

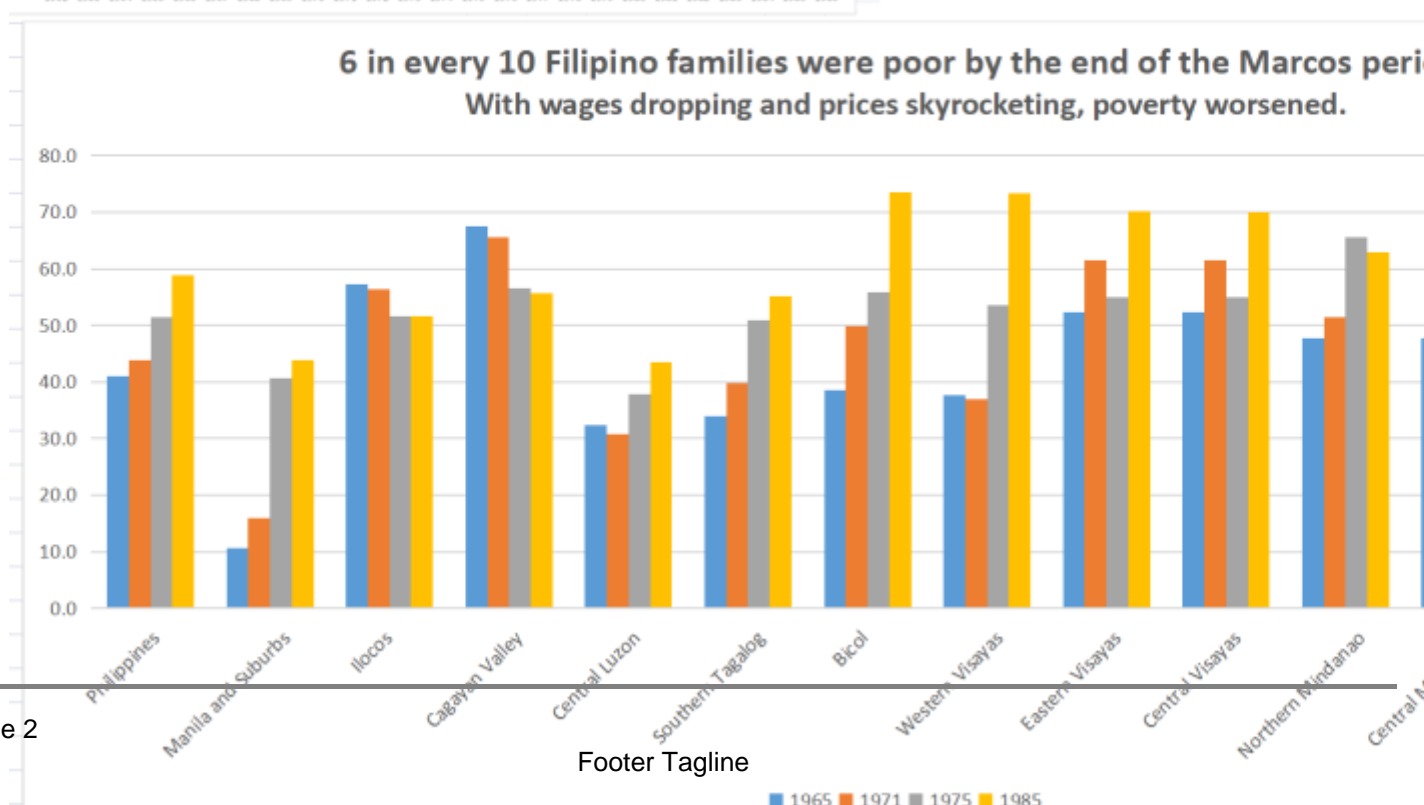
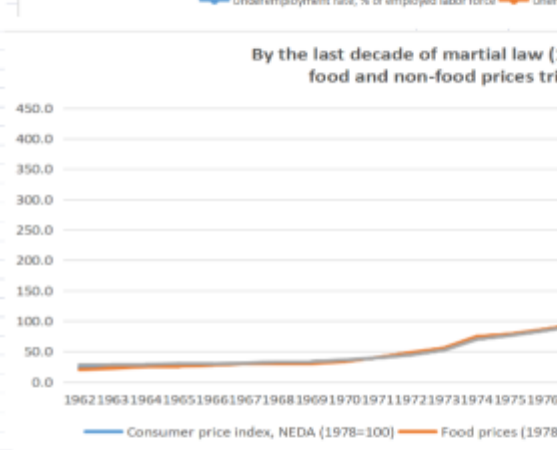
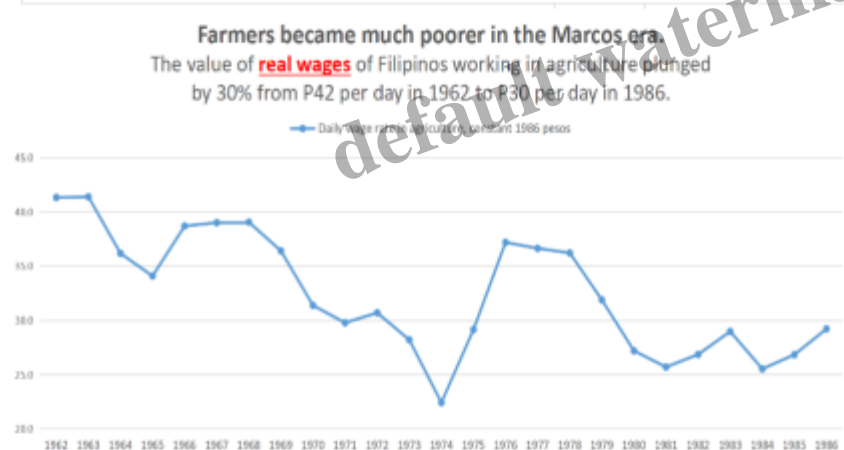
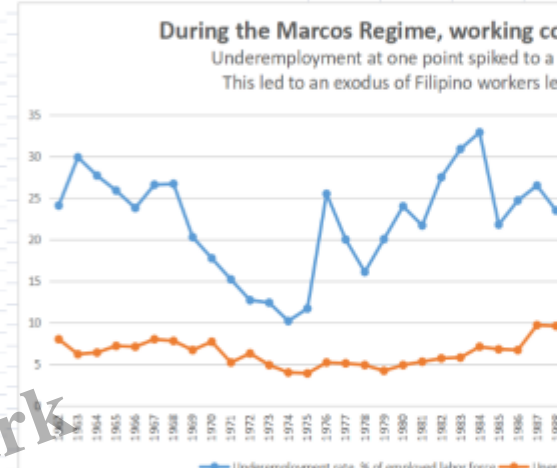
