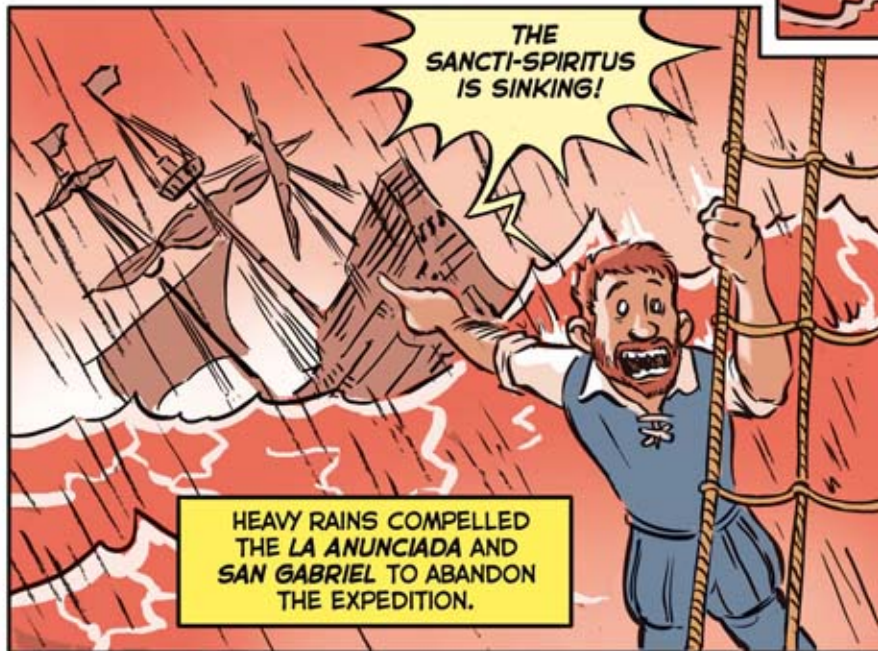


## Chapter 2

# THE ILL-FATED EXPEDITIONS







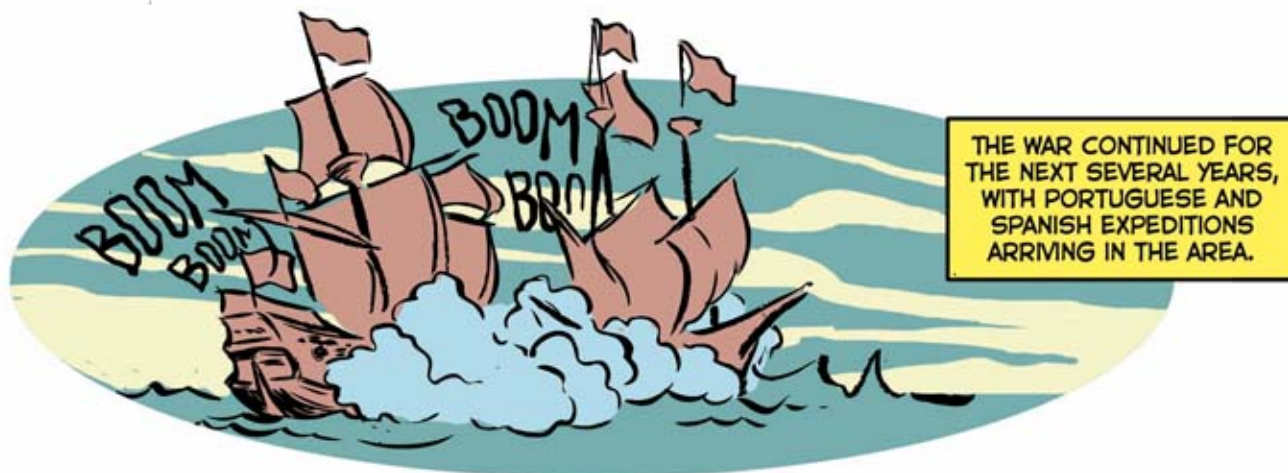
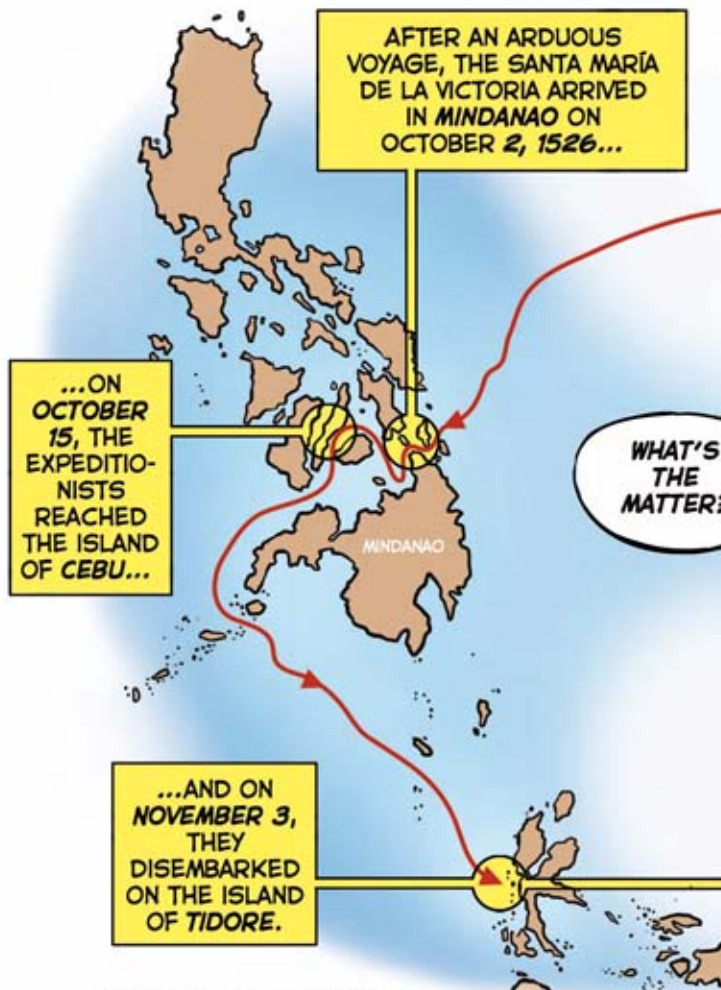
HOWEVER, THE SAN LEMES WAS FORCED TO RIDE OUT THE STORM AND SAILED ALL THE WAY UP TO 55 DEGREES SOUTHERN LATITUDE...



BY MAY 1526, THEY HAD ALREADY REACHED THE SOUTH SEA. LOAISA DIED AND ELCANO TOOK HIS PLACE, ALTHOUGH HE HIMSELF WAS SERIOUSLY ILL WITH SCURVY.









# Chapter 3

## RUY LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS

THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO WAS ACCOMPLISHED BETWEEN 1519 AND 1525 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CAPTAIN GENERAL **HERNAN CORTES**, WHO WASTED NO TIME IN SETTING UP THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KINGDOM.

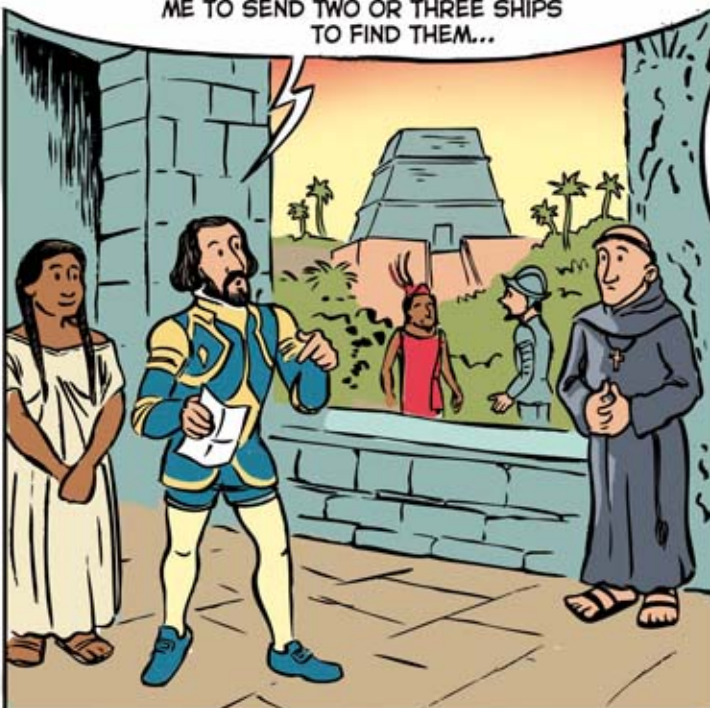


THE KING TELLS ME THAT REMAINS OF THE MAGELLAN EXPEDITION LIE ON THE WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS AND THAT HE HAS SENT SEVEN SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF LOAISA. HE HAS NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM THEM AND ORDERS ME TO SEND TWO OR THREE SHIPS TO FIND THEM...

