

SURNAME, GIVEN NAME MIDDLE INITIAL	SUBJECT - SECTION
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### ***Dekada '70: Movie Summary and Reflection***

*If someone went missing, will you even consider searching the morgue for their body?* It might be every parent's worst nightmare – a thing they could never imagine, a thought they would never anticipate. But for Filipinos in the early 70's, the unimaginable is their *reality*.

In the eyes of some modern-day Filipinos, the declaration of Martial Law was justified by the 'exemplary' performance of then-President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. This was not denied in the film. The movie *Dekada '70* revolves around the story of Bartolome Family, an ordinary Filipino family living under the Marcos administration. The *padre-de-familia*, Julian (Christopher de Leon) showed satisfaction about the government, commending Marcos for his excellency, and assured that he would vote for him the second time. Throughout the duration of the movie, Julian was shown as a flawed character – he was the symbolism of what *neutrality* looks like. He was a good father, nonetheless, but not a very good husband. Julian (almost) always belittled his wife Amanda (Wilma Santos) and stated misogynistic remarks throughout the film. The movie also revolved around the life of their sons, Jules (Piolo Pascual), Emmanuel (Marvin Agustin), Gani (Carlos Agassi), Jason (Danilo Barrios), and Bingo (John Wayne Sace). Jules grew up to become a high-ranking official in a resistance movement after being enlightened of the government's corruption upon entering the university; Emmanuel became a writer that opposed to the administration; Gani joined the U.S Navy, Jason was the son who often went home at midnight despite the strict curfew, and Bingo played as the spectator of his brothers.

In the duration of the movie, Jules was seen to bring 'trouble' into the family due to his position, however, his family remained supportive on his decisions. It was expected for the viewers to think that Jules would eventually die, but he lived on to stay on the resistance and fight for what he thinks is right and just. What was unexpected, was the death of Jason. His curfew violation and alleged possession of drugs weren't thoroughly discussed in the film, perhaps it is to symbolize the death of the innocents during the Martial Law.

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The film also gives a take on women empowerment by focusing on Amanda's character as a woman, a wife, and a mother. The growth of Martial Law coincides with Amanda's growing awareness as a nationalist and, to a lesser extent, a feminist. Witnessing civil society descend into authoritarian lockdown, hearing about military forces inflicting brutality on Filipino residents, and directly witnessing the horror of state-sanctioned child abuse takes its toll on Amanda. She realizes she can no longer offer an authoritative government her entire support when she sees how easy the state may violate citizens' rights in the name of protecting them from domestic threats.

It has been 49 years since the declaration of Martial Law. However, for the bereaved families of the victims, there is no forgetting. As a citizen of the country, I believe it is my duty to fight for what I know is right. I was given the voice to uphold the citizen's liberty. I will use my knowledge for the betterment of the country.

The film has enlightened my thoughts about two things: **freedom, and the past.**

*Freedom:* Despite the problems and obstacles that each of us experiences, we felt in our hearts that there was no purpose in giving up. Whether we are fighting for our own love, our family's love, or the nation's love, there is freedom out there that is worth achieving.

*Past:* Even if hundreds of years have passed, one should never forget the truth of the history. Because those who do not remember the past (or tend to ignore it), are condemned to repeat it.

Truth is, the country is still far from getting the freedom we wanted to achieve. But, the country's future depends on its citizens. Everything is up to us. I, however, have decided to fight for freedom and justice. To quote what Amanda said briefly in the film: "*Kung hindi tayo kikilos, sino ang kikilos? Kung hindi ngayon? Kailan pa?*"