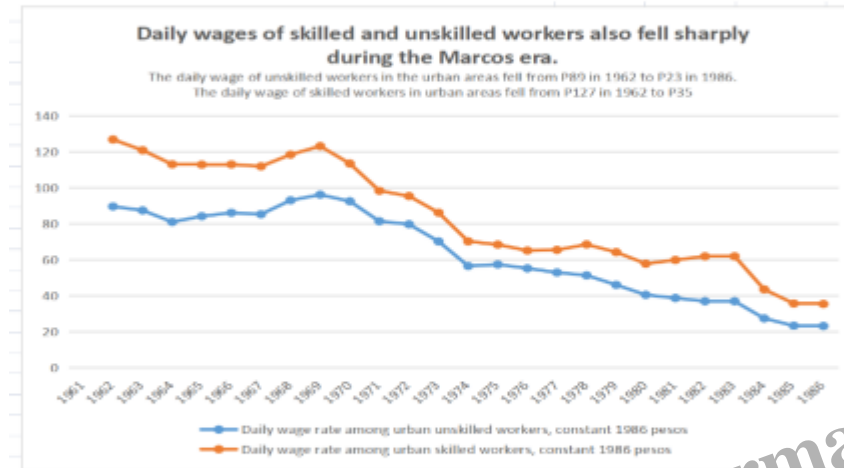
How President Marcos became a Constitutional Dictator; The Economic Model for Alaska

