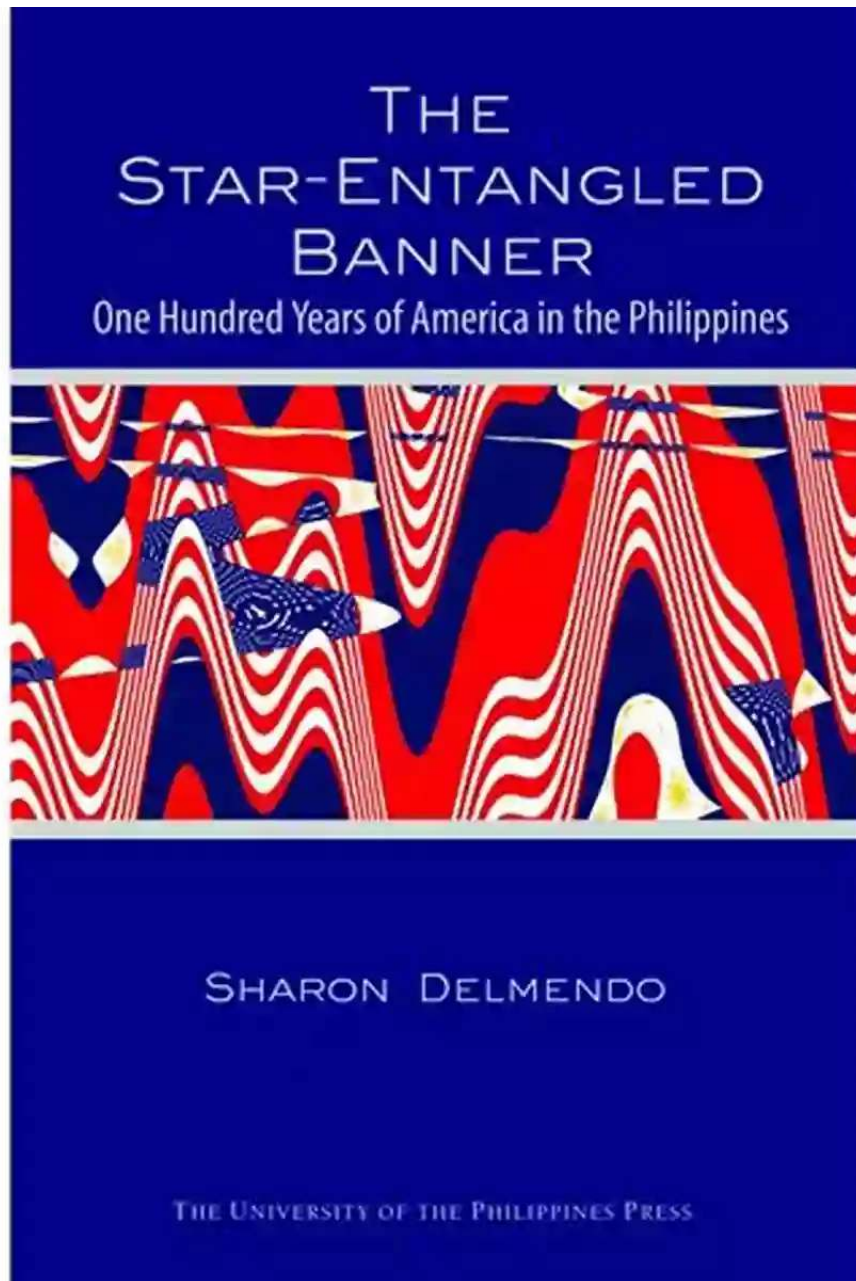


The Star Entangled Banner: An Iconic Symbol of Unity and Patriotism



When you think of patriotic symbols, one that instantly comes to mind is *The Star Entangled Banner*. This magnificent flag, with its thirteen stripes of red and white and its field of stars representing the fifty states of our great nation, has become an emblem of unity, resilience, and freedom. In this article, we will delve into the

rich history of the *Star Entangled Banner* and explore the deep meaning it holds for citizens of the United States.

The Birth of a National Treasure

The story of the *Star Entangled Banner* dates back to the Revolutionary War, when the thirteen British colonies in North America fought for their independence. The flag was designed and hand-sewn by Betsy Ross, a skilled seamstress from Philadelphia. Its original purpose was to serve as the standard for the Continental Army.