SIR, YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO LET GO OF SO MANY MEN; HERE IN NEW SPAIN MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

INDEED, BUT SOME NATIVES WILL ALSO GO ON THE EXPEDITION BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF NEW SPAIN WILL BE THE ONES IN CHARGE OF THE SPANISH POSSESSIONS IN THE SOUTH SEA.

I WILL DESIGNATE MY COUSIN **ALVARO DE SAAVEDRA** TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE EXPEDITION AND WE SHALL BUILD SHIPS TO REACH THE WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS.





WITH THE WAR AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE OVER THE MOLUCCAS STILL RAGING, ALVARO DE SAAVEDRA HAS TO ENGAGE IN A NAVAL BATTLE WITH ANOTHER PORTUGUESE SHIP AS SOON AS HE ARRIVES.

WHAT A WELCOME!

WE WILL DEFEAT THEM, PEDRO LASO!

GENERAL, THAT SHIP BEARS THE MARK OF HERNANDO DE BALDOSA, A PORTUGUESE WHO HAS ALWAYS HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SPANIARDS.

UPON ARRIVAL, HE MEETS HERNANDO DE LA TORRE, SPANISH CAPTAIN GENERAL AND GOVERNOR IN THE MOLUCCAS.

HERE I LEAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL MEN-AT-ARMS SO THAT YOU MAY DEFEND OUR KING'S CLAIM TO THESE TERRITORIES. I SHALL TAKE THE FLORIDA TO TRY TO JOURNEY BACK TO NEW SPAIN.

TELL HERNAN CORTES TO CONVEY TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING THAT WE SHALL FULFILL OUR DUTY.

TO BEAR THE COSTS OF HIS CORONATION AS HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR, **CHARLES I** OF SPAIN RELINQUISHED HIS CLAIM TO THE MOLUCCAS, SIGNING THE TREATY OF ZARAGOZA IN 1529 WITH HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW KING **JOHN III** OF PORTUGAL IN EXCHANGE OF 350 MILLION DUCATS.

NOW YOU HAVE TO INSTRUCT YOUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS TO CEASE THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE MOLUCCAS.

I WILL DO SO, BUT THE ENTIRE PACIFIC OCEAN, FORMERLY CALLED SOUTH SEA, SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS A SPANISH LAKE AND NOBODY SHALL BE ABLE TO SAIL ACROSS IT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

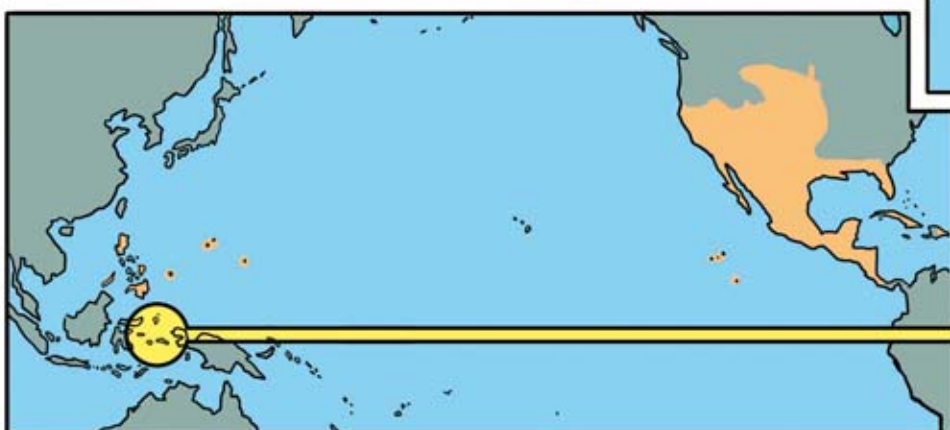


# VICEROYALTY OF NEW SPAIN

CREATED IN 1535, THE VICEROYALTY OF SPAIN INCREASINGLY EXPANDED FROM MEXICO TO OTHER DOMAINS, INCLUDING SPANISH TERRITORIES IN THE AMERICAS, ASIA AND OCEANIA FOR THREE CENTURIES UNTIL 1821.



**ANTONIO DE MENDOZA WAS APPOINTED THE FIRST VICEROY OF NEW SPAIN, SERVING FROM 1535 TO 1550.**



CONTROL OVER THE ENTIRE PACIFIC OCEAN WAS ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE VICEROYALTY OF NEW SPAIN, COMPELLING THE VICEROY TO CONQUER ALL WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS...

EXCEPT FOR THE MOLUCCAS WHICH REMAINED UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PORTUGAL.

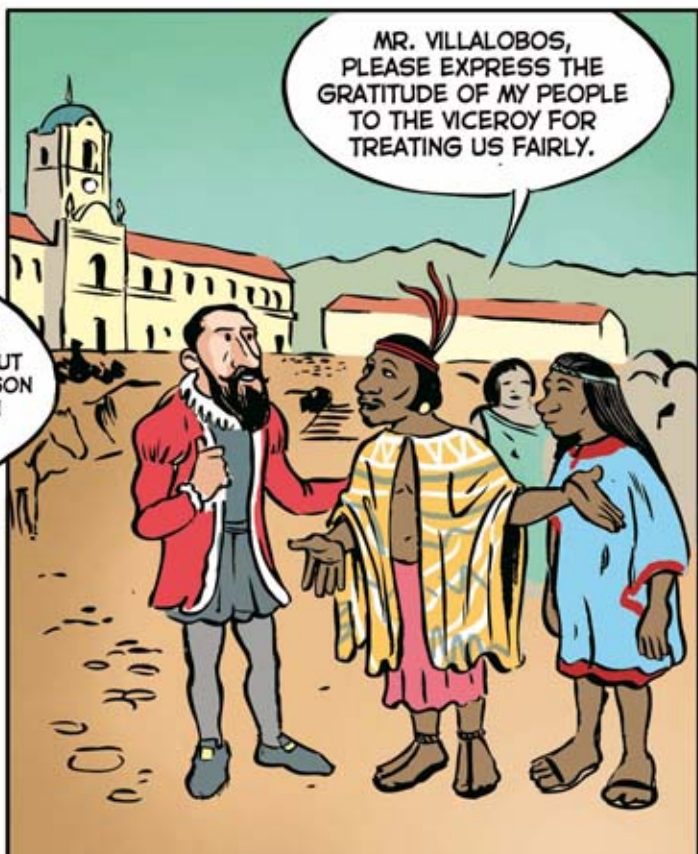
THE YOUNG LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS WHOM WE MET AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS COMIC BOOK HAD BECOME A SKILLFUL SAILOR AND SOLDIER.

CAPTAIN, IF THE WEATHER PERMITS, WE WILL REACH THE PORT OF VERACRUZ IN NEW SPAIN IN THREE DAYS.

I HAVE SAILED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN SEVERAL TIMES BUT I HAVE NEVER MET A PERSON AS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN STARS AS YOU.



MR. VILLALOBOS, PLEASE EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE OF MY PEOPLE TO THE VICEROY FOR TREATING US FAIRLY.



WELL-LOVED AND RESPECTED BY LOCALS OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS, SEVERAL CITIES IN NEW SPAIN HAD HIM AS MAYOR AND JUDGE.



LEADING THE SPANIARDS AND NATIVES, HE TAKES POSSESSION OF OTHER LANDS IN THE NAME OF THE SPANISH CROWN.

SOLDIERS, WE ALL BELONG TO NEW SPAIN. LET US CONQUER TERRITORIES IN THE SOUTH IN THE NAME OF KING CHARLES.



AT THE PORT OF NAVIDAD IN JALISCO, MEXICO, VICEROY MENDOZA GAVE HIM INSTRUCTIONS ON HIS VOYAGE TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS.



