

အိပ်စားနေပါစေ

Kaisipan

(Tagalog) **To think**

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Thesis Statement

Colonialism is motivated to dominate, exploit, control, and subjugate a nation of its people and resources with impunity. One of its consequences is colonial mentality. The goal of this body of work is to inform and educate everyone on the impact of colonialism and its effects on Filipino people. At its root, the issue of colonial mentality derives its origin from the oppressive treatment and indoctrination of Western ideals by Spain and the United States, to the indigenous people of the Philippines. This internalized oppression of Filipino culture and identity is a pervading psychological behavior amongst the ethnic group. This project aims to look at the degradation of the Filipino culture as a result of colonialism. Documenting the consequences of a mentality in present-day Filipinos will be looked upon. For Filipinos to break away from this subservient lens of theme-selves, tracing back to pre-colonial customs and traditions that were eradicated by Spain and the U.S will

shed light on the thriving and complex nation of ancient Philippines. An appreciation of one's past and the elements that have changed the nation's narrative of identity is the objective of this project. Changing the Western prism that exists so prominently in the Filipino culture through this project may be a step towards the decolonization process of Filipinos by being aware of their heritage. We have to educate ourselves of our past histories in order to create informed actions and to prevent harmful ideals and actions that were indoctrinated by colonizers of the past. To increase our knowledge of our past helps us dictate the actions we can do in the future. Having a more open discussion about such topics amongst the members of the Filipino community is essential to demystify these deeply ingrained colonial mentality in which many are not consciously aware of its' repercussion.



Bayan

The Classical Colonial Model

Colonialism as another form of oppression as shown through the undesirable and inferiority that is attached to anything Filipino with European ideals promoted as the best (55). Furthermore, colonialism produces internalized oppression with the individual that is being colonized thus, creating a sense of mis-identity (David, 56). The creation of a standardized colonial systems has negative psychological outcomes for the colonized peoples. Such of which is the denial that they are lesser individuals. The colonized individual becomes assimilated with the colonizers' ideals and their mindset mimics the colonizers notions. Therefore, the colonized begins to view the world like a colonizer inhibiting their likeness and psychologically. It is important to note that such indoctrination of behavior has the ability to harm future generations if colonial ideals are not controlled/ diminished. Such ideals of internalized oppression and the preference for everything Western is a key characteristic that is passed down for generations as the article states, "debasing attitudes toward one's own group may be passed on intergenerationally through familial socialization and continued oppression by the dominant group" (David, Okazaki 5).

01

Forced of entry of a foreign group into a geographic territory with the intention of exploiting the native people's natural resources.

02

The establishment of a colonial society characterized by cultural imposition, cultural disintegration, and cultural recreation of the native's indigenous culture, all of which are intended to further create a contrast between the superior colonizer and inferior colonized. The distinction between the two groups.

03

The colonized are portrayed as wild, savage peoples that the colonizer has to tame and police, in essence putting oppression and domination into practice.

04

The establishment of a race-based societal system in which the political, social, and economic institutions in the colony are designed to benefit the colonizer and continually subjugate the colonized.

Colonialism

noun

The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

-Oxford

Western Colonialism

Western colonialism, a political-economic phenomenon whereby various European nations explored, conquered, settled, and exploited large areas of the world.

- Britannica

The Spaniards

In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan landed and claimed a large set of island archipelago in the Pacific Ocean for Spain. This signaled the beginning of the Spanish occupation of the Tao and their lands, and the transformation of the Tao's indigenous culture and ways of life. Remembering the existence of the Tao and their highly developed culture and society is important to emphasize here, because it reifies the fact that Ferdinand Magellan did not "discover" the Philippines. After Ferdinand Magellan, other Spanish voyages followed the path he took to get to the island archipelago, and in 1542, Spanish explorer Ruy Lopez de Villalobos named the islands "Las Islas Filipinas" (The Philippine Islands) in honor of Spain's King Charles I's son Philip, who would later become King of Spain himself (King Philip II).

All early Spanish voyages to the Philippines were met by resistance from the indigenous Tao, and it was not until 1571 when a later Spanish exploration led by Miguel Lopez Legazpi established the walled Spanish city of Manila (Intramuros) that Spain finally subdued the Tao's struggles and secured Spanish rule over the islands. It is crucial to point out that it took Spain approximately 50 years to quell the indigenous Tao's opposition to Spanish rule and cultural transformation. This particular point is important, because it shows that the indigenous Tao fought the occupiers, resisted the Spanish impositions, and tried to protect their ways of life and did not simply welcome the Spanish colonizers with open arms wanting to be "civilized". Such strong resistance by the indigenous Tao is evidence that they were proud of their culture and ways of life, and that they did not automatically regard Western people, the Western belief system, and Western culture as better than what they had. The balangay or barangay warriors (Tribal warriors), who were led by their respective Datus or Rajahs (Kings or Chiefs), fought fiercely to protect the culture and ways of life that the Tao were so proud of. In fact, the person who is considered to circumnavigate the world, Ferdinand Magellan, lost his life in the Philippines against the warriors of one of the greatest indigenous Datus in Filipino history- Lapu-Lapu. Thus, Ferdinand Magellan was not able to return to Spain and did not circumnavigate the world.

Text by E.R.J David, PH.D.

1521



Portrait of Ferdinand Magellan.

Colonial Name

The country name of the Philippines derives from the Spanish King, Philip II, who colonized the archipelago islands in 1565. Though the name is widely known today as the country's own, there have been multiple attempts in the Philippines' history to change it because of its strong colonial ring. Quimpo argues that the terms "Philippines" and "Filipino" have ethnocentric roots due to the bias of the Christian majority that lives in the country. He adds that the possibility of changing the name of the country can help with the decolonization process that is so deeply ingrained in the culture. As defined by Anthony D Smith, Nationalism is an ideological movement for attaining and maintaining autonomy, unity, and identity on behalf of a population deemed by at least some of its members to constitute an actual or potential "nation". Nationalism in Asia came into fruition in the 19th century as a form of anti-colonialism to be liberated from its colonial rulers. Since then, many countries across Asia and Africa have changed their names to diminish any colonial roots. The Philippines on the otherhand has not. "Filipino comes from the word Filipinas, of which Philippines is the English translation. Felipinas was the name given by the Spanish explorer Ruy de Villalobos to Tendaya (Leyte or Samar) in 1543 in honor of the Spanish crown prince, Philip (Felipe in Spanish), who later became King Philip II (r.1156-98)" (Quimpo 2). There is an important detail to know about the origin and meaning of the country's name. Quimpo states that the natives "literally became subjects of Felipe" denoting that "Filipino" was a degrading word.

Philip II, King of Spain, by
Unknown artist, oil on canvas,
circa 1580. 72 1/2 in. x 41 in.
(1842 mm x 1041 mm).

1565

(Philip)pines

“the indigenous Tao fought the occupiers, resisted the Spanish impositions, and tried to protect their ways of life and did not simply welcome the Spanish colonizers with open arms wanting to be “civilized.”

- Quimpo

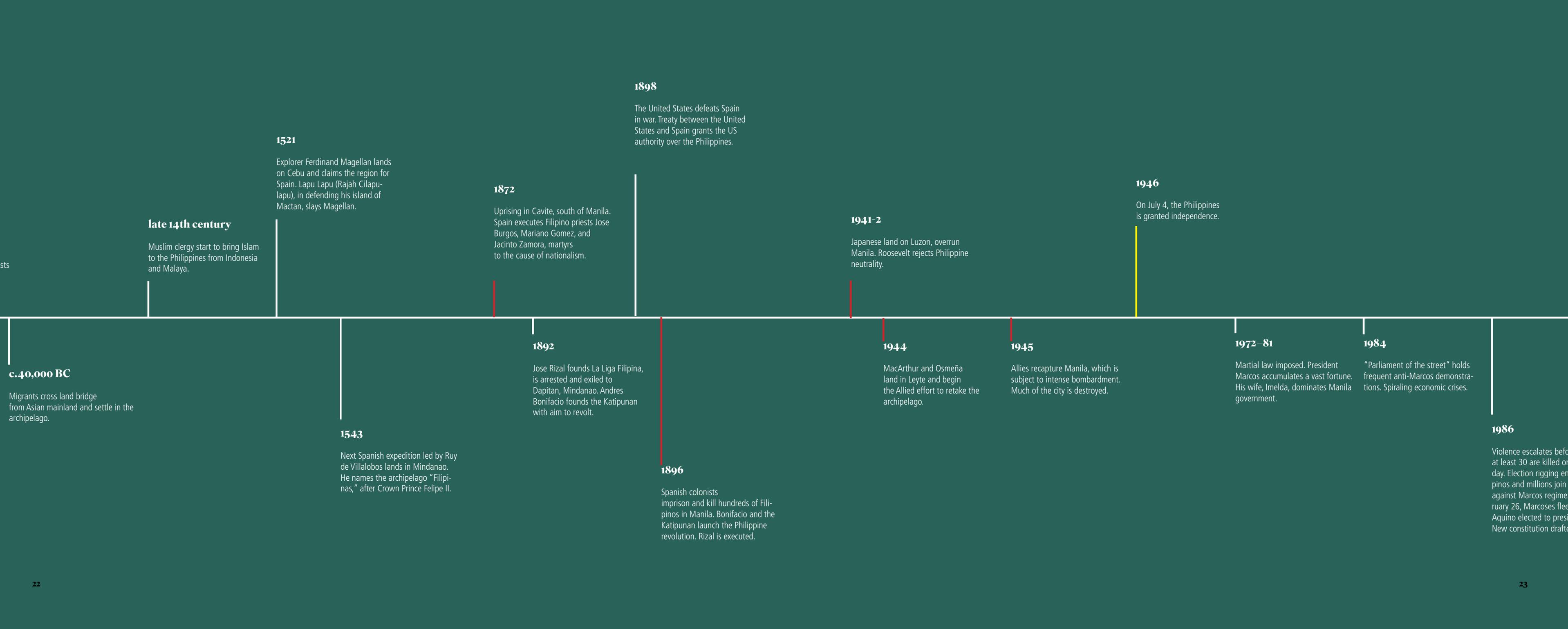


To Change or Not?