Description

Alaska(><)Philippines

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Economic Damage of the Marcos Dictator



Upon being elected **President of Philippines** in September 1971 **President Ferdinand Marcos** used constitutionally legal powers and technicalities in his mandate to concentrate all state authority in himself and plunder the country financially. A **People-Power Movement** was required to finally extract Marcos from the presidency, requiring the USA to harbor him in Hawaii until his death September 28, 1989.

Perhaps the dictator should have been exiled to Alaska to see the difference. before he died

In 1972 Alaska was engrossed in preparing for the oil rush that would return our boom-and-bust economy to boom, with development of the **Trans-Alaska Pipeline**. But before we could build that pipeline we had to reach a settlement with Alaska Natives who had a land claim that went back to Alaska's purchase from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million. **The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act** was signed in December of 1971.

This writer was attending **Anchorage Community College** then, which had just been relocated to a group of four buildings that would eventually become part of an extensive campus of the **University of Alaska Anchorage**. Previously this college had been a night school held at the original local high school but today it is a tremendous statewide money pit.

As they rubbed their palms together in anticipation of great wealth, very few Alaskans knew or cared what was going on in Philippines.

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But in Southeast Asia Marcos orchestrated a ***Constitutional Convention*** in 1971—to review and propose amendments to the existing congress. On November 29, 1972 their proposed constitution was submitted by the President for ratification by the Filipino people.

And it passed.

ANCSA Signed into Law



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

Clears way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline

Plans for a pipeline to carry oil from Prudhoe Bay provided the impetus to settle long-standing land and compensation disputes with the Native people of Alaska. In 1971, President Nixon signed the Alaska

[2]100 Years of the Alaska Legislature—1971

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10th State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

1977 - 1978

First Oil in the Pipeline



Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. Library & Archives.

Legislative TV Coverage Starts

As the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) neared completion, the Legislature

Footer Tagline

[3]100 Years of the Alaska Legislature—1978

Alaska was Devising ways to Distribute Resource Wealth to Alaskans while Pres Marcos was scheming to Exploit the Philippine People.

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11th State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

1979 - 1980

PFD Framework Established



APFC & PFD Created

When the 11th Legislature convened in 1979, the Alaska petroleum industry was flourishing, with oil prices and state revenue soaring. Voters had passed a constitutional amendment in 1976 to create a permanent fund, and the 11th Legislature established the framework for

[4]100 Years of the Alaska Legislature—1980

In everything he did, Marcos took great pains to ensure that his actions would align with the dictates of the law. When necessary measures fell outside the scope of existing laws, he changed the laws to suit his needs before proceeding.

[5]Martial Law Museum

Pres. Marcos disrupted the essential democratic balance of power between executive, legislative and court system. While he already had control of the executive branch, as President, Marcos proceeded to take over all other functions that the government had mandate over. Marcos gave himself total control over the nation as **Commander in Chief of the Military** one year after he was initially elected. Ultimately honorable military leaders would take government back from Dictator Marcos.

In General Order No. 1, signed Sep

Now, therefore, I, Ferdinand E. Marcos
virtue of the powers vested in me by the
Chief of the Armed Forces of the Phil
shall govern the nation and direct the
including all its agencies and instrume
exercise all the powers and prerogative
position as such Commander-in-Chief
Philippines.