The Star-Entangled Banner: One Hundred Years of America in the Philippines

by Sharon Delmendo (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 6553 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 244 pages



With its vibrant colors and symbolisms, the flag quickly gained popularity among the American people. It became a powerful representation of their fight for liberty and gave them a collective identity as they struggled against the British forces.

The Evolution of the Design

Over time, the design of the *Star Entangled Banner* underwent modifications to reflect the growth of the United States. As new states were added to the Union,

additional stars were added to the flag, preserving its symbolism of unity and inclusivity.

One significant change occurred in 1818 when Congress introduced a new law regulating the flag's design. Since then, the flag has had thirteen stripes, representing the original colonies, and a varying number of stars, reflecting the current number of states. This design has remained virtually unchanged to this day.

A Symbol of Unity

The *Star Entangled Banner* has witnessed crucial moments throughout American history, serving as a source of hope and inspiration for its citizens. During times of hardship, the flag has united people from various backgrounds, reminding them of their shared values and the power of unity.

One such instance was during the American Civil War when the Union soldiers fought against the Confederate forces. The *Star Entangled Banner* waved proudly on the battlefield, representing not only the United States but also the resilience and determination of its people to overcome adversity.

A Beacon of Freedom

The *Star Entangled Banner* has become synonymous with the principles of freedom and democracy. It has flown high above significant landmarks, such as the White House and the Statue of Liberty, proclaiming the enduring values upon which America was founded.

Its influence extends beyond American borders. The *Star Entangled Banner* has served as a symbol of hope and inspiration to people around the world who strive for liberty and equality.

Celebrating Patriotism

The *Star Entangled Banner* continues to be celebrated today during national holidays and significant events. Americans proudly display the flag on their homes, schools, and public buildings on days like Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

Additionally, the singing of the national anthem, written by Francis Scott Key, has become a cherished tradition. The words of "The Star-Spangled Banner" resonate with citizens who hold their flag in high regard, evoking strong emotions and a deep sense of pride for their country.

An Emblem for All

Despite its historical significance and cultural importance, the *Star Entangled Banner* has not been without controversy. Some individuals have criticized its use, arguing that it represents a painful period in American history characterized by inequalities and injustices.

However, others argue that the flag is a symbol of change and progress. They believe that it represents the ideals and aspirations of the American people and that it has the power to unite and inspire its citizens to work towards a brighter future.

The *Star Entangled Banner* remains an enduring symbol of unity, resilience, and freedom for the United States. Its vibrant colors, its stars and stripes, and its deep historical associations make it a recognizable emblem cherished by Americans across the nation.

Whether displayed during times of triumph or tribulation, the *Star Entangled Banner* continues to inspire citizens to strive for the ideals upon which their great

nation was built. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before and a call to action for future generations to uphold the values that make America truly exceptional.



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During a ceremony held in 1996 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of formal Philippine independence, the U.S. flag was being lowered while the Philippine flag was being raised, and the two became entangled. In *The Star-Entangled Banner*, Sharon Delmendo demonstrates that this incident is indicative of the longstanding problematic relationship between the two countries. When faced with a national crisis or a compelling need to reestablish its autonomy, each nation paradoxically turns to its history with the other to define its place in the world.

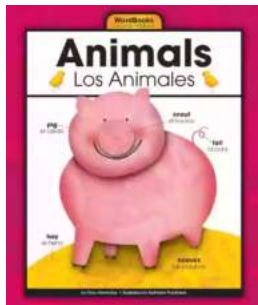
Each chapter of the book deals with a separate issue in this linked history: the influence of Buffalo Bill's show on the proto-nationalism of José Rizal, who is often described as the "First Filipino"; the portrayal of the Philippines in American children's books; *Back to Bataan*, a World War II movie starring John Wayne; the post-independence fiction of F. Sionil José; and the refusal of the U.S. military to return the Balangiga Bells, which were taken as war booty during the Philippine-

American War. Ultimately, Delmendo demonstrates how the effects of U.S. imperialism in the Philippines continue to resonate in U.S. foreign policy in the post cold war era and the war on terrorism.



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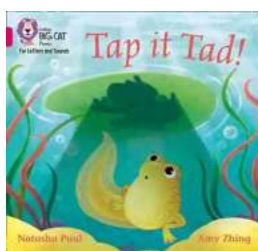
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