



SEA OF DISCORD”: A COMMENTARY ON THE CRISIS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

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ABSTRACT

When viewed through the lens of Metahistory, the novel “Sea of Discord” tenders a literary interpretation of the historic voyage of the Chinese treasure fleet that had traversed the vast seas and oceans much earlier than the expeditions of the Europeans. But hidden beneath the artistry and creativity infused in magnifying the impact and meaning of the events narrated are the underpinnings that convey a commentary on the current crisis brewing in the West Philippine Sea. Indeed, the characters and events presented in the narrative had all their corresponding meanings and symbols. But they need to be unlocked by the critical reader to grasp the underlying context of how a nation had struggled to survive amidst the internal and external squalors that threatened its future. Can the soothing breeze of the sea appease the fiery determination of a conquering heart? Or can its unforgiving waves break the unified will of a nation to fight for its rights?

Keywords: Sea of Discord, metahistory, literary symbols, commentary