Total Power by Any Means Possible

By taking control over the entire government, Marcos put himself in a position of absolute power over the laws of the land, with no legitimate body in existence to hold him in check. He personally appointed every provincial governor, city mayor, and municipal mayor throughout the nation. Throughout his term, Pres. Marcos issued 1941 presidential decrees, 1331 letters of instruction, and 896 executive orders. His word was law.

[6] Ibid Martial Law of the Philippines

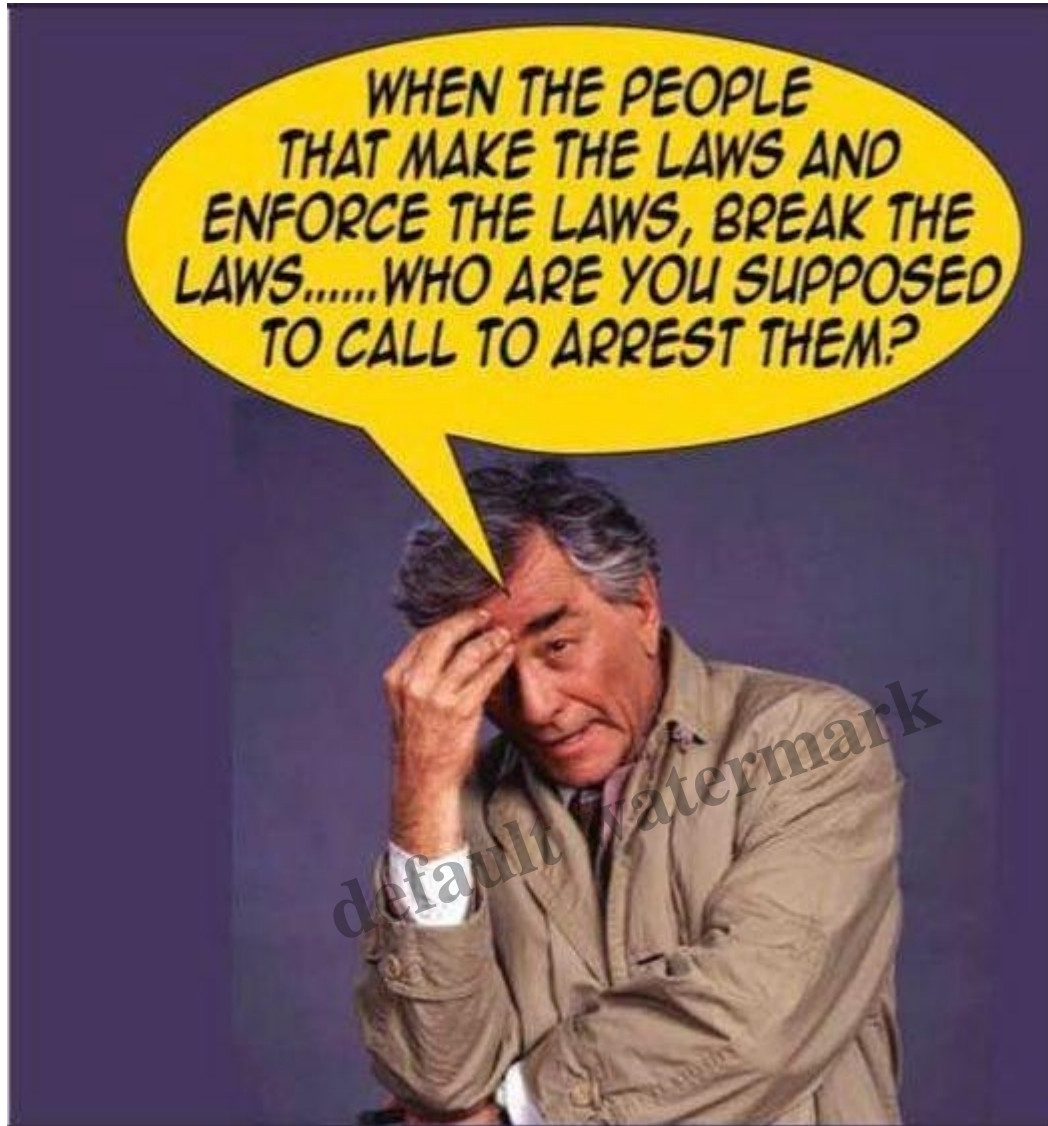
To maintain an iron fist control over the Philippines required indefinite extension of Marcos' power despite the **1935 Constitution's** limitation of the Presidency to a total of two 4-year terms. Marcos promulgated a change of the Constitution, repealing **Congress** with a single-chamber **National Assembly** composed of popularly elected legislators, a symbolic head of state in the President, and a Prime Minister who would be head of government, elected by the assembly.