I APPOINT YOU CAPTAIN OF THIS FLOTILLA WITH THE MISSION OF SAILING ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN TO CLAIM TERRITORIES FOR THE SPANISH CROWN.

REST ASSURED THAT THE ISLANDS DISCOVERED BY MAGELLAN SHALL BELONG TO SPAIN AGAIN.

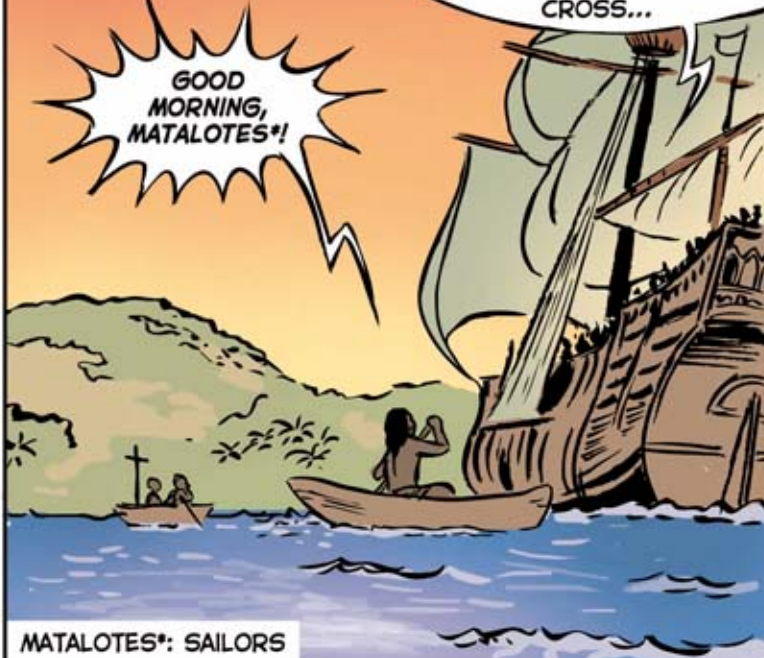
BE CAUTIOUS WITH THE PORTUGUESE. CHARLES I DOES NOT WANT US TO GO TO TERRITORIES CEDED TO HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW AND COUSIN JOHN III THROUGH THE TREATY OF ZARAGOZA.



ON JANUARY 23, 1543, AFTER A LONG JOURNEY, THEY REACHED ONE OF THE ISLANDS COMPRISING THE CAROLINE ARCHIPELAGO.

GENERAL, THEY SPEAK SPANISH AND ALSO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS...

GOOD MORNING, MATALOTES\*!



MATALOTES\*: SAILORS

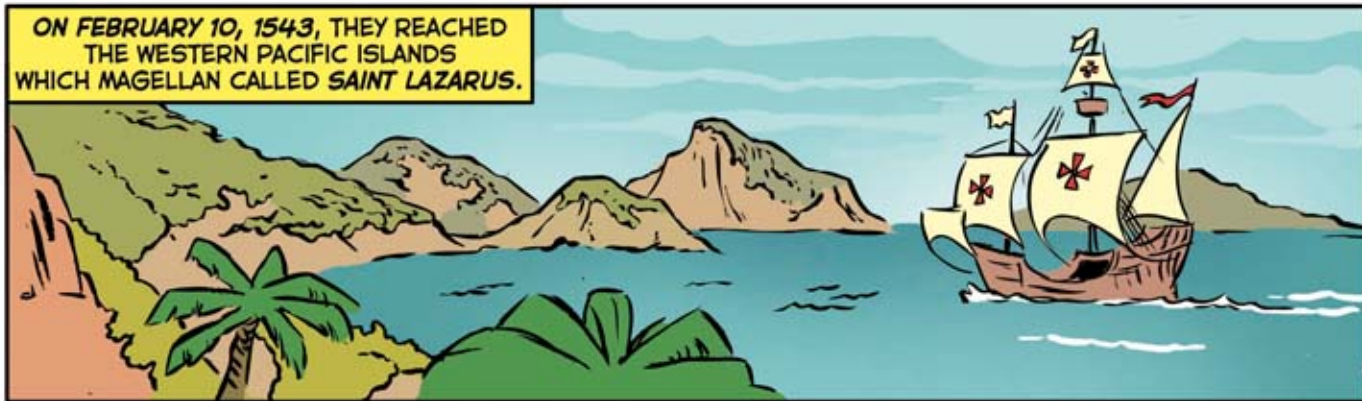
THE MAGELLAN EXPEDITION HAD ALREADY PASSED THROUGH HERE. THEY ARE VASSALS OF KING CHARLES.

WE SHALL CALL THESE ISLANDS "MATALOTES".





ON FEBRUARY 10, 1543, THEY REACHED THE WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS WHICH MAGELLAN CALLED SAINT LAZARUS.



WE WILL NAME THIS ISLAND CAESARIA CAROLI IN HONOR OF OUR KING AND EMPEROR.



GENERAL, ALL THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS UNDER YOUR COMMAND WISH TO CALL THIS BEAUTIFUL BAY MALAGA AFTER YOUR HOMETOWN.

AND FROM NOW ON, THESE ISLANDS SHALL BE CALLED PHILIPPINES IN HONOR OF PHILIP II, OUR FUTURE KING.



THE SPANIARDS FOUGHT AGAINST THE NATIVES OF THE ISLANDS WHO REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY OTHER THAN THEIR OWN LEADERS.



THEY ARE FEROCIOUS AND FEARLESS. WE WILL HAVE TO ASK FOR HELP!

BERNARDO DE LA TORRE, YOU SHALL GO TO MEXICO TO ASK THE VICEROY FOR REINFORCEMENTS.



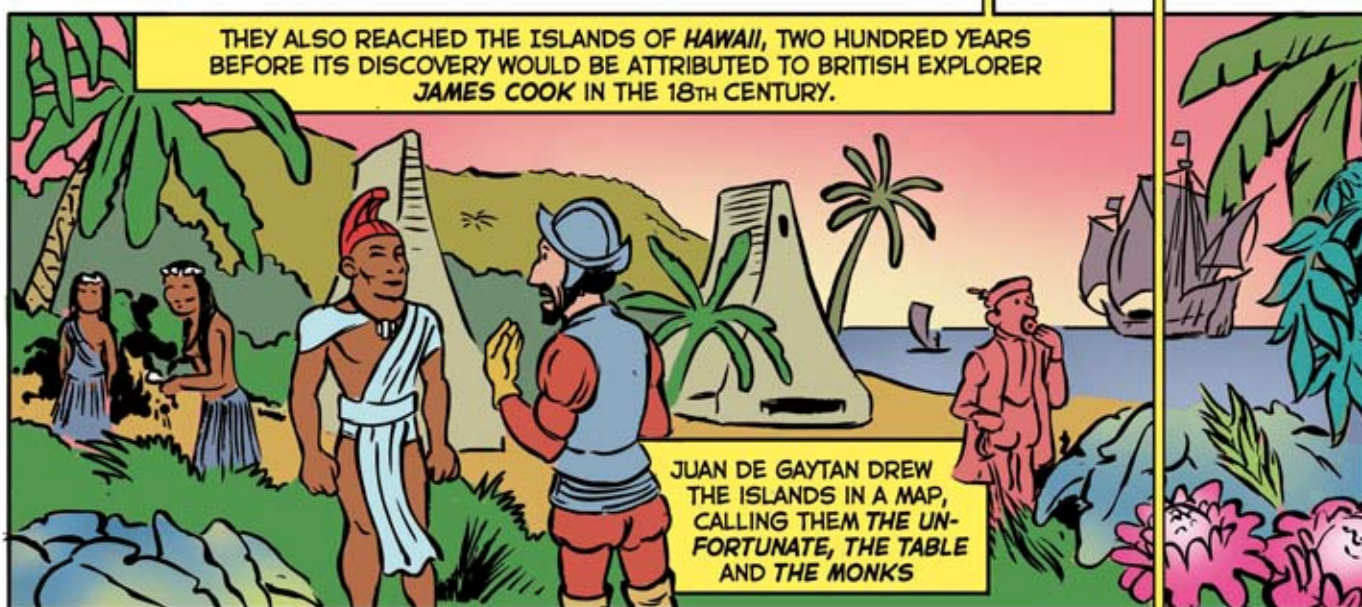
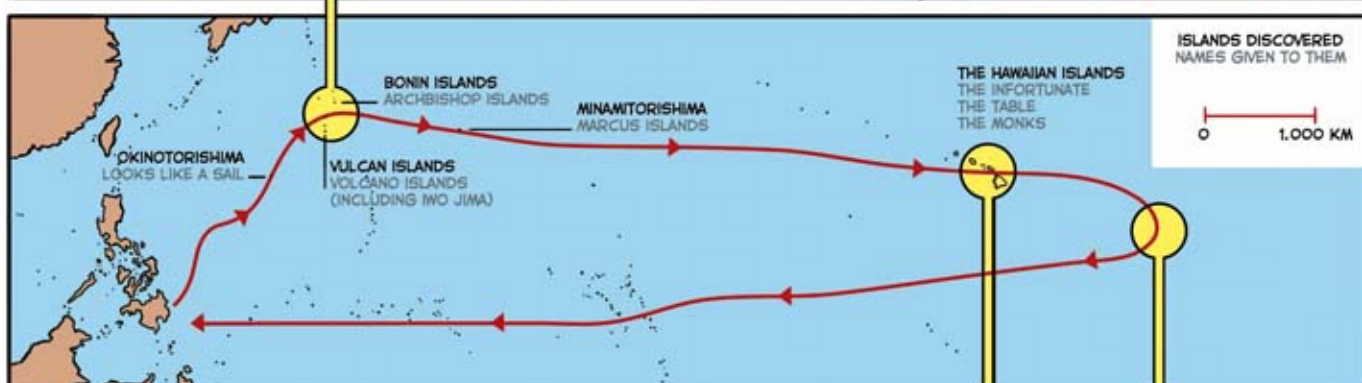
WHEN THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNOR OF THE MOLUCCAS FOUND OUT ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPANIARDS, HE SENT AN EMISSARY...