When Ferdinand Marcos became the dictator of the country during the 1970's and 1980's, he was determined to change the name to "Maharlika", which means a warrior noble that belongs to a lower class who came into power through fostering a military to service his lord. However, simply replacing the name "Philippines" becomes a controversial and tricky topic as its history which includes its music, essays, poetry, and documents include the name and as Quimpo states, "A symbol of saga nation building, a struggle for freedom, a history written in the blood and sweat of Rizal, Bonifacio and many national heroes" (Quimpo 3). To replace the countries name is to cut the ties and historical past of its founding fathers from its culture, diminishing the identity of the nation (Quimpo 3). Although these are good argument points, a name with direct correlation to a colonizer fosters the colonial mentality and dismisses the problematic notions that it instills to the population. Among other proposals were Rizal (the country's national hero), Bayani (Filipino for Hero), and Luzviminda which represents the three island regions of the archipelago (Quimpo4).

Map of the Philippine Islands
published by Pedro Murillo





c.40,000 BC
Migrants cross land bridge from Asian mainland and settle in the archipelago.

late 14th century
Muslim clergy start to bring Islam to the Philippines from Indonesia and Malaya.

1521
Explorer Ferdinand Magellan lands on Cebu and claims the region for Spain. Lapu Lapu (Rajah Cilapulapu), in defending his island of Mactan, slays Magellan.

1543
Next Spanish expedition led by Ruy de Villalobos lands in Mindanao. He names the archipelago "Filipinas," after Crown Prince Felipe II.

1872
Uprising in Cavite, south of Manila. Spain executes Filipino priests Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora, martyrs to the cause of nationalism.

1892
Jose Rizal founds La Liga Filipina, is arrested and exiled to Dapitan, Mindanao. Andres Bonifacio founds the Katipunan with aim to revolt.

1898
The United States defeats Spain in war. Treaty between the United States and Spain grants the US authority over the Philippines.

1896
Spanish colonists imprison and kill hundreds of Filipinos in Manila. Bonifacio and the Katipunan launch the Philippine revolution. Rizal is executed.

1941-2
Japanese land on Luzon, overrun Manila. Roosevelt rejects Philippine neutrality.

1944
MacArthur and Osmeña land in Leyte and begin the Allied effort to retake the archipelago.

1945
Allies recapture Manila, which is subject to intense bombardment. Much of the city is destroyed.

1946
On July 4, the Philippines is granted independence.

1972-81
Martial law imposed. President Marcos accumulates a vast fortune. His wife, Imelda, dominates Manila government.

1984
"Parliament of the street" holds frequent anti-Marcos demonstrations. Spiraling economic crises.

1986
Violence escalates before election. At least 30 are killed on election day. Election rigging enrage Filipinos and millions join in protests against Marcos regime. On February 26, Marcoses flee. Corason Aquino elected to presidency. New constitution drafted.

U.S. Rule

In 1898 Spain sold the Philippines to the United States for \$20 million during the Treaty of Paris (David, Okazaki 8). They brought forth education and the Americans imposed their way of teaching which substituted other forms of learning and therefore, establishing a structure to the country that would continue to be practiced to this day (David, Okazaki 7). St. Thomas transport brought American teachers to the country to instilled in their student American values and advertised it as a land of opportunities (David, Okazaki 7). The same pattern of colonialism was imposed in this stage where the colonized' livelihood are made to feel inferior in comparison to the colonizers' land. "Perceiving Americans as freedom fighters, the masters of democracy, enlightening heroes...The American military presence on the islands may have perpetuated the notion that Filipinos are in need of their support, thus having this interracial relationship between the two countries" (David, Okazaki 8).



US Army Air Service aerial photographer shows aerial camera to a small group of Philippine men and boys in native dress



Harry Cole's wife, Mary Scott Cole, is pictured with her class in Palo, Leyte.

Thomasites

As a continuation of this Pacification campaign, Americans sent 500 teachers to the Philippines with the intention of, "education, instead of outright military suppression, was the more effective means to pacify the Filipinos" (David, 33). Selected Filipinos who went to America to study in prestigious universities came back to the country and became known as "Pensionados". The Pensionados adopted American culture and forms of thinking that they indoctrinated and passed influence to Filipinos (David, 34).



The bodies of Moro insurgents and civilians killed by US troops during the Battle of Bud Dajo in the Philippines, March 7, 1906.

Pacification Campaign

Although in 1902 it was declared that the United States have won the war, Filipinos continued to resist Americans invading their own land. As a result, many Filipinos died for protecting their culture and land from Americans. An example of this brutality is the Moro Crater massacre in 1906 that killed families including children by American soldiers in which estimates 1.5 million Filipino lives lost between 1898-1913 (David, 32).



Filipinos of the Igorot ethnic group rest after dancing as part of an exhibition at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

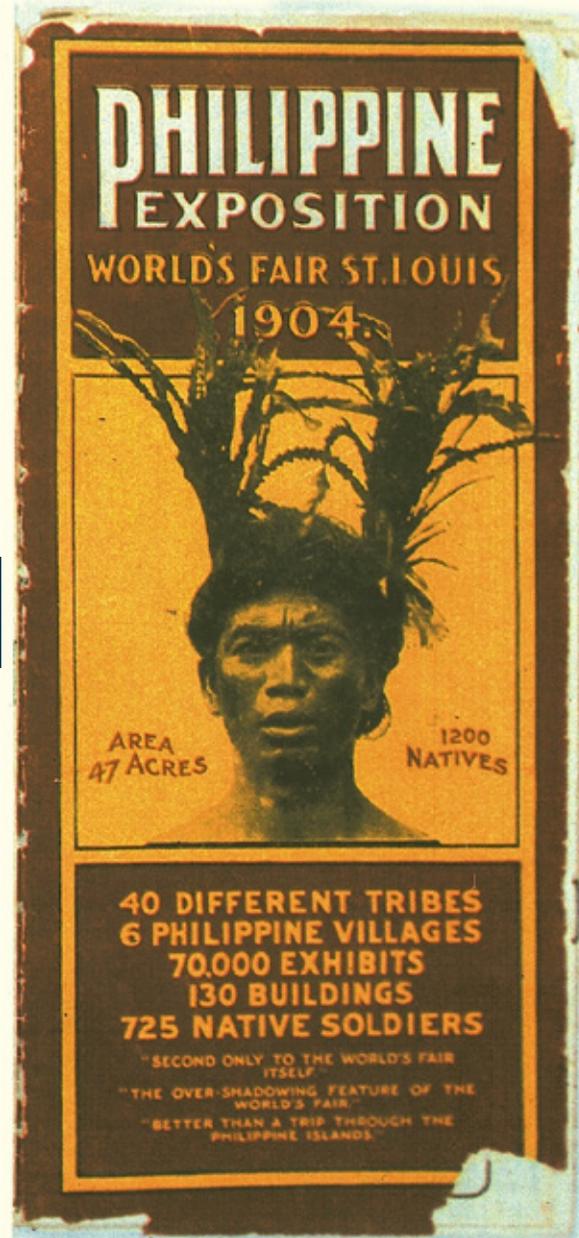
1902 St. Louis World's Fair

To celebrate America's hold of the Philippines and to showcase to the world the need of the indigenous Tao's to be "civilized", they brought over 1,100 Filipinos from different Indigenous tribes to be exhibited as an interactive human zoo (David, 31). The 47-acre reservation was called "The Philippine Reservation" and was complete copy of the "natural" living condition and environment of the Filipinos. Furthermore, they showcased a hierarchy of savage to civilized with the tribes being the most savage and the American trained Filipino scouts to be the most "normal" (David, 26). "A Forestry Building, Mining Building, Agricultural Building and Commerce Building showed off the natural resources of the new colony and all its commercial possibilities. The Forestry Building, a large wooden structure with nipa sides and roof, used 100 different kinds of wood indigenous to the islands. The Forestry Building's brochure boasted of 50,000,000 acres of virgin timberland ready for the cutting. The Fisheries Building displayed the largest collection of seashells in the world and a thousand mounted specimens of the different fishes of the islands. The Ethnological Museum housed the most extensive exhibit of crafts, clothing, pottery and implements of the various tribes. Nothing was spared in showing off America's newest possession" (John L. Silva).



A Filipino family of the Igorot ethnic group poses in front of replicas of their traditional homes at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

Hundreds of curious Americans gawked at these G-stringed Igorot dancers. (Photo courtesy of the Jonathan Best and John Silva Collection)



Brochures of the Philippine Exposition

Stages of Inferiority

Psychologist Hussein Abdilahi Bulhan, developed a theory of identity development in situations of colonialism. Bulhan states there are three modes that the oppress develop as a response and they are: compromise, flight and fight (Quimpo 11).



A Filipino family of the Igorot ethnic group poses in front of replicas of their traditional homes at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

01 Capitulation

Increased assimilation into the dominant culture while rejecting one's own culture.

02 Revitalization

A reactive repudiation of the dominant culture and by an equally defensive romanticism of the indigenous culture.

03 Radicalization

Synthesis and unambiguous commitment toward radical change.