As one of the top exporters of bananas in the world, Marcos turned Philippines into a Banana Republic Government

[7]Banana Republic Definition

Marcos' use of the military as his *martial law implementer* was characterized by rapid changes over the 14-year period between Marcos' **Declaration of Martial Law** in September 1972 and his final ouster through the **People Power Revolution** of 1986.

By 1986 Alaska was facing a financial crisis from overspending and low price of oil. Alaskans were receiving annual dividends from the Permanent Fund with a formula set in statute by an average of five year revenues. This system worked for more than 40 years until 2016 when **Gov. Bill Walker and the Alaska Legislature** changed the formula without changing the law so more money could go to paying for government and special interests.



Had he lived and continued as Philippine Dictator until today, Marcos would be proud of these Alaska public officials who continue to pass record budgets and diminish the amount paid to Alaskan Residents for their direct use. **Alaska's Permanent Fund** is a direct target of Alaska's Public Sector Unions. Recently the son of Marcos, **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.** —who has been Philippine president one year—was able to convince the Philippine Congress to establish the **Maharlika Investments Fund**. This cannot be a Wealth Fund in an economically developing country. Rather, it is an economic vulnerability.

[8]Our Permanent Fund Inspiration for Others

Look at how much money has been distributed directly to Alaskans from oil resource development under a fair formula that provided for government requirements and built the Alaska Economy by giving an annual dividend to Alaskans—just as anyone who owns oil stock receives dividends:

SUMMARY OF DIVIDEND APPLICATIONS & PAYMENTS

Dividend Year	State Population	Applications Received	Applications Paid	Dividend Amount	Percent Change	Total Disbursed Amount
2022	733,583	665,764	625,912	\$3,284.00	294.8%	\$2,055,495,008.00
2021	732,670	674,454	636,895	\$1,114.00	12.3%	\$709,501,030.00
2020	728,903	673,371	630,937	\$992.00	-38%	\$625,889,504.00
2019	732,734	678,738	633,243	\$1,606.00	3.7%	\$1,016,988,258.00
2018	736,239	670,759	639,247	\$1,600.00	45.5%	\$1,022,795,200.00
2017	737,847	670,706	633,005	\$1,100.00	7.6%	\$696,305,500.00
2016	739,828	674,939	638,178	\$1,022.00	-50.7%	\$652,217,916.00
2015	737,625	678,308	641,561	\$2,072.00	10.0%	\$1,329,314,392.00
2014	735,601	676,467	637,289	\$1,884.00	109.3%	\$1,200,652,476.00
2013	736,399	672,603	634,366	\$900.00	2.5%	\$570,929,400.00
2012	732,298	679,633	641,644	\$878.00	-25.2%	\$563,363,432.00
2011	722,190	677,888	644,959	\$1,174.00	-8.4%	\$757,181,866.00
2010	710,231	670,399	637,873	\$1,281.00	-1.8%	\$817,115,313.00
2009	692,314	660,290	624,888	\$1,305.00	-36.9%	\$815,478,840.00
2008	679,720	648,532	616,484	\$2,069.00	25.1%	\$1,275,505,396.00
2007	674,510	634,490	600,278	\$1,654.00	49.4%	\$992,859,812.00
2006	670,053	629,098	595,166	\$1,106.96	30.9%	\$658,824,955.36
2005	663,253	632,831	597,639	\$845.76	-8.1%	\$505,459,160.64
2004	656,834	631,229	599,992	\$919.84	-17.0%	\$551,896,641.28
2003	647,747	626,009	596,176	\$1,107.56	-28.1%	\$660,300,690.56
2002	640,544	621,257	590,031	\$1,540.76	-16.7%	\$909,096,163.56
2001	632,241	620,486	586,848	\$1,850.28	-5.8%	\$1,085,833,117.44
2000	627,533	619,063	583,633	\$1,963.86	11.0%	\$1,146,173,503.38
1999	622,000	592,779	573,324	\$1,769.84	14.9%	\$1,014,691,748.16
1998	617,082	585,222	565,657	\$1,540.88	18.9%	\$871,609,558.16
1997	609,655	575,270	555,289	\$1,296.54	14.7%	\$719,954,400.06
1996	605,212	566,061	546,651	\$1,130.68	14.2%	\$618,087,352.68
1995	601,581	564,702	542,397	\$990.30	0.7%	\$537,135,749.10
1994	600,622	559,840	535,178	\$983.90	3.6%	\$526,561,634.20
1993	596,906	550,705	528,399	\$949.46	3.7%	\$501,693,714.54
1992	586,722	544,017	523,099	\$915.84	-1.7%	\$479,074,988.16
1991	569,054	535,475	512,764	\$931.34	-2.2%	\$477,557,623.76
1990	553,171	533,876	498,447	\$952.63	9.1%	\$474,835,565.61
1989	538,900	526,511	508,710	\$873.16	5.6%	\$444,185,223.60
1988	535,000	537,279	519,724	\$826.93	16.8%	\$429,775,367.32

The Alaska government even bought the money-losing ***Alaska Railroad.***

[9]Is this any way to run a railroad?

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14th State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

1985 - 1986

State Buys Railroad



Oil Prices Fall; Financial Crisis

The 14th State Legislature convened with steadily sliding oil prices and an enormous amount of State-sponsored debt from years of big spending. In addition to fiscal distress, campaign law violations and questionable ethics were attracting public scrutiny. When reporters with the Anchorage Daily News used computers to track campaign contributions in 1985, they uncovered widespread evidence of serious irregularities in both local and state political campaigns. Meeting in a 30-day

Beginning of the End for Marcos

Marcos downfall came from the military he had used to gain power. Military Officers were promoted and reshuffled; top commanders were kept on past their retirement ages, based on their expressed allegiances with the strongman dictator. This led to low morale among junior officers who were unable to get promotions in the **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)**, and eventually led to the creation of the **Reform the Armed Forces Movement**.

[10]Military history of the Philippines during the Marcos dictatorship.

Reform the Armed Forces Movement



RAM logo during the 1980s

Military camps throughout the country became the site of various detention camps for *political prisoners* which included any individuals who spoke out against the Marcos regime, whether they were journalists, educators, religious workers, human rights advocates, academics, artists, or activists. Philippine Gulags.

From the referenced materials:

*When revelations of cheating during 1986 Philippine presidential election came out in February, RAM forces under Defense Secretary **Juan Ponce Enrile** attempted to stage a Coup against Marcos, but their plot failed when it was discovered by Marcos. They sought help from Philippine Constabulary Chief **Fidel V. Ramos** who joined them, and when they were cornered in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame on Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) Roman Catholic Cardinal **Jaime Sin** called on Private citizens—already planning protests connected to cheating during the elections—to help protect Enrile and Ramos’ forces by forming a human barricade on the stretch of EDSA between the two camps. Marcos issued Military orders to attack Enrile and Ramos’ forces while publicly pretending to issue contrary orders. But AFP forces rejected the order and began defecting to the Enrile and Ramos faction instead.*

This was an important event in Philippine history which established that The People here will rise up if abused enough by their government.