I DEMAND THAT YOU LEAVE THESE TERRITORIES THAT BELONG TO MY COUNTRY AS MANDATED BY THE TREATY OF TORDESILLAS!

TELL GOVERNOR JORGE DE CASTRO THAT WE ARE NOT IN THE MOLUCCAS BUT IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH I HAVE CLAIMED FOR CHARLES I OF SPAIN.

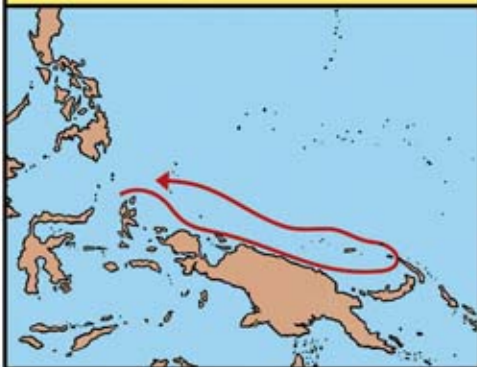








NOR DID IÑIGO ORTIZ DE RETES, AT THE HELM OF THE SAN JUAN, SUCCEED IN REACHING NEW SPAIN. BUT ALONG THE WAY, HE CAME ACROSS A HUGE ISLAND, NOW KNOWN AS **NEW GUINEA**, WHICH HE CLAIMED FOR THE SPANISH CROWN.



WE ARE IN DIRE STRAITS. THE EXPEDITIONS SENT FOR REINFORCEMENTS HAVE HAD TO TURN AROUND AND COME BACK.



THE PORTUGUESE ARE IN THE SOUTH BUT KING CHARLES HAS TOLD US NOT TO VENTURE INTO THE TERRITORIES OF PORTUGAL...



GENERAL, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO GO SOUTHWARD. HERE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PROVISIONS AND THE NATIVES CONTINUE TO RESIST US.



IN THE MOLUCCAS WE HAVE RAJAH TIDORE, WHO IS A FRIEND OF SPAIN.

THE WAR BETWEEN THE TWO FRATERNAL NATIONS PERSISTED UNTIL THE SPANIARDS, FINDING THEMSELVES OUTNUMBERED, HAD TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS SET BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNOR.



WITH **ST. FRANCIS XAVIER** GIVING HIM SPIRITUAL CARE, RUY LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS FROM MALAGA DIED IN 1545 IN A PRISON ON AMBON ISLAND.

FR. FRANCIS, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE KING AND HAVE FAILED SPAIN. MAY THE PORTUGUESE KEEP THEIR WORD AND REPATRIATE MY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.



MY DEAR SON, YOU HAVE DEFENDED THE INTERESTS OF SPAIN UNTIL THE VERY END... NO ONE CAN EVER LAY ANY BLAME ON YOU AND HISTORY SHALL REMEMBER YOU AS A GREAT SPANIARD.



LOAISA AND SAAVEDRA, SURVIVORS OF THE MAGELLAN EXPEDITIONS, RETURNED TO SPAIN ON A PORTUGUESE SHIP AFTER HAVING BEEN IMPRISONED FOR YEARS IN THE EAST INDIES.

KING CHARLES HAD TO PAY FOR THEIR RELEASE FROM PRISON BUT SOME WOULD REMAIN IMPRISONED ON THE WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS.



## Chapter 4

# THE PHILIPPINES FORMS PART OF THE SPANISH MONARCHY

SPANISH NAVIGATOR ANDRES URDANETA WAS ONE OF THOSE SURVIVORS SHIPPED BACK TO SPAIN BY PORTUGAL. HE EXPLAINED TO OFFICIAL COURT COSMOGRAPHERS THAT THE PHILIPPINES REMAINED UNDER PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY ACCORDING TO THE TREATY OF TORDESILLAS.

WITH THE RECORDS THAT I HAVE KEPT OVER THESE YEARS, I CAN SHOW THAT THE PHILIPPINES FALLS UNDER THE WESTERN MERIDIAN THAT THE POPE ASSIGNED TO PORTUGAL.



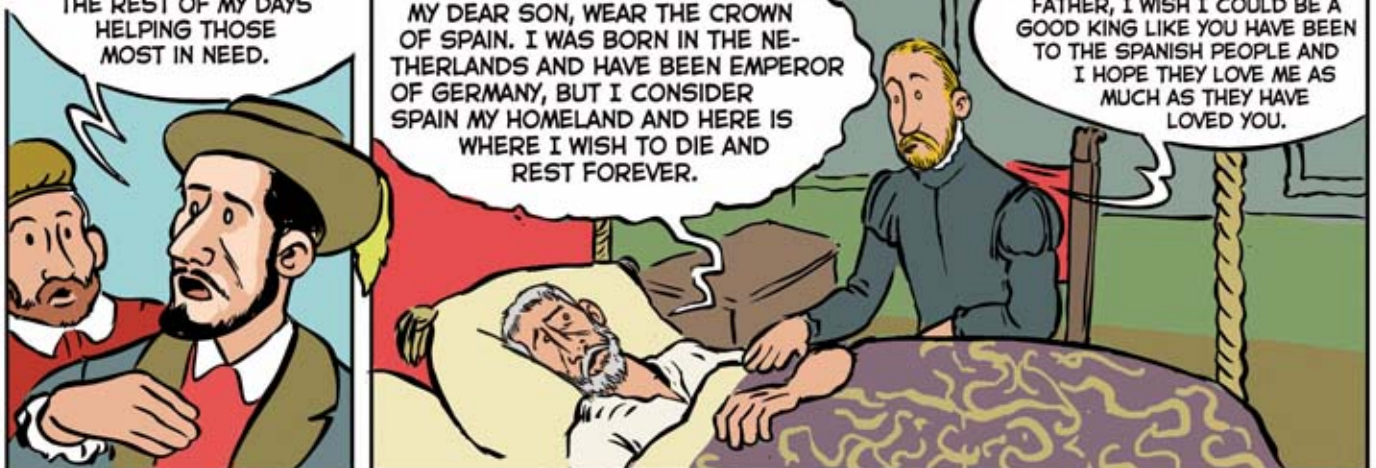
ANDRES, HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE? SPAIN NEEDS THOSE ISLANDS!

MY OPINION DOES NOT MATTER... I AM GOING TO ENTER THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER AND I WILL DEDICATE THE REST OF MY DAYS HELPING THOSE MOST IN NEED.

EXHAUSTED, OLD AND SICK, **CHARLES I** ABDICATES IN 1556 IN FAVOR OF HIS SON **PHILIP II**, WHO HAS ALREADY RULED SPAIN AND ITS TERRITORIES DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE EMPEROR.