Tolerance of Oppression

Text by David & Okazaki

When an individual has adopted the belief that the colonizer is superior to his or her own heritage, and when an individual has already begun emulating the colonizers because of their alleged superiority, the colonized individuals might begin to view the colonizers in a positive light. More specifically, the colonized individuals may begin to view the colonizers as well-intentioned, civilizing, freedom-giving, unselfish, liberating, noble, or sanctified "heroes." Such a belief might then lead to the normalization of the maltreatments such as discrimination from the dominant group, because such maltreatments might be perceived as the natural cost for progress or civilization, the price the colonized individuals have to pay to become as much like the dominant group as possible (Memmi, 1965). Rimonte (1997) referred to this aspect of CM as the "colonial debt." For example, when writing about his experiences and observations of other Filipino Americans, Dario Villa (1995) illustrates how colonial debt (as insisted by the Golden Leg-end) may be displayed by Filipino Americans: I know many Filipinos (in America who) would deny that they have been dicriated against. Too many are so thankful to be (in America) that they shut their eyes to avoid seeing the injustices, political and economic injustices. Then there are those who simply do not care. This type of attitude stifles our community. (p. 179)

“..little by little they lost their old traditions, the mementos of their past; they gave up their writing, their songs, their poems, their laws in order to learn by rote other doctrines which they did not under-

stand, another morality, another aesthetics different from those inspired by their climate and their manner of thinking... degrading themselves in their own eyes”

-Jose Rizal



Kultura

In Tagalog, this means culture. The focus of this section showcases the pre-colonial history of the indigenous Tao (people) of the archipelago island that we now know of as the Philippines. Looking into the thriving complex society and culture that the indigenous Tao (Filipinos) will be relevant to contrast how much of the authentic identity of the Philippines currently has from its past. The diminished identity and the assimilation through a western prism will be looked upon this book.

Baguio Cathedral, Baguio,
Philippines, 1931.

The Dominant Ethnic model

An ethnic is a named human population with a belief or myth of common ancestry, shared memories and cultural elements; a link with historic territory or homeland; a measure of solidarity. An example of this would be the Christian Tagalogs, Cebuanos, and illocanos etc. with little or no sense of their common ethnicity (Quimpo 25). The dominant cultural ethnic in the Philippines is the religion of Christianity. The Spaniards brought forth this religion and because of this exposure, most of the population in the Philippines are avid Catholics and Christians (Quimpo 26).

4



Ornaments & Accessories

The clothing worn by Indigenous Tao represented their rank and talents in their society (David, 4). Most often, red clothing was reserved for the highest ranks which would be the chiefs. A “Putong” is a headgear that represented the warrior had killed one man in battle and additional red accessories meant several men as a symbol of winning (David, 4). Because of the Philippines’ tropical weather, their tops were mostly short sleeves and vests with a cloth or a “bahag” and “tapis” as covering for the bottom (David, 4). Visayan men and women wore vast amounts of gold

that adorned their entire body. These include earrings, necklaces, collars of beads, bracelets, finger rings, clasps, and gold sequins (Scott, 29). “These ornaments were made of tortoise shell, mother of pearl, precious stones, giant clam shells and gold” (Scott, 29). These ornaments were passed on as “bahandi” or heirlooms that were buried with a ranking datus (Scott, 29). The ample of gold resources available in the land were used as decorative accessories to adorn the body. Both men and women were covered in tattoos. For women, it meant that you were beautiful while for the

men, it represented the experiences one had in a battle. The body was used to create a narrative of one’s accomplishment.

6



3

Image Descriptions

- 1 Wrist wrap. Surigao Treasure, Surigao del Sur province. Ca. 10th–13th century.
- 2 Sash or caste cord. Surigao Treasure, Surigao del Sur province. Ca. 10th–13th century.
- 3 Waistband . Surigao Treasure, Surigao del Sur province. Ca. 10th–13th century.
- 4 Cord weights. Butuan, Agusan del Norte province. Ca. 10th–13th century.
- 5 Finger ring with kirtimukha (face of glory). Eastern Visayas. Ca. 10th–13th century.
- 6 Buckles. Northeastern Mindanao. Ca. 10th–13th century.

Philippine Gold

Text from Asia Society

Works of gold primarily discovered over the past forty years on the Philippine islands of Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. The regalia, jewelry, ceremonial weapons, and ritualistic and funerary objects attest to the recently uncovered evidence of prosperity and achievement of Philippine polities that flourished between the tenth and thirteenth centuries, long before the Spanish discovered and colonized the region. Although the forms and styles of the majority of these works developed locally, some indicate that

Philippine craftsmen had been exposed to objects from beyond their borders through the robust cultural connections and maritime trade in Southeast Asia during what was an early Asian economic boom. The Philippine archipelago of over 7,000 islands lies between the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean in the region off the Asian mainland known as Island Southeast Asia. During the time when artists and craftsmen created the works in this exhibition, mariners, merchants, missionaries, and emissaries

5



“Some of these merchant ships traded for the natural resources of what early Indian texts refer to as Survarnavdipa, or “Islands of Gold,” a geographic place name that scholars believe refers to the islands of Southeast Asia, including Sumatra in Indonesia and nearby Mindanao and Luzon in the Philippines.”

2



plied the waters connecting the tropical isles to distant lands including China and India. Monsoon winds dictated the comings and goings of merchant ship the time of year they docked, how long they stayed, and when they set sail. Port settlements near protected coves such as ancient Butuan by the mouth of the Agusan River where it empties into Butuan Bay in northeastern Mindanao attracted ships and sailors seeking refuge from the strong southwest winds that blew from May to November.

1

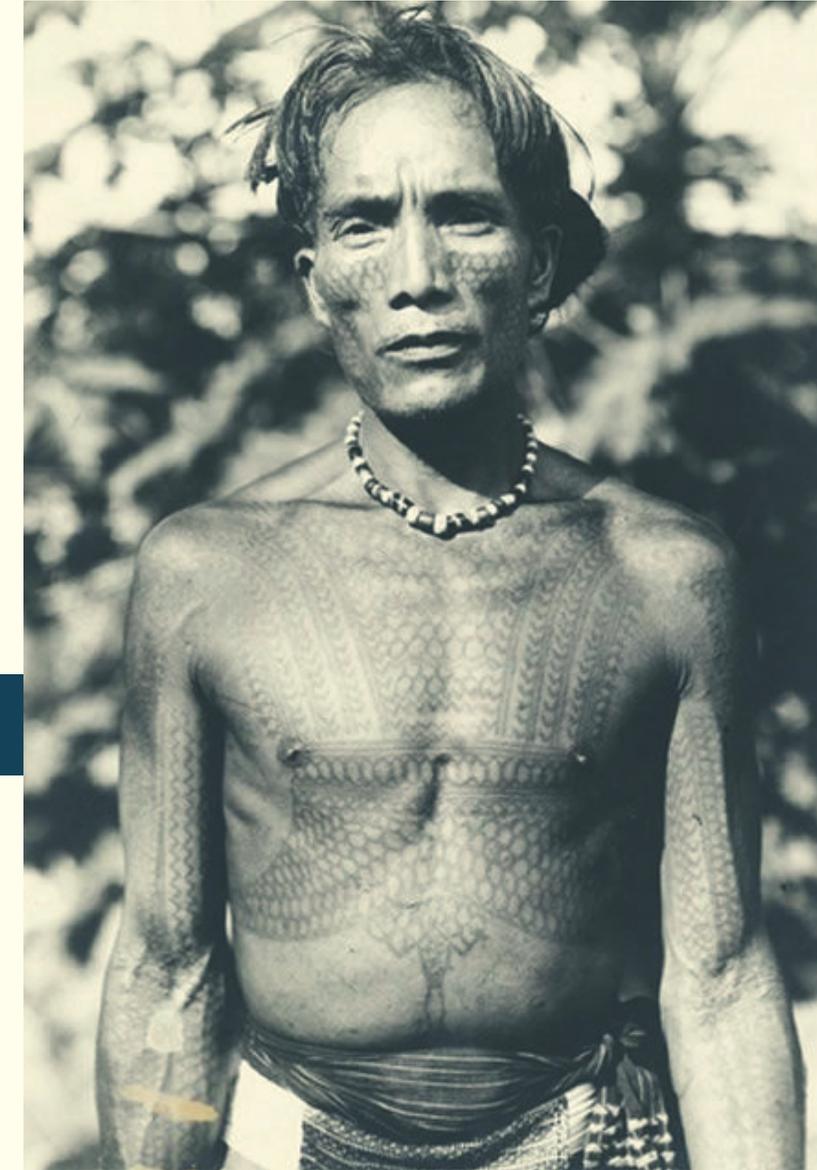


Homes & Daily Living

The houses that the indigenous Tao lived in were derived from the material of their land depending where they were specifically situated in whether it be on the land, mountains, or by the sea (David, 5). "Their houses were built of bamboo, wood, and nipa palm leaves" (David, 5). The practice of agriculture was an important aspect of the Tao's livelihood which included the cultivation of crops and the development of complex irrigation systems such as the rice terraces (David, 5). The nearby ocean served a great deal of providing additional resource for the Tao's. Therefore, they created highly efficient vessels and used multiple fishing methods to garner what the ocean provided (David, 6). Through this, they began to trade with nearby countries.



A traditional Filipino home made out of bamboo, wood, and palm leaves.



A Kalinga man adorned with tattoos.

Tattoos

Tattoos were applied for men to symbolize that they have fought a battle, defeating other warriors. Because of their painterly like designs, the Spaniards called them "Pintados" which means "painted" (Scott, 19). The process of tattooing started with a design laid on the body with tools utilized such as a pitch soot made of small needles that would be pricked onto the body. This process was divided into intervals for the healing of the fresh wounds as often, individuals would be infected (Scott, 20). These tattoos would mostly cover the entire body and rarely the face which is only reserved for the warriors.