People Power Returned Democratic Rule

Marcos primary opponent, **Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr.**, was very ill and permitted to avail of medical treatment in the U.S. through intervention by **US President, Jimmy Carter**. Aquino’s determination to come back in and unite the fractured opposition would prove to be the turning point in resisting the dictatorship. A former Philippine senator, Aquino was assassinated on Sunday, August 21, 1983, on the tarmac of **Manila International Airport** (now named **Ninoy Aquino International Airport** in his honor).

*By late 1985, a sick and exhausted Marcos was challenged in US media about his legitimacy to govern the country. Ever the strongman, Marcos called for a snap election to be held in February of the following year to demonstrate that he still has the mandate of the Filipino people. A surprised opposition now faced the dilemma of whom to field as a candidate to run against Marcos. A successful signature campaign convinced **Cory Aquino**, Ninoy’s widow, to take up the challenge*

EDSA 1986 was the apogee of the people’s struggle that started with the declaration of authoritarian rule in 1972. The nonviolent revolution led to the departure of Ferdinand Marcos, the end of his 20-year dictatorship, and the restoration of democracy in the Philippines.

Today an estimated 25% of Alaskans work for the government and the annual PFD is Mad Money for them. However, throughout rural Alaska the village economies are dependent upon funds paid to some 50 school districts, and whatever else the government can provide. PFD payments provide a pronounced improvement to basic quality of life for many Alaskans. Unfortunately, voters in many districts continue to elect legislators and governors who talk big in their districts during campaigns but return to the backwater capital of Juneau and do the bidding of special interests.

When the people who have come for their *Alaska Adventure* finally kill the **Alaska Permanent Fund** and go home, those left will likely say: *Aw Shucks, my kids deserved more than crappy schools and government overreach with less economic opportunity for their future.*

But don’t expect any courageous *People Power* movement to

change that inevitability for Alaska.

References:

[1]Soviet GULAG System in Siberia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gula>

Siberia is across the Bering Strait from Alaska. The Gulag was the government agency in charge of the Soviet network of forced labor camps in Siberia which were set up by order of Vladimir Lenin, reaching its peak during Joseph Stalin's rule from the 1930s to the early 1950s.

Petty crimes and jokes about the Soviet government and officials were punishable by imprisonment. About half of political prisoners in the Gulag camps were imprisoned "by administrative means", i.e., without trial at courts; official data suggest that there were over 2.6 million sentences to imprisonment on cases investigated by the secret police throughout 1921–53. The GULAG was reduced in size following Stalin's death in 1953, in a period known as the Khrushchev Thaw.

[2]100 Years of the Alaska Legislature—1971

<https://akleg.gov/100years/legislature.php?id=7>

[3]100 Years of the Alaska Legislature—1978

<https://akleg.gov/100years/legislature.php?id=10>

[4]100 Years of the Alaska Legislature—1980

<https://akleg.gov/100years/legislature.php?id=11>

[5]Martial Law Museum

[The Makings of a Constitutional Dictator](#)

[6] Ibid Martial Law of the Philippines

[7]Banana Republic Definition

banana republic

[*buh-nan-uhri-puhb-lik*] [SHOW IPA](#)

noun Usually Disparaging.

1. a small, poor country, often rich in natural resource, governed by an authoritarian regime characterized by corruption and economic exploitation, often conspiring with local government
2. any exploitative government that operates in the interests of a few while disproportionately benefiting the many

[8]Our Permanent Fund Inspiration for Others

<https://donnliston907.substack.com/p/our-permanent-fund-inspiration-for>

[9]Is this any way to run a railroad?

[Is this any way to run a Railroad?](#)

[10]Military history of the Philippines during the Marcos dictatorship

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_the_Philippines_during_the_Marcos_dictatorship

Category

1. Uncategorized

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