

Patronato Real and Recurso de Fuerza

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While the concept of “union” between Church and State implies harmony between the two powers, the three centuries of Spanish rule in the Philippines was marked by a continuous series of conflicts between the Roman Catholic Church and the Spanish colonial government. By invoking the *Patronato Real*, the concept of “apostolic delegation” granted by the Pope to the King of Spain in exchange for spreading the Catholic Mission in the New World, the Spanish Government imposed undue burdens on the affairs of the Catholic Mission in its colonies. Such became the basis of the *Recurso de Fuerza*, the right of the King to intervene in the operation of ordinary ecclesiastical jurisdiction, with the power to employ suspensive measures whenever the Church authorities were found to threaten the peace of the realm or the rights of an individual. The Article intends to serve as a starting point — an introduction into the relationship between Church and State during the Spanish colonization. As this relationship has had a profound influence on our legal history, such deserves to be given even greater attention and study.