Bayanihan Singkil Princess

Art, Literature, Music, & Dances

The artistic expression that was showcased by the Tao's manifested in various mediums that had a common theme of depicting nature, humans, and animals (David, 6). Weapons, tools, pottery and tattoos on the bodies were examples of such expression (David, 6). Oral and written literature encapsulated the meaning of life such as: "boating (talindaw), wedding (ihiman), love (Kumintang), war (Kumintang), victory (tagumpay), cradling an infant (hele), riddles (bugtong), history (Ifugao Hudhod) and heroic battles (indarapatra at sulayman)" (David, 6). Music was utilized to accompany and enrich the story of these literatures with native instruments called: the gangsa, kudyapi, and bansic (David, 6). Dances were influenced by what occurred in their natural environment and the movement of nature. An example is the famous "Tinikling" inspired by the tikling bird tiptoeing over traps (David, 6).



A group of Filipina women pose with their terno.

Terno Dress

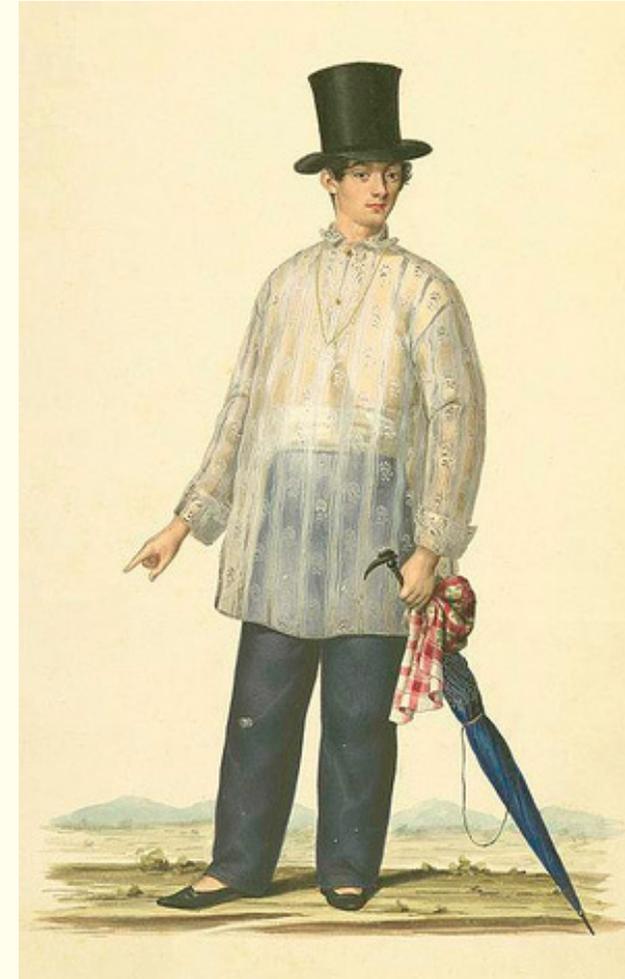
The feminine equivalent of the Barong Tagalog is called the “terno dress” or referred also as the Maria Clara, and Filipiniana dress. It’s original design is derived from the “baro’t saya” which is composed of a loose blouse called “baro” or “camisa” with a fabric worn over the shoulders (“pañuelo” or “fichu”) which were traditionally worn by Luzon and Visayas women. This served as an archetype in which the Spanish modified its design by giving it its signature puffed pagoda sleeves. This style during the 1700s and 1800s intermixed the Victorian silhouette into this formal dress which seems absurd and impractical because of the humid weather of

the country. Ramon Valera is credited for inventing the iconic “butterfly” sleeves that are the most prominent feature of the dress in the 1940’s. Most notable, Imelda Marcos elevated the status of the Terno dress during the 50’s and 60’s. Though both the terno and barong tagalog have been modified by the influences of Spanish and American, it is difficult to take this element out of the cultural image of the Philippines because of its iconography that it has garnered in its history. However, it is important to acknowledge the many other unique clothing attire that pre-colonial Filipino which have avoided Hispanicization.



A Spanish Mestiza wears an earlier version of the Terno.

An example of a Barong Tagalog as worn by an Ilustrado.



Barong Tagalog

The origins of the Barong Tagalog is derived from the Tagalogs of Luzon from the pre-colonial era of the Philippines. The traditional clothing item they wore was called a “baro” which is a “collarless, fitted, sleeve-doublet of rough cotton called ‘canga’ extending slightly below the waist” as Vintado.com states. “Baro” means outfit or clothing in Tagalog. The colour of the light garment determine the social rank of an individual. Red was reserved for the chiefs while black and white was for the common-

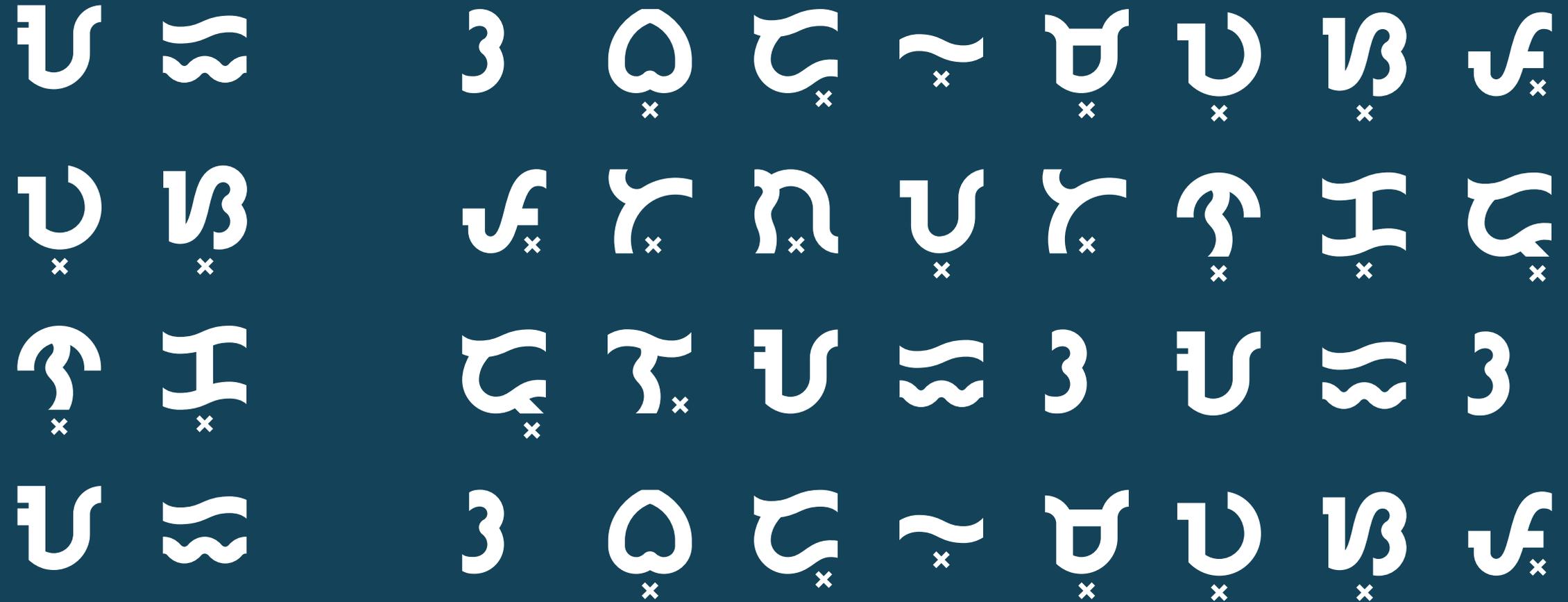
ers. The design of the Barong Tagalog continued to evolve through the Spanish colonization of 1565. The ilustrados “the educated, high class filipinos” wore the clothing item with a distinguished elizabethan collar adorned with lace that extended above the knee with a sash that wrapped around the waist. The barong Tagalog is a loose fitting garment that compliments the hot and humid weather of the Philippines. However, this design element is most likely because the Spaniards wanted to ensure that the natives did not steal anything by having the barong untucked. Another way of distinguishing the ruling class (colonizer) and the colonized, “a constant reminder that they will always be considered lower class, despite their wealth or power.” The 19th Century saw the emergence of hand woven embroidered designs with European influences rendering the original design of the collarless Baro. As a response to this change, the Filipino “Indios” resorted to wearing their collarless long sleeved Baro to deviate from the fancy looking Barongs that were modified by the Spaniards to impose a division of class.



Typeface: Matatas One
A Baybayin Typeface by
Aaron Amar

Language & Education

In order to document and develop such complex literature, the indigenous Tao's had their own writing system and alphabet known as "Baybayin" (David, 8). This writing system did not include the "F" sound and as David states, "It is understandable why many modern day Filipinos may confuse their "Ps" and "Fs" when they speak- the "F" sound is simply not indigenous. Perhaps even unnatural" (8). To transcribe their writings, they utilized available natural resources such as tree sap and pointed sticks to write on leaves, bamboos etc. This was tradition was passed down to children and it was how their culture and traditions were maintained (David, 8). The existence of such a complex systems and culture does not support the inconclusive fact that indigenous Tao's were illiterate and primitive. The Tao's on their own were thriving culturally, agriculturally and proficiently even before the Europeans came (David, 8).