MY DEAR SON, WEAR THE CROWN OF SPAIN. I WAS BORN IN THE NETHERLANDS AND HAVE BEEN EMPEROR OF GERMANY, BUT I CONSIDER SPAIN MY HOMELAND AND HERE IS WHERE I WISH TO DIE AND REST FOREVER.

FATHER, I WISH I COULD BE A GOOD KING LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE AND I HOPE THEY LOVE ME AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE LOVED YOU.





MY SUCCESSOR IN GERMANY IS YOUR UNCLE FERDINAND. THIS MEANS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE TRUE MISSION OF SPAIN: TO ACCEPT THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS AND THE PACIFIC AS OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

I URGE YOU TO LET THE CATHOLIC FAITH BE A MARK OF IDENTITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER ASCENDING THE THRONE, KING PHILIP II RESUMES THE CONQUEST OF THE PACIFIC.

THE JESUIT PRIEST FRANCIS XAVIER HAS SENT A LETTER CLAIMING THAT ALL EXPEDITIONS SENT FROM THE AMERICAS TO THE PACIFIC WILL ULTIMATELY FAIL... WHAT CAN WE DO?

YOUR MAJESTY, FRANCIS XAVIER IS A HOLY PRIEST BUT NOT A SAILOR. YOUR DESTINY IS TO CONQUER ALL TERRITORIES IN ASIA, INCLUDING CHINA AND JAPAN, AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO SO IS FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF IT.

RUY LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS HONORED ME BY NAMING THE ISLANDS AFTER ME. WE SHALL NOT DISAPPOINT THAT GREAT SPANIARD AND NATIVE OF MALAGA.

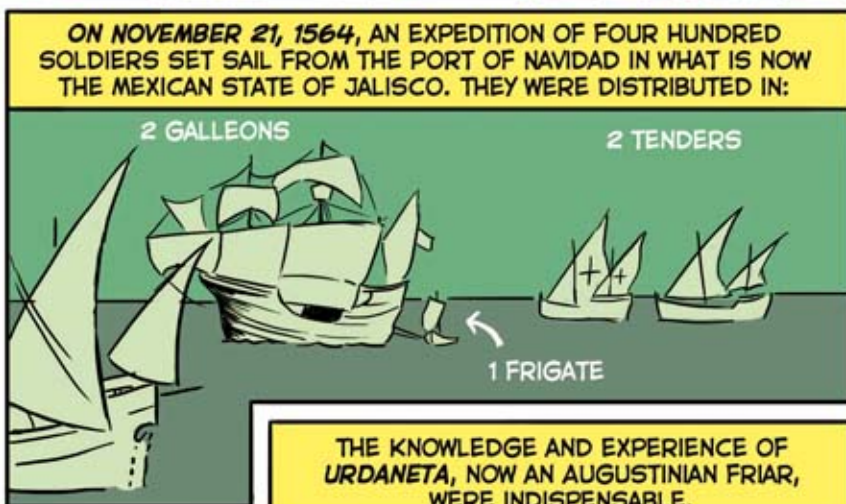
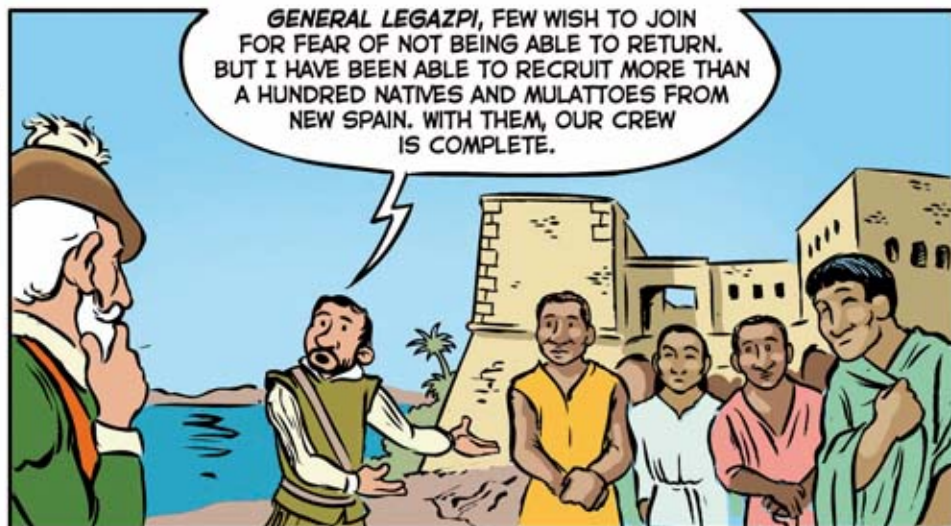
HE MET WITH LUIS DE VELASCO, THE VICEROY OF NEW SPAIN.

I AM PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZING A NEW EXPEDITION TO CONQUER THE PHILIPPINES WHICH WILL BE UNDER YOUR VICEROYALTY.

YOUR MAJESTY, I HAD ANTICIPATED THAT YOU WOULD MAKE SUCH A DECISION. I HAVE ORDERED THAT SHIPS BE PREPARED FOR SAILING. I SHALL APPOINT MIGUEL LOPEZ DE LEGAZPI, A GREAT SERVANT OF SPAIN, TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE FLEET. BUT WE NEED A PILOT TO TAKE US TO THE PHILIPPINES AND FIND THE RETURN ROUTE.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT. THE KING HAS REQUESTED OUR AUGUSTINIAN ORDER TO LET FR. ANDRES URDANETA COME ALONG AS PILOT.







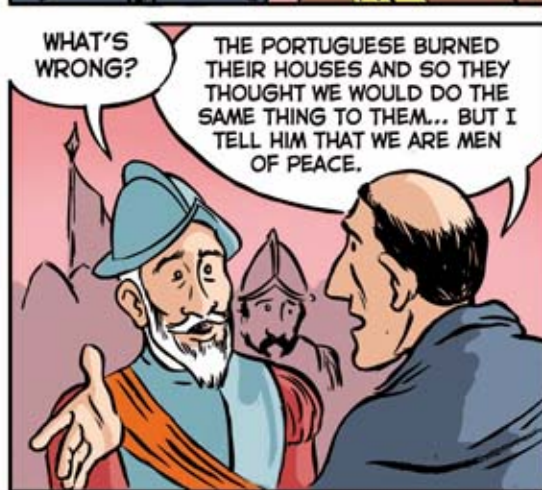


GUSTO  
NAMIN NG  
KAPAYAPAAAN.

SINUNOG NG  
MGA PORTUGES  
ANG AMING MGA  
BAHAY!



HANGAD  
NAMIN ANG  
KAPAYAPAAAN.



WHAT'S  
WRONG?

THE PORTUGUESE BURNED  
THEIR HOUSES AND SO THEY  
THOUGHT WE WOULD DO THE  
SAME THING TO THEM... BUT I  
TELL HIM THAT WE ARE MEN  
OF PEACE.



VICTORY  
IS OURS!  
THE SAMPAN IS  
SURRENDERING!

BOOM  
BOOM



KAMI BANDUAN ANDA  
APA YANG ANDA MAHU  
DARIPADA KAMI?

GENERAL, THEY ARE  
ASKING WHAT WE ARE  
GOING TO DO WITH THEM  
AS PRISONERS...

THERE ARE NO  
PRISONERS HERE!  
WE HAVE COME IN PEACE. GIVE  
THEM BACK THEIR GOODS AND  
TELL THEM THEY ARE FREE.



IN BOHOL, LEGAZPI ENTERS INTO A BLOOD COMPACT WITH THE LOCAL CHIEFTAIN SIKATUNA.



IN A HUT IN CEBU, A SOLDIER COMES UPON AN IMAGE OF THE CHILD JESUS.



LEGAZPI ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GARRISON IN THAT PLACE WHICH WOULD BECOME THE FIRST SPANISH SETTLEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

ON APRIL 27, 1565, LEGAZPI ESTABLISHES THE FIRST SPANISH CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, CALLING IT SAN MIGUEL.



FR. URDANETA, THE PHILIPPINES NOW BELONGS TO SPAIN. WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS FROM NEW SPAIN TO CONSOLIDATE OUR CONQUEST. YOU SHOULD EMBARK ON A RETURN TRIP WHICH NO ONE HAS ACHIEVED... IS THERE ANY WAY?