Family Relations

The mother in the Filipino household is the main focus as she is the giver for the family, the bread winner (Mulder 81). She is as Mulder describes, “the primary superego representative” who must be respected and honored by her children at all times (Mulder 81). “She exemplifies goodness, the core of morality, and so epitomizes the moral hierarchy” winner (Mulder 81). This quote emphasizes the key significance and importance of the mother in the Filipino household. It is clear that the mother is viewed as the life line that stems goodness and gratitude from. The father on the other hand is responsible for keeping peace and the overall reputation of the family to the community that they belong in (Mulder 81). Respect in the Filipino culture is an important aspect much like other Asian nations. One’s moral behavior must be showcased through their actions and also through their words winner (Mulder 82).

“Every colonized people are a people in whose soul an inferiority complex has been created by the death and burial of its local cultural originality”

– Fanon.

The Barangays

The Boxer Codex

A manuscript book written in c. 1595 that contains various illustrations of ethnic groups from the Philippines and Far East countries during the initial arrival and contact with the Spaniards. In total, there are fifteen illustrations that depict the indigenous groups of different social hierarchies in the Philippines adorned with their traditional clothing attire and accessory.

Maginoo (Ruling Class)

Lakan

The Lakan or Rajah was the paramount Datu of a large town.

Datu

The Datu were maginoo with personal followings (dulohan or barangay). His responsibilities included governing his people, leading them in war, protecting them from enemies, and settling disputes. Usually, four to ten datu lived with their dulohan in a town.

Maginoo

The Maginoo comprised the ruling class of the Tagalogs. Ginoo was an honorific for both men and women. Panginoo (sometimes shorted to poon when addressing them directly) were maginoo who had many slaves and other valuable property like houses and boats.

Timawa & Maharlika

Timawa

The Timawa were non-slaves who could attach themselves to the datu of their choice. They could use and bequeath a portion of barangay land, and rendered services and agricultural labor to the datu. Members included: illegitimate children of Maginoo and slaves, and former alipin who paid off their debts.

Maharlika

The Maharlika were similar to the Timawa, except they also rendered military services to the datu.

Alipin (Slaves)

Alipin namamahay

Lived in their own houses apart from their debtor. They were allowed to farm a portion of barangay land, but they were expected to turn over a portion of their harvest to their master. Members included: those who inherited debts from namamahay parents, timawa who went into debt, and former male Alipin sa gigilid who married.

Alipin gigilid

Alipin sa gigilid lived in their debtor's house and were entirely dependent on him for food and shelter. Members included: children born in the debtor's house (e.g. children of other alipin, or gintubo), and children of parents who were too poor to raise them.

Text by Henry William Scott

Maginoo



Tagalog royalty in red (the distinctive color of his class) with his wife.



Tagalog maginoo (noble class) wearing blue (the distinctive color of his class) with his wife.



Visayan kadtuan (royal) with his wife wearing red, the distinctive color of their class.



Tagalog royal couple in red, the distinctive color of their class.

Timawa



Zambal hunters hunting



Zambal hunters from Zambales



A couple belonging to the Zambal warrior-hunter class.

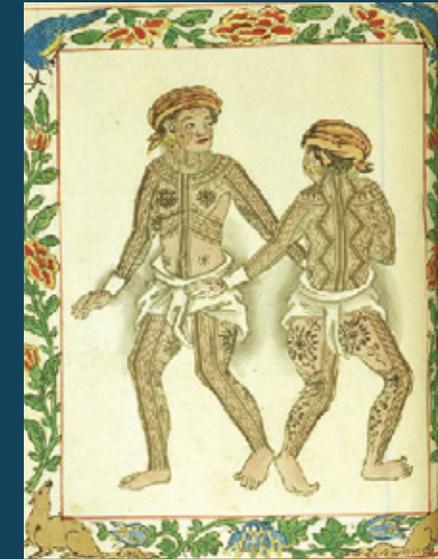


Highland Igorot Warrior from Cagayan Valley or Cordillera Highlands (Possibly Ibanag)

Alipin



Native Visayan uripon (slaves).



Pintados of the Visayas, showing their patok or tattoos.



Couple with tied long hair and Kampilan hilt from Taimei Anchorage, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon



A Binukot Lady from the Cagayan Valley (Possibly Ilocano)



A group of educated mestizo and mestiza pose for a picture.

Tao

Colonial Mentality

Colonial mentality “encompasses our subservient attitudes towards the colonial ruler as well as our predisposition towards aping Western ways”, As Constantino refers (Quimpo 36). This is a mentality that continues to pervade the Philippines’ culture and its people, stemming from years of colonial rule and the desire to emulate Western ideals that destruct its original traditions and values. Examples of this include: The young who want to become citizens of other countries than the Philippines. “Self Flagellation” and the need to explain themselves as part of the “colonialism imposed syndrome”. They boast that it is the third-largest English speaking country, a dominantly Christian nation in Asia, and an example of democracy. Though it flourished, the reign of Marcos impeded the growth of the economy and the Philippines were behind their Asian counterparts.

The colonial concept of beauty “mestizo” pervades and dominates the beauty industry in the Philippines. Implications of this are widely seen through the skin whitening and desire to modify their existing facial features to become western-like. As Quimpo states, “mestizo standard of beauty”; fair skin, large eyes and tall noses (38). “The examination of our colonial consciousness and or eventual liberation from its control must be attended by the evolution and dissemination of a counter-consciousness” (Constantino, 38). This quote calls onto the “Filipinos” to continually pursue the decolonization process. Without the demystifying, the existing colonial structure and standards that are so obviously embedded in the Philippine culture and tradition, “Filipinos” mark themselves as subjects of their colonialists. To rid of such ideals and focus on what the country offers through a non-western prism can the country ever be liberated from colonialism.

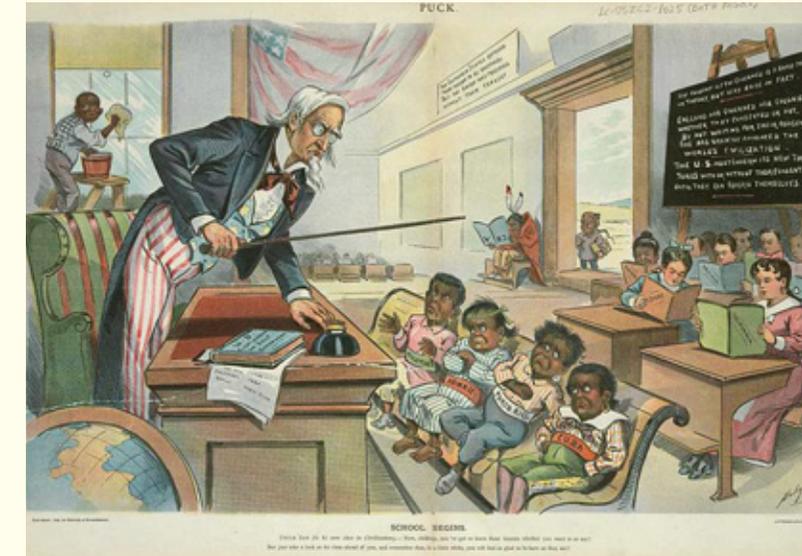
The term “Filipino” has a discriminatory ring to it, as first utilized by the mestizo and ilustrado to differentiate themselves from the lower Indios (natives). The term was used to describe those who were the elite, civilized, yet Filipinos have ignored this very obvious connotation attached to the names. “Prolonged usage of Philippines and Filipino have no doubt dulled the Filipinos awareness of their incongruity and colonial character” (42). To be consciously aware of the ubiquitous colonial signs that exist in the Philippine nation is a step in acknowledging its colonial history and accepting what has been embedded. Eradicating colonial derived ideals is a step in decolonizing the country to move up and preserve what is left from their authentic tradition and culture.



This young village woman remains the very picture of elegance even while working hard fetching water.

“Colonialism leads to self-debasement, alienation, loss of cultural identity, dependency, and internally directed hostility”

– Psychologist Jennifer Kofkin Rudkin.



School Begins by Louis Dalrymple. Print shows Uncle Sam as a teacher, standing behind a desk in front of his new students who are labelled “Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, [and] Philippines”

CM as Oppression

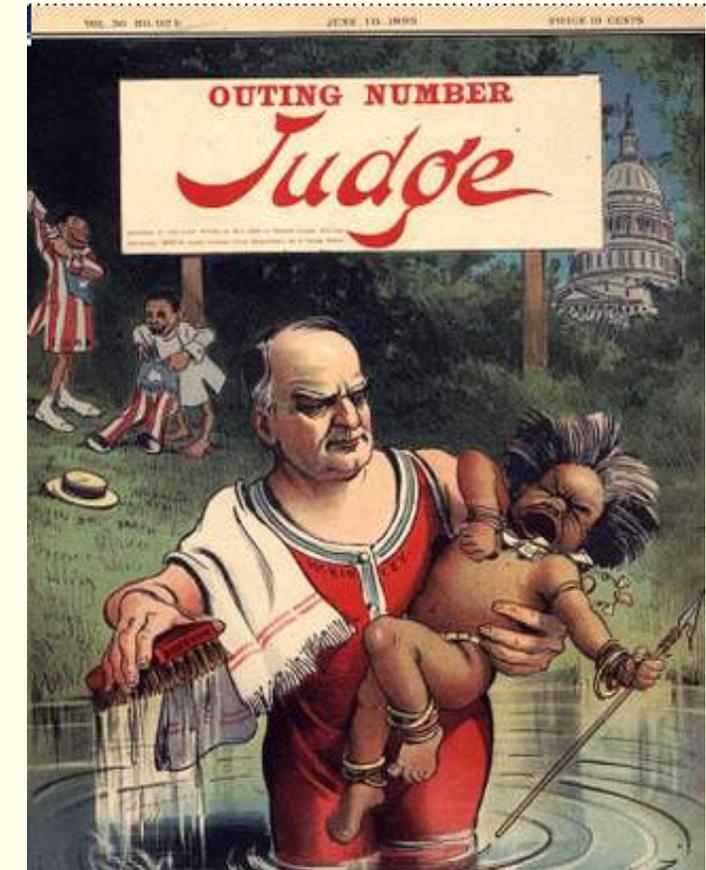
As David defines Oppression in Chapter five of his book as, “a process and condition wherein a group denies the rights, dignity, and worth of another group... may lead to a condition known as internalized oppression” (53). He defines colonialism as another form of oppression as shown through the undesirable and inferiority that is attached to anything Filipino with European ideals promoted as the best (55). Furthermore, colonialism produces internalized oppression with the individual that is being colonized thus, creating a sense of mis-identity (David, 56).

“CM as a major reason for the lack of societal presence, political clout, and social unity of the Filipino American community, and the lack of cultural pride, historical knowledge, and cultural appropriation.” (David, 65)

The Subjugation Filipino Ethnicity & Culture

The Philippine- American war represents the efforts of Filipinos to be independent from the United States during 1899-1902 where thousands of civilians died (David, 25). President William McKinley of the United States argued that the America's presence in the islands is because of "Benevolent Assimilation" stating to the people of America that, "we could not leave themselves- they were unfit for self-government- and they would soon have anarchy and misrule over there worse than Spain was" (David, 26). This showcases the racist and oppressive motives of yet another country to exploit the Tao's land. It also shows how the colonizer strives to dominate the culture by inferiorizing the existing culture that exist. Senator Albert Beveridge also points out that the geographic location of the Philippines makes it ideal for the influx of resources from other nations and can act as a centre for military purposes (David, 27).

He goes on to say, "We must never forget that in dealing with the Filipinos we deal with children" (David, 26).



Cartoon titled "The Filipino's First Bath" depicted on the cover of the Judge magazine, first published on June 10, 1899. U.S. President William McKinley is shown taking a savage baby with a spear into a body of water labeled "Civilization", while on shore figures of two youths (the one on the left labeled "Cuba", the one on the right labeled "Philippines" apparently a caricature of Emilio Aguinaldo) steal McKinley's clothing in the form of US flag design. Under cartoon title text: McKinley: "Oh you dirty boy".



“True History reveals to us that it was not the Filipinos who initiated contact with and tried to begin a relationship with the United States; it was the other way around through the avenue of colonialism, imperialism, and oppression”

(David, 30).

King Philip's Anti-Moro

The native Mindanao Muslims in the islands were referred to as "Moros" by King Philip II of Spain. Because of their religion, they became a natural antagonist for the Spaniards due to their past history as enemies (Quimpo 20). The Spaniards seized their property and rendered them as slaves, depicting them as bandits. It is important to note that the Spaniards imposed upon the natives a negative and discriminatory narrative of the Moros because of their own internalized oppression of the religious group.

"Why do we name ourselves after the king who ordered our enslavement"
- Alunan C. Glang

The government and the christian religion that was established by the Spaniards created propaganda in which the Moros were always the villains and the Spaniards were the heroes (Quimpo 21). The Spaniards had instilled a negative image of the Muslims from early on which still pervades in the Philippines today.

A Filipino Moro poses with his traditional jewelery and clothing.





“Colonialism leads to self-debasement, alienation, loss of cultural identity, dependency, and internally directed hostility”

– Jennifer Kofkin Rudkin.

“they became ashamed of what was their own; they began to admire and praise whatever was foreign and incomprehensible; their spirit was dismayed and it surrendered to... this disgust of themselves”

(Rimonte, 1997, p.58)



Leaders of the reform movement in Spain: Left to right: Rizal, del Pilar, and Ponce (c.1890).

Jose Rizal

To promote “equality” and diminish the hierarchal division amongst the indigenous Tao’s and the privileged, Jose Rizal (the national hero of the Philippines) wanted to use “Filipino” to address all (David, 18). This however, does not create full autonomy as the term itself has a heavy colonial ring to it. This passage describes how Tao’s experience through Rizal’s writing, “they became ashamed of what was their own; they began to admire and praise whatever was foreign and incomprehensible; their spirit was dismayed and it surrendered to... this disgust of themselves” (Rimonte, 1997,p.58). He was executed by the order of Spain in 1896 for criticizing the maltreatment of his people.

The Golden Legend

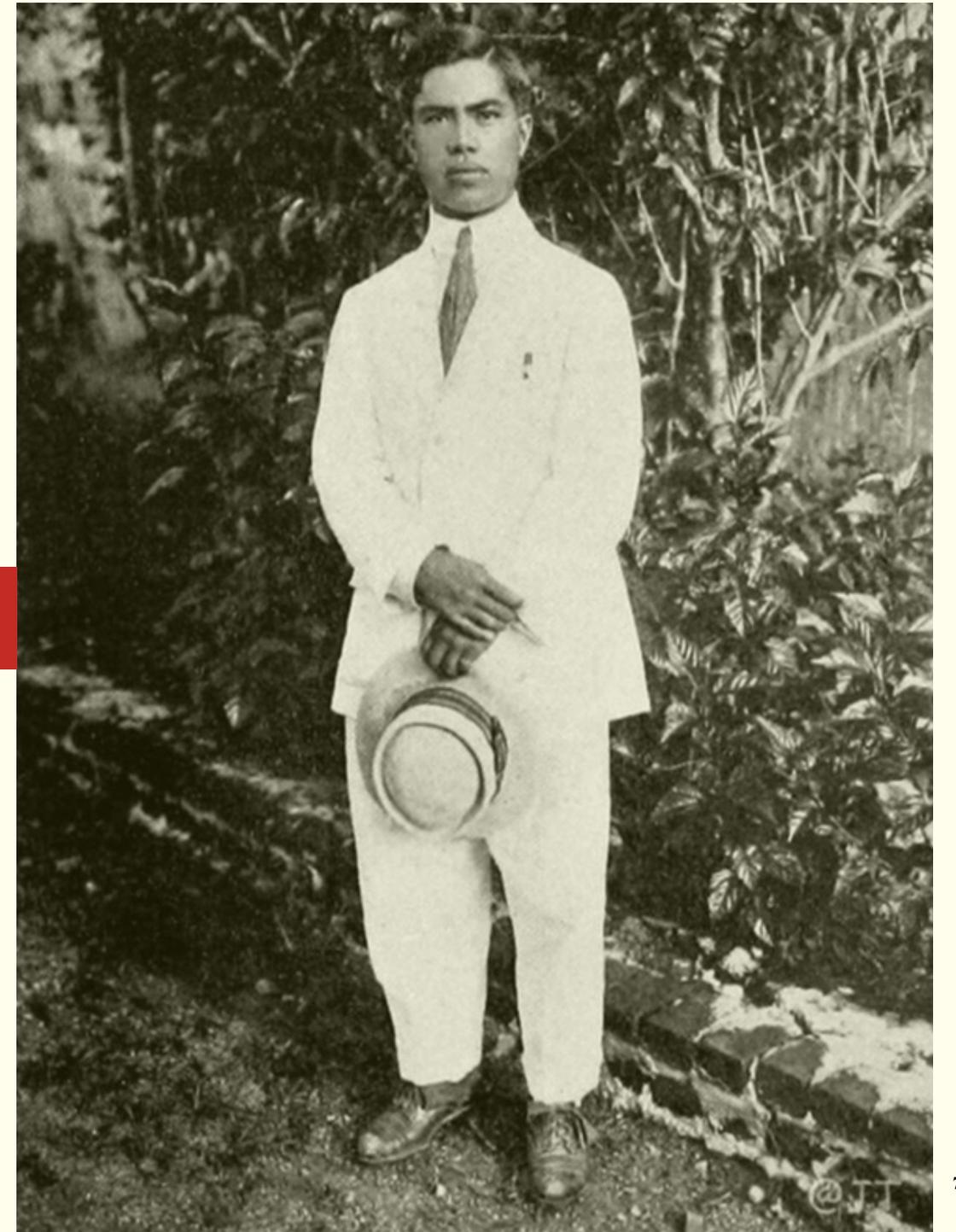
The Tao's developed colonial debt, a condition in which the treatment by the Spaniards and the Americans were seen as a gift to civilize the nation (David, 19). This of course, is an act of propaganda to indoctrinate the indigenous people. The Golden Legend is a preconceived belief in which the pre-colonial Filipinos were savages and through Spain and their assimilation process, they became civilized (David, 20). The exploitive motivation of Spain to hoard wealth from the archipelago islands of the Philippines can be referred to what is known as the "Three G": God, Gold, and Glory" (David, 24).

"Woman in Costume and with Headgear." Photographed in 1902 by Dean Conant Worcester, a zoologist and an early participant in the American colonial commissions in the Philippines resulting from the Spanish-American War.





An Igorot boy and as a man
9 years later, Bontoc, Cordille-
ra Administrative Region,
Northern Luzon, Philippines.



Terminology of Descent

There was a racial hierarchy that was enforced by the Spaniards in the Philippines that is similar to the indian caste system. The highest were the peninsulares, then the Crillos, insulares, and the lowest being the Indios. The conception of the term Filipino came about when the Ilustrados took the term from the Crillos and instilled it with the qualities of being wealthy and educated (Quimpo 10). After the 1900s “Filipino” became adopted to refer to all the “sons and daughters of the country” with prominent Filipino scholars utilizing the term with a capital “F” (Quimpo 10). The shift of using Filipino to formally address the Spaniards born in the Philippines from the Indios has clear colonial racist impetus that is attached. Moreover, the decision of the native elite to identify its people from a word that delineates racial oppression from its colonizer showcases the deeply ingrained mindset of the natives to be like their colonizers, to be identified as a Spaniard (Quimpo 14). When the Propaganda Movement took place in the 1880’s, the Ilustrados wanted to end the abuse caused by the Spaniards thus, demanding the Philippines to be a province of Spain (Quimpo 13). “In an ironic twist, the propagandists tried to give a somewhat anti-Hispanic or anti-colonial meaning to the term Filipino” (Quimpo 14).

Peninsulares

Full blood Spaniards born in the Iberian peninsula

Crillos

Full blood Spaniards born in the colonies

Ilustrados

Local elites

Insulares

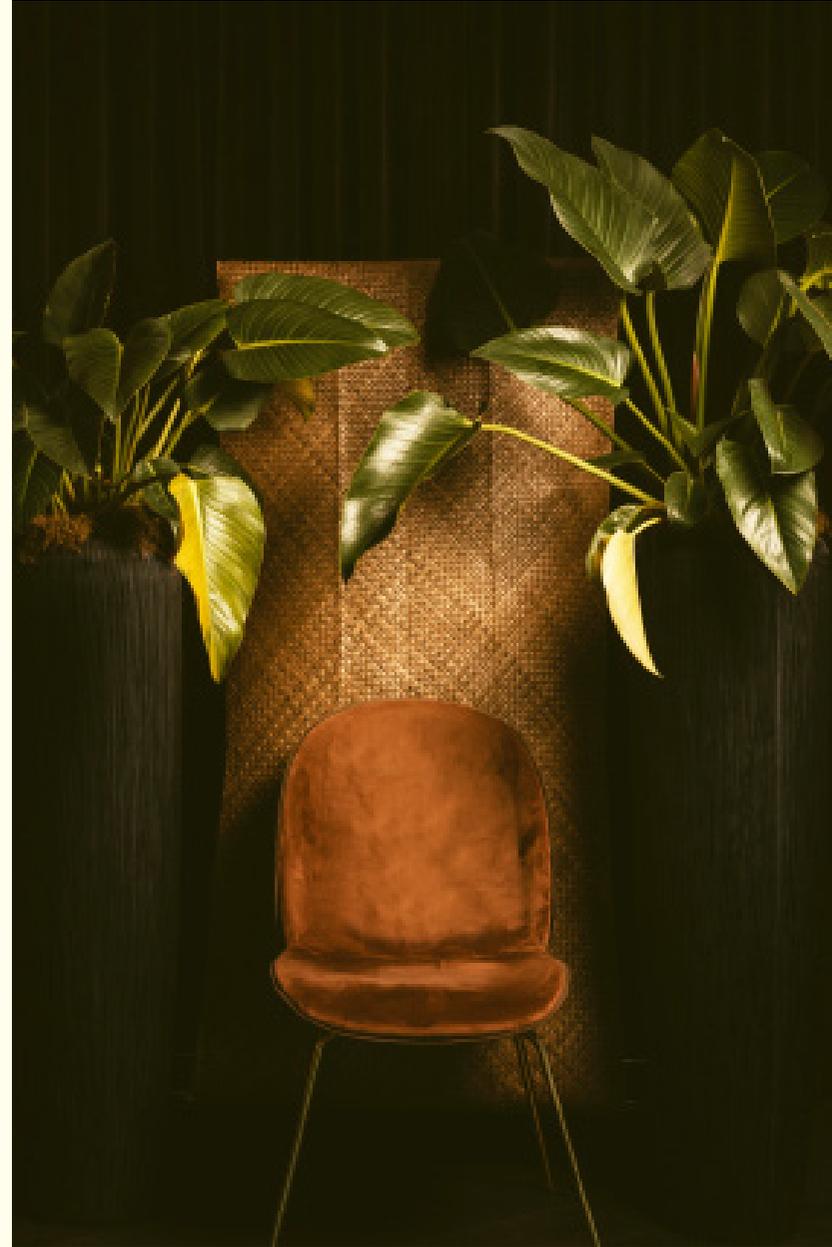
Filipinos that were born on the island.

Indios

Filipino natives

Eradication

In order for the Philippines to progress independently as a nation, they must relinquish the colonial mentality. Deconstructing the colonial mentality, learning its oppressive intent, and recognizing that it is alien to the Filipino mindset. Unlearning this and understanding the oppressive intent of it can begin a shift in the treatment and behavior of Filipino people towards their culture and their mentality.



How do Filipino's view themselves?

Angela

“We are very family oriented. We like to stay together, we don’t like being separated from our family members.”

Did you ever find that Filipino culture and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Definitely. We took up Spanish culture such as a debut which is like a quinceanera. Becoming a woman is a significant thing that we celebrate. For the U.S. I would say we emulate their looks like their facial features of their eyes and noses. I think even now they’ve added english in our education in the Philippines. I think we’ve always been taught and familiar with English.

Do you think we owe much of our practices and traditions because of the colonization from Spain and the United States?

In some ways yes. I think we still have our authentic traditions before they came in our country like the barong for example.

If you found the Filipino culture to be heavily influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and the United States, then how do you think and feel about this?

Going back in our history, I think I would be scared if someone just colonized my country because they probably took over our land that we originated from. They probably forced us to follow their traditions. I think it’s wrong, but you can’t really changed the past. I think we should just embrace what we already have. We need to be happy of what we have already (culture and tradition).

What unique cultural qualities are found there?

When you have a new house you have to bless the house and have a priest to bless it. We are very superstitious.

Have you ever had a feeling or a sense of inferiority due to being a Filipino? Explain.

I worked in Goodlife before and my coworkers were mostly life. The only Filipino that worked there was a janitor. When she went to vacation, they made me do the job she normally did and that made me feel like they were looking down on me. At that point, I quit because I didn’t want to be there. Maybe it was not intentional but it felt like they were putting a stereotype on me that Filipinos are cleaners.

In the Philippines, it is

common for Filipinos to purchase products to lighten their skin tone. Why do you think /feel this might be?

It’s mostly influenced by social media. In TV shows celebrities are always fair skin, the bridge of their noses are always high so it made you want to be like them.

Would you agree that the Philippines has a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Yes, Filipinos always want something outside of the Philippines. Its nice to have. I think it makes you feel different, and this separation makes you unique. For me, Filipino products are better such as food.

Have you had any experiences where you did not want to reveal your ethnic identity?

I haven’t but its because I’m proud to be Filipino. People are surprised to find out I am Filipino because I am tall and the stereotype is that Filipinos are short.

Is the Philippine culture and traditions today authentic?

There some that are authentic such as work ethic. We strive to always do better. Lookwise I don’t necessarily think so. Beauty standards focus more on other countries like Koreans. They wanna look like them or whatever is trending. I think we still have our traditional dances but the millennials are not aware of them because its not taught.



What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

Regardless, we are still known to be hard-working people. We are very welcoming. There are many Filipinos around the world and we like to immigrate. You see us everywhere and I'm proud to be one of them.



Myrill

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

It would be different from standard families in Canada and the U.S. where the only language they would speak is English. For me I would speak English to my parents and they would speak Ilocano to me, a dialect of the Filipino language. We would always have rice. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It's a necessity because I would get scolded if I didn't eat rice. I believe that Ilocanos are the largest populations in Canada and Philippines. There is a large popu-

lation of us in the Philippines and also in Hawaii. We are everywhere.

How did you feel about the Filipino culture and its difference to other cultures you experienced while growing up?

When I was younger, not a lot of people knew what a Filipino is. So we are mostly categorized as either an asian, pacific islander, and Spanish? I don't know.

Did you ever find that Filipino culture and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

While growing up, we would have many branded clothes from the U.S. that we would wear. There was a lot of Western presence growing up as a Filipino.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Very strict. For example, courting. A guy would have to go to a girls parents in order to get permission and would have to please the parents first by having a good job and something to offer, like dowry. The guy has to prove himself.

What unique cultural qualities are found there?

You know the saying, "We're proud to be pinoy"?. Filipinos are very proud to be who they are. The melting pot of what came to be like the Spanish and U.S. influence. We are happy go lucky people.

I feel like many Filipinos are very welcoming in general. Very positive and caring.

Have you ever had a feeling or a sense of inferiority due to being a Filipino?

Apparently from all the other asian countries, we aren't recognized as "asian enough". And also, "Spanish enough" although we have words similar in Tagalog. So it's hard to know where we fit in.

In the Philippines, it is common for Filipinos to purchase products to lighten their skin tone. Why do you think /feel this might be?

It's the beauty standard of being asian. You need to have lighter skin to be beautiful because back in the day when our ancestors worked on the farm, they would have darker skin tones. That would associate to being poor. When you have lighter skin tones, you would be associated by being rich. Filipinos want to lighten their skin so they are perceived like they are not poor. I feel sad because I believe it is unrealistic. We have to embrace who we are as people and how we come into the world. It's unfair to those who have tanner skin because they won't be able to reach that beauty concept. These companies that promote lighter skin tones are gaining a profit from insecure girls and men.

Are there other examples of Filipinos expressing a desire to

look / have Western features?

I do tend to see Filipinos changing their looks through surgery. Filipinos have naturally bigger noses so they want to create a slimmer nose. Growing up, there was a trend of pinching the nose to make it taller. When Filipinos come here, they change their look by having a more posh style.

Would you agree that the Philippines has a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Yes, because they are exposed to the media here rather than in the Philippines. In the Philippines it's more about natural beauty.

Have you had any experiences where you did not want to reveal your ethnic identity?

It's mostly for safety reason. For example if a guy asks me if I am Filipino and I reply yes, they mostly respond by saying we are "exotic". And I don't like that so there's unwanted attention.

Do you think there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

Yes, because Filipinos are not categorized as Asians or Spanish.

If you have been labeled in a stereotypical manner, what did they say about you? How did you feel?

“it’s so vague being Filipino. On the other hand, I like that because we are very different.”

I’ve been labelled “exotic” or not “asian enough”. It doesn’t feel fair because people don’t come from that area, or have not grown up in the Philippines.

Is the Philippine culture and traditions today authentic? Why?

I don’t really know because it’s so vague being Filipino. On the other hand, I like that because we are very different. When we come from the Philippines, a lot of us look different so that may bring us together. You and I look different,

but we are still Filipinos so we can live on this way.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

Everything. I’m very proud. I love how we are as a people. We are very caring and welcoming. We like to share our experiences together. Our food. Our parties are lit.



Bridget

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Growing up in Canada in a Filipinx household it was very difficult feeling a disconnect from my mom’s side of the family. Without knowing Tagalog and only visiting the Philippines once as a young child, I really had to redefine what being Filipinx meant to me. I formed a lot of that identity through my mom’s food- pansit was always in supply.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

I didn’t learn the historical contexts for these colonial influences until very recently. However, I recognize how influenced myself and my mother were by white culture in general.

How would you describe the Philippines’ culture & traditions?

Colourful, joyful and welcoming. Especially as Filipinx-Canadians, growing up every friend of my mom’s became a Tita or Tito, and everyone was welcome!

Do you think there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

I think there’s an overwhelming issue of internal and internalized racism and sexism within certain aspects of Filipinx culture. Especially as a mixed Filipinx woman I constantly am criticized and questioned for my sense of belonging within that culture

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

From my experience, unfortunately yes. I started a project to seek Filipinx authors and creatives and even reaching out to my cousins back home they had very little knowledge of non-western media. Colourism definitely plays a role as well, the fetishization of “light-skinned” Filipinx. I mean, look at the past Miss Universes.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

I am proud to be Filipinx because I know that I belong to a strong and enduring people.

“there’s an overwhelming issue of internal and internalized racism and sexism within certain aspects of Filipinx culture. Especially as a mixed Filipinx woman I constantly am criticized and questioned for my sense of belonging within that culture.”

I look at my mom as an example of Filipinx culture and pride. I see her tenacity reflected in the Filipinx immigrants in North America and that inspires me to strive for the best.

Anonymous

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Growing up as a Filipino in a Filipino household is amazing. You could see a strong dependency and importance of family and society. People are always willing to help and share even if they don’t have enough.

How would you describe the Philippines’ culture & traditions?

Always willing to help others in times of difficulties (bayanihan). A blend of Filipino and spanish tradition and having strong faith when it comes to values and beliefs.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

Filipino are compassionate, selflessly eager, courageous always ready to help anybody in need.

Mary

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

It was mainly speaking our language which is not our national language which is Tagalog. We spoke Ilongo and only spoke English when guests came around. It was a household that focused on cleanliness. Sunday's are always for God. Traditions consisted of blessing your elders. Living there is different from here. I lived in a more rural area but not farm. It was a township, it was very nice. It was very religious and superstitious.

How did you feel about the Filipino culture and its difference to other cultures you experienced while growing up?

Elementary school was the same but going to a high school everyone was Italian or Portuguese. There are some similarities in family bonding. The way we see religion and daily also can be very different. We like to live with our families when we are older. Other cultures like to venture out and create their own life.

Did you ever find that Filipino culture and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Absolutely. Celebrations, food, language inspired by Spain. Beauty standards from Spain and America, very Eurocentric features. Mother's and father's want their son's and daughters to have Eurocentric features like tall nose bridges, fair skin, and big eyes. We also look for those qualities in our partners "mestizo" like.

Do you think we owe much of our practices and traditions because of the colonization from Spain and the United States?

Yes, I believe so. From our language, it's thanks to Spain. The military bases before and after WWII America was there. A lot of their culture blended into ours. For everything there is a good and bad side. The good side is we get to see more our cultures expand. Like when we go to immigrate to another country we don't have a hard time because we under-

stand some cultural aspects of that country. The only bad side side is we too start to lose our own culture. Im in a love hate relationship with it really. I'm a Catholic but when i think about it, "would my life be different if Spain didn't colonize the Philippines? would my beliefs be different? would I still be the same person?" It makes you think. It's a hard question to answer.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Very hospitable. We are a very loud culture and very kind. But we tend to be very judgmental towards each other as a culture. We don't like to see each other succeed and that's the bad part of our culture sometimes. We are very nit-picky, but that's mostly the older generations.

Have you ever had a feeling or a sense of inferiority due to being a Filipino?

Mostly in Chinese restaurants. When I go with a group of Filipinos the service was not good. I'm afraid that my boyfriend's parents who are Chinese would find out that I was Filipino. They have said some bad things about Filipino people and culture so that makes me feel inferior being Filipino. But what can I do? I am Filipino. We have a bad stereotype from people like we are uneducated, jungle asians.

In the Philippines, it is common for Filipinos to purchase products to lighten their skin tone. Why do you think /feel this might be?

On top of the colonization of Spain, we have to blame the media. As a people, Filipino's are dark skinned but our media only showcases fair skinned "mestizo" "mestiza". Somebody who is half white. You never really see those who are fitting of the bill of "you know you are Filipino". You always find someone who is ambiguous.

Are there other examples of Filipinos expressing a desire to look / have Western features?

That mentality of "If I can't have it, I want it even more" in the Philippines when you see someone who is fair skinned from an affluent background. Fair skinned not just a topic of colonization but as an asian problem of the lighter you are, the richer you are. For Filipinos we see being fair skinned as an affluent person.

Would you agree that the Philippines has a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

We wanna experience what we don't have. I don't know why we want to be something else. I feel like is our culture not rich enough with history? because it's very colourful alone.

Have you had any experiences where you did not want to reveal your ethnic identity?

To my boyfriends parents. My ex was Chinese and his parents were too. It was fine but they would throw in derogatory remarks like, "oh



“We wanna experience what we don’t have. I don’t know why we want to be something else. I feel like is our culture not rich enough with history? because it’s very colourful alone.”

you should come here more so you can clean our house!”. They think it’s funny but it’s not. I’m very happy for people to know that I am Filipino, because I am proud. It’s only in some situations where it makes everyone uncomfortable that I don’t want them to know I am Filipino.

Do you think there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

I’ve noticed that on Instagram of people claiming that they’re not pure Filipino. They wanna seem exotic or half.

Is the Philippine culture and traditions today authentic?

I think it’s authentic. The way I see Filipinos is that we are accepting of foreigners. I think that’s a hard question actually.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

I am proud of how resilient we are as a culture. I’m proud that we are hardworking. We give up our comfort, family, and sometimes our values to go abroad to give our families a life that can be better. Our wills are strong and I’m proud that a lot of us still hold that value of religion and because we practice it.



Kc

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Step in the house and remove your nasty ass coronavirus carrying shoes!!! & get tsinelas!!! && cook the rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner. In general: family, religion, & food is everything in my Filipino household.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Influenced by Spain in terms of our Filipino language. Words in Tagalog are similar to Spanish. Influenced by US in a lot of ways, like western/US beauty standards (white skin, pointy nose), using spoon, knife and fork (b/c we use our hands to eat), and the fact how english is a mandatory language to learn in Philippines. I'm sure US has corrupted Philippines in many, many ways.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Family oriented & taking pride in our history. Food is so important, plus no one leaves without a full stomach.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

Yes, white people think we just poor as fuck!!! And we not that poor, just got different ways of living.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Yes!!! Filipinos believe that having white skin, smaller & thinner nose, and living a materialistic way of life is the standards of beauty and lifestyle.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

There are many reasons why I'm proud to be Filipino! I am proud to be Filipino because as Filipinos, we always put our family and family heritage first. We look out for one another and ensure that we remember how hard our ancestors worked in order to live the present life we have. I take pride in the fact that my mother and father are immigrants & have come from a developing country to find a better life here in Canada. I am proud of many

Filipinos who immigrate to work hard for their families. I am proud of the food and different flavours/seasoning we add in our dishes. I am proud of our resilience, especially when Philippines experiences natural disasters & must come together as a country.

“I am proud of our resilience, especially when Philippines experiences natural disasters & must come together as a country.”

Anonymous

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Always prayed before meals, huge emphasis on family celebrations for particular birthday parties and followed specific traditions during christmas and New year's.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Alot of Filipino variety shows reference American pop culture quite a bit (in terms of music, sports etc).

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Alot of it has religious roots and has ties to the influence of Roman Catholicism brought about by the Spaniards. Huge emphasis on family dedication and respecting elders. School is also very important in the culture.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

Somewhat, especially in regards to stereotypes about Filipinos.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

I'd say so. Some news outlets report on US pop culture and sporting activities (NBA especially because many Filipinos love basketball).

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

Strong faith (religious / in oneself) and the emphasis on the support of family to succeed and grow (plus great food as well)



Aaron

“We have a culture of sticking together through the good times and the bad and even in the toughest moments in life, you’ll see us smiling.”

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Growing up in a Filipino household was amazing. I didn’t have any brothers or sisters but I was very close with my cousins and grand parents. Every holiday, long weekend, etc. there was a family gathering at our house with platters of Filipino dishes, karaoke singing and our aunts and uncles having loud conversations.

How would you describe the Philippines’ culture & traditions?

I would describe the Filipino culture as positive and family oriented. We have a culture of sticking together through the good times and the bad and even in the toughest moments in life, you’ll see us smiling

Have you ever had a feeling or a sense of inferiority due to being a Filipino?