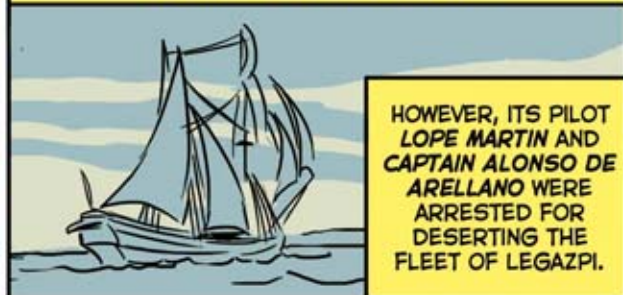
URDANETA WAS ABLE TO CROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN FROM WEST TO EAST FOR THE FIRST TIME.

LONG LIVE FR. URDANETA!

HURRAH!

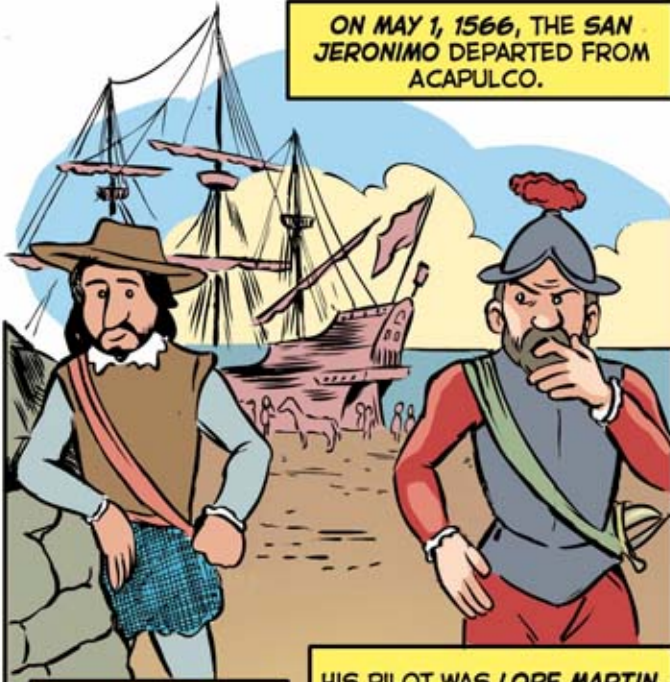


AROUND THE SAME TIME, THE *SAN LUCAS*, HAVING EARLIER BEEN IN MINDANAO, ALSO MANAGED TO FIND THE RETURN ROUTE, A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR A MERE 40-TON TENDER.





ON MAY 1, 1566, THE **SAN JERONIMO** DEPARTED FROM ACAPULCO.



IT WAS COMMANDED BY **PEDRO SANCHEZ PERICON**, A NATIVE OF MALAGA.

HIS PILOT WAS **LOPE MARTIN**, WHO WANTED TO CLEAR HIS NAME AFTER THE **SAN LUCAS** INCIDENT BY NAVIGATING THE SHIP TO THE PHILIPPINES...

...BUT HE HAD OTHER INTENTIONS...



ON JUNE 3, **LOPE MARTIN** LED A MUTINY WHERE HE ENDED UP KILLING CAPTAIN **PERICON** AND HIS SON. AS A PUNISHMENT, THE MUTINEERS WERE LEFT TO THEIR FATE ON AN ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.

DURING HIS YEARS AS GOVERNOR GENERAL, **MIGUEL LOPEZ DE LEGAZPI** CREATED A SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY ON THE ISLANDS WHERE LOCAL RULERS USED TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES.

DURING HIS MANDATE, EVERYONE CONSIDERED HIMSELF A FILIPINO, HAVING ONE MOTHERLAND AND THE SAME CATHOLIC FAITH.



GOD REST HIS SOUL. HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

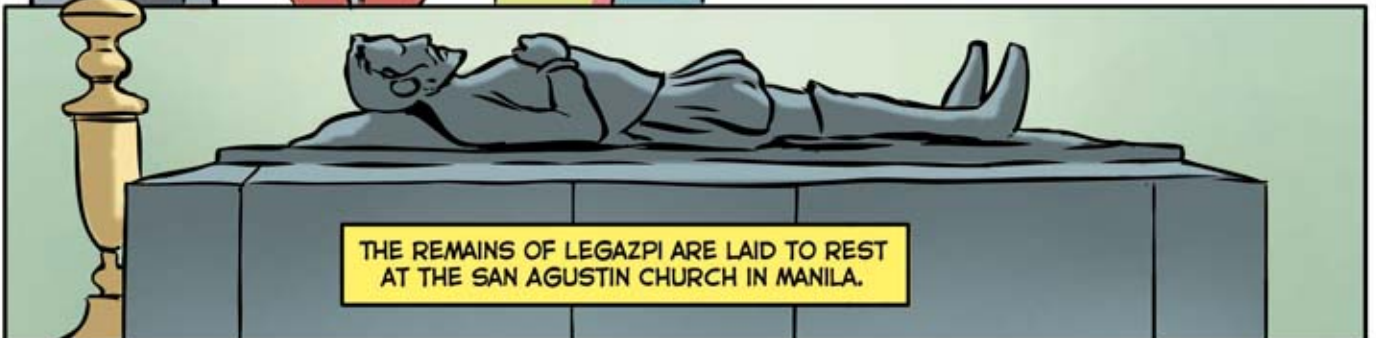
THE BEST GENERAL WE HAVE EVER HAD.

HE HAS BEEN A FATHER TO ALL OF US...

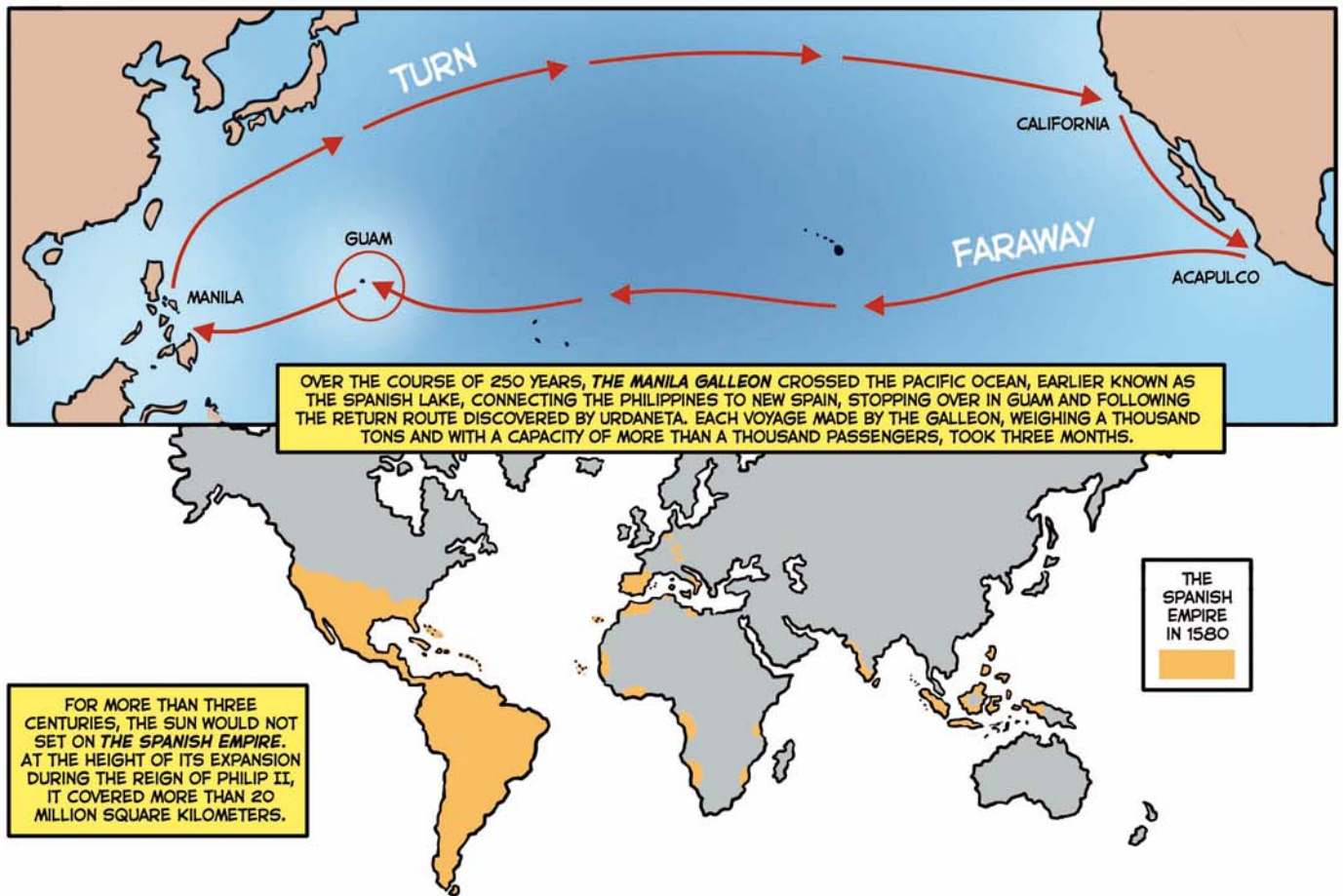
HIS DEATH ON **AUGUST 20, 1572** IN MANILA LEFT THE ENTIRE NATION FEELING DEPRIVED OF A FATHER.



THE REMAINS OF **LEGAZPI** ARE LAID TO REST AT THE **SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH** IN MANILA.

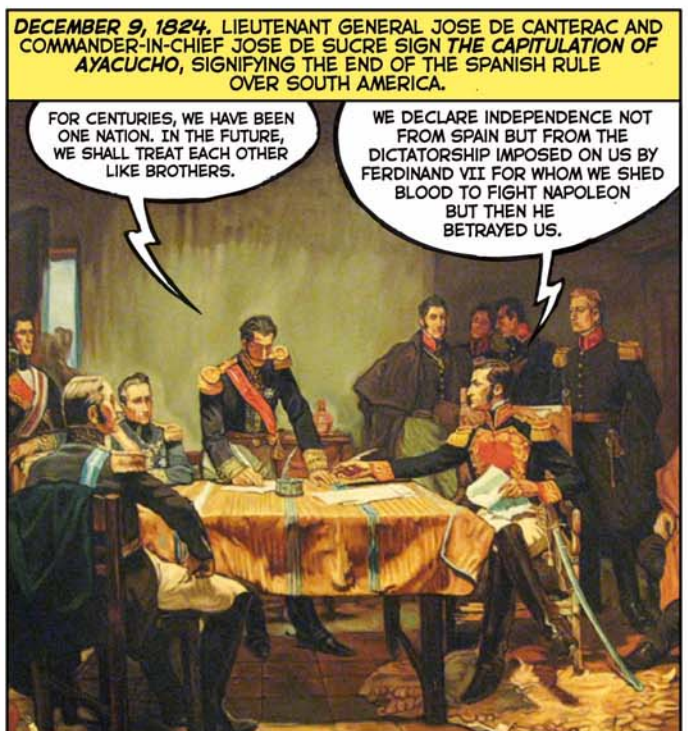
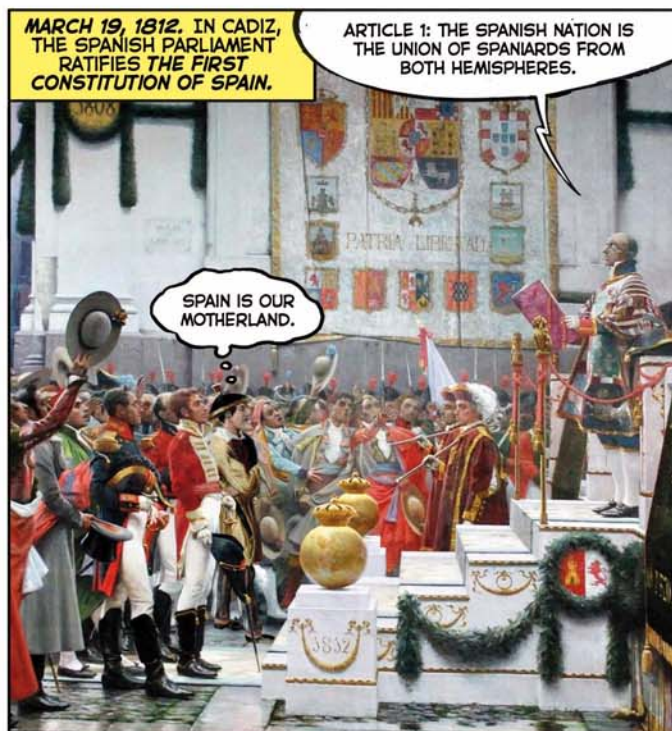






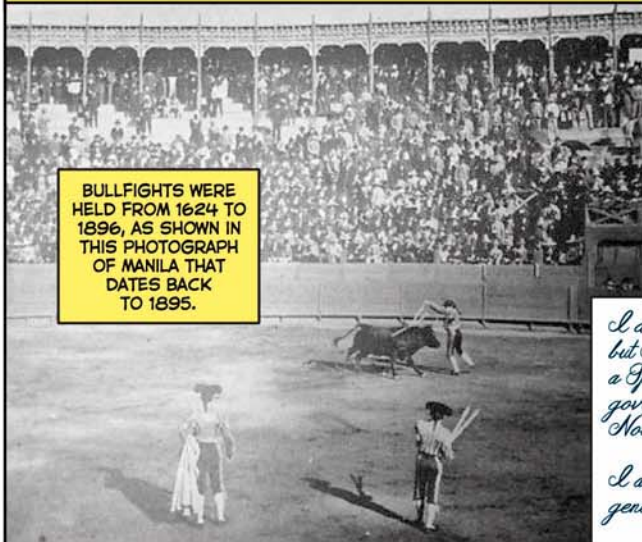
## Epilogue

# INDEPENDENCE AND PRESENT-DAY FRATERNAL RELATIONS





BUT THE PHILIPPINES REMAINED A SPANISH POSSESSION FOR NEARLY ANOTHER CENTURY.



BULLFIGHTS WERE HELD FROM 1624 TO 1896, AS SHOWN IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF MANILA THAT DATES BACK TO 1895.

JOSÉ RIZAL WAS A FILIPINO-SPANISH DOCTOR AND POET WHO LOVED SPAIN AS MUCH AS HIS MOTHERLAND, THE PHILIPPINES, TO WHOM HE DEDICATED HIS POEM "MI ULTIMO ADIOS" (MY LAST FAREWELL) SHORTLY BEFORE BEING EXECUTED.



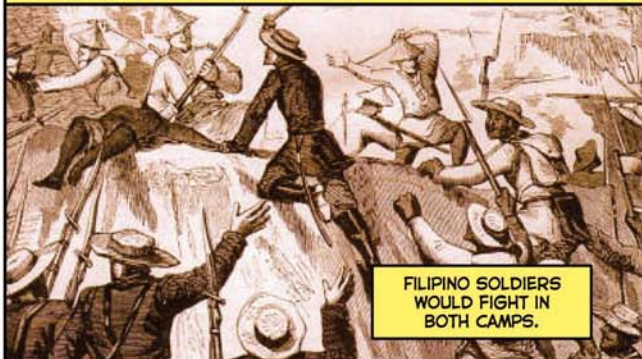
*I die for the sake of freedom. I think in Spanish but I feel Filipino. I wanted the Philippines to be a Spanish province and not a colony but those who govern in Spain seem not to understand it. Now there is no other course but independence.*

*I am not guilty of rebellion and future generations will agree with me.*

MONUMENT HONORING JOSE RIZAL IN A STREET IN MADRID CALLED FILIPINAS.



AUGUST 1896. THE REVOLT AGAINST THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT BROKE OUT. EMILIO AGUINALDO LED THE PRO-INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AGAINST SPAIN WHICH WAS THEN UNDER GOVERNOR AND CAPTAIN GENERAL FERNANDO PRIMO DE RIVERA.



FILIPINO SOLDIERS WOULD FIGHT IN BOTH CAMPS.

DECEMBER 1897. THE PACT OF BIAK-NA-BATO WAS SIGNED TO ESTABLISH PEACE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.



THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR ON SPAIN AND ON MAY 1, 1898, THE BATTLE OF MANILA BAY TOOK PLACE.



US NAVAL SUPREMACY LED TO THE CRUSHING DEFEAT OF SPAIN, PAVING THE WAY FOR THE PHILIPPINES TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT STATE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

TWO MONTHS AFTER ITS DEFEAT, SPAIN WOULD ALSO LOSE ITS COLONIES CUBA AND PUERTO RICO.

HOWEVER, IN BALER, A SMALL TOWN IN THE PHILIPPINES, SPANISH TROOPS REFUSED TO ACCEPT DEFEAT WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION AND THUS ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES IN A CHURCH.



JUNE 2, 1899. AFTER SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE THE SPANISH TROOPS IN BALER THAT THE WAR HAD ALREADY ENDED, A NEWSPAPER REPORT ON AN EVENT IN SPAIN MADE THEM FACE REALITY AND SURRENDER, PUTTING AN END TO THE 337-DAY SIEGE.

LONG LIVE SPAIN! LONG LIVE THE PHILIPPINES!

HURRAH!

HURRAH!

WE ARE PROUD TO BELONG TO THE SAME SPANISH RACE. THEY SHOW US HOW TO LOVE OUR MOTHERLAND.

AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC SINCE JANUARY 23, 1899, EMILIO AGUINALDO ISSUED A DECREE ON JUNE 30, EXTOLLING THE BRAVERY OF THESE SPANIARDS. AFTER A REMARKABLE WELCOME IN MANILA, THEY WERE REPATRIATED TO SPAIN.



REPUBLICA DE FILIPINAS  
DECRETO

Habiéndose hecho acreedoras a la admiración del mundo las fuerzas españolas que guardaban el destacamento de Balser, por el valor, constancia y heroísmo con que aquel puñado de hombres aislados y sin esperanzas de auxilio alguno, ha defendido su Bandera por espacio de un año, realizando una epopeya tan gloriosa y tan propia del legendario valor de los hijos del Cid y de Peláez; teniendo culto a las virtudes militares, e interpretando los sentimientos del Ejército de esta República, que bizarramente les ha combatido; a propuesta de mi Secretario de Guerra, y de acuerdo con mi Consejo de Gobierno.

Requiere unánime. Las Individuos de que se componen las expresadas fuerzas, no serán considerados como prisioneros, sino por el contrario, como amigos; y en su consecuencia, se les proveerá, por la Capitanía General, de los pases necesarios para que puedan regresar a su país.

Dado en Tarlac a 30 de junio de 1899.—El Presidente de la República, Emilio Aguinaldo.—El Secretario de Guerra, Ambrosio Flores.

I WANT THIS DECREE TO BE FULFILLED AND SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR EVERY FILIPINO SOLDIER.



ON DECEMBER 16, 1958, GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO IS INTERVIEWED AT HIS HOUSE IN KAWIT, WHERE HE HAD PROCLAIMED PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE.

¿QUÉ PIENSA DE ESPAÑA, EXCELENCIA?

ESPAÑA ES MI SEGUNDA PATRIA Y DURANTE AÑOS FUE LA PRIMERA. CON ESPAÑA FUIMOS CIUDADANOS, CON LOS NORTEAMERICANOS NO HEMOS SIDO NADA, SOLO UN MERCADO ECONÓMICO PARA SUS PRODUCTOS.

ASISTÍ, CON GRAN SORPRESA DE TODOS, A LOS FUNERALES POR ALFONSO XIII EN MANILA. CUANDO ME PREGUNTARON EL PORQUÉ, LES DIJE QUE HABÍA SIDO MI REY Y EL DE TODOS LOS FILIPINOS.

A FEW YEARS LATER IN AN INTERVIEW WITH LUIS MARIA ANSON FOR THE NEWSPAPER ABC, HE DECLARED...

LA MADRE PATRIA. LA MADRE ESPAÑA. DESPUÉS DE LAS FILIPINAS YO AMO A LA MADRE ESPAÑA Y QUERRÍA IR ALGÚN DÍA A ELLA... LOS NORTEAMERICANOS NOS TRAICIONARON, NOS TRAICIONARON, NOS TRAICIONARON...

FEBRUARY 1974. A LITTLE BEFORE BEING CROWNED KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN, JUAN CARLOS AND SOFIA VISITED THE PHILIPPINES AND WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS AND HIS WIFE.

MR. PRESIDENT, I WISH TO REAFFIRM THE FRATERNAL AFFECTION THAT WE SPANIARDS HAVE FOR THE FILIPINOS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SHARED A COMMON HISTORY FOR SO MANY YEARS.

YOUR MAJESTY, WE ARE ALL DELIGHTED WITH YOUR PRESENCE ON OUR ISLANDS WHOSE PEOPLE LOVE SPAIN AS THEIR SECOND MOTHERLAND.

JULY 22, 2002. THE PHILIPPINE-SPANISH FRIENDSHIP DAY IS DECLARED BY VIRTUE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9187.



It was on June 30 when President Emilio Aguinaldo commended the Spanish soldiers in the siege of Baler for their loyalty and gallantry. To mark this momentous occasion, it is only fitting that the said date be declared a national holiday so that the act of kindness that laid the foundation of improved relations between the Philippines and Spain is remembered. The 30th of June of each year is thus declared a national special working holiday and a special non-working holiday in Aurora Province.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014. PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO VISITS SPAIN.

YOUR MAJESTY, I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE IN SPAIN AND ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES WITH OUR FORMER MOTHER COUNTRY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE SPANISH CROWN AND ALL SPANIARDS ADMIRE THE FILIPINO NATION WITH WHOM WE ARE FRATERNALLY UNITED. WE CONSIDER AS ONE OF US THE HEROES OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE, JOSE RIZAL AND EMILIO AGUINALDO.



ON JUNE 30, 2014 COMMEMORATION OF THE 12TH PHILIPPINE-SPANISH FRIENDSHIP DAY WAS HELD.



Noble raza inmortal, raza divina  
que hablas con el dulce idioma de Castilla  
triste y altiva, mi alma filipina  
ante tu altar sagrado se arrodilla.

Amo a mi patria mas el sacro rayo  
de mi amor puro no es para ella sola  
que si como patriota soy malayo  
como poeta ¡mi alma es española!

(A la raza hispana, Flavio Zaragoza Cano)



*Dear youngster*

*Along 28 pages you have gone over the most spectacular feat of mankind: to circumnavigate the world, linking from east to west all the people of the earth.*

*Today what takes place in the Philippines is immediately known to us through mass media advanced technology ; and to travel there is only a matter of hours, thanks to the power and speed of today's means of transport; but we have to put ourselves in the situation of those men and women whose sole propeller was the wind, catch by their ship sails, moving her towards an uncertain destiny.*

*Months and years, hunger and diseases, storms, dead calms, shipwrecks, many dead on the way and few survivors was the cost accepted to reach new lands.*

*But those Spaniards and other subjects of the Spanish monarchy got their strenght by the willigness to increase their nation's power and to spread their civilization, religion and culture throughout the face of the earth.*

*The sixteenth-century Spain was quite similar to the present one and everyone considered their home town as the most important. But they also envisioned that working together, they can contribute to the aggrandizement of the new nation beared by the Catholic Monarchs: Spain, which become the world's superpower for over two and that it is remembered because history is knitted with the blood and mind of her men and women.*

*After reading this comic, aimed at young and adults, keep in mind that we have a common past and present and that we should also strive to share a future.*

*Kind regards*

*Rafael Vidal*

*Director of the Forum for Peace in the Mediterranean*



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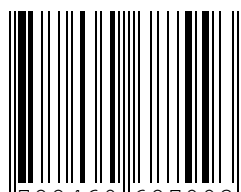


## **FORO PARA LA PAZ EN EL MEDITERRÁNEO**

On October 19, 2011, the *Ayuntamiento de Málaga*, the University of Malaga, the *Cámara de Comercio de Málaga*, the *Real Club Mediterráneo*, *Unicaja*, *AECYR* and *www.belt.es* signed a framework agreement on collaboration in order to give a legal force to the *Foro*, although its activity dates back several years before.

The first clause of the agreement stipulates that the said institutions are aware of the need to search for models that shall guarantee stable co-existence as part of multilateralism where human relations are developed.

The ultimate purpose of these models of stable co-existence is to build and ACHIEVE PEACE in Spain and other communities and regions with special impact on societies that maintain geographical, cultural and economic ties or of any other nature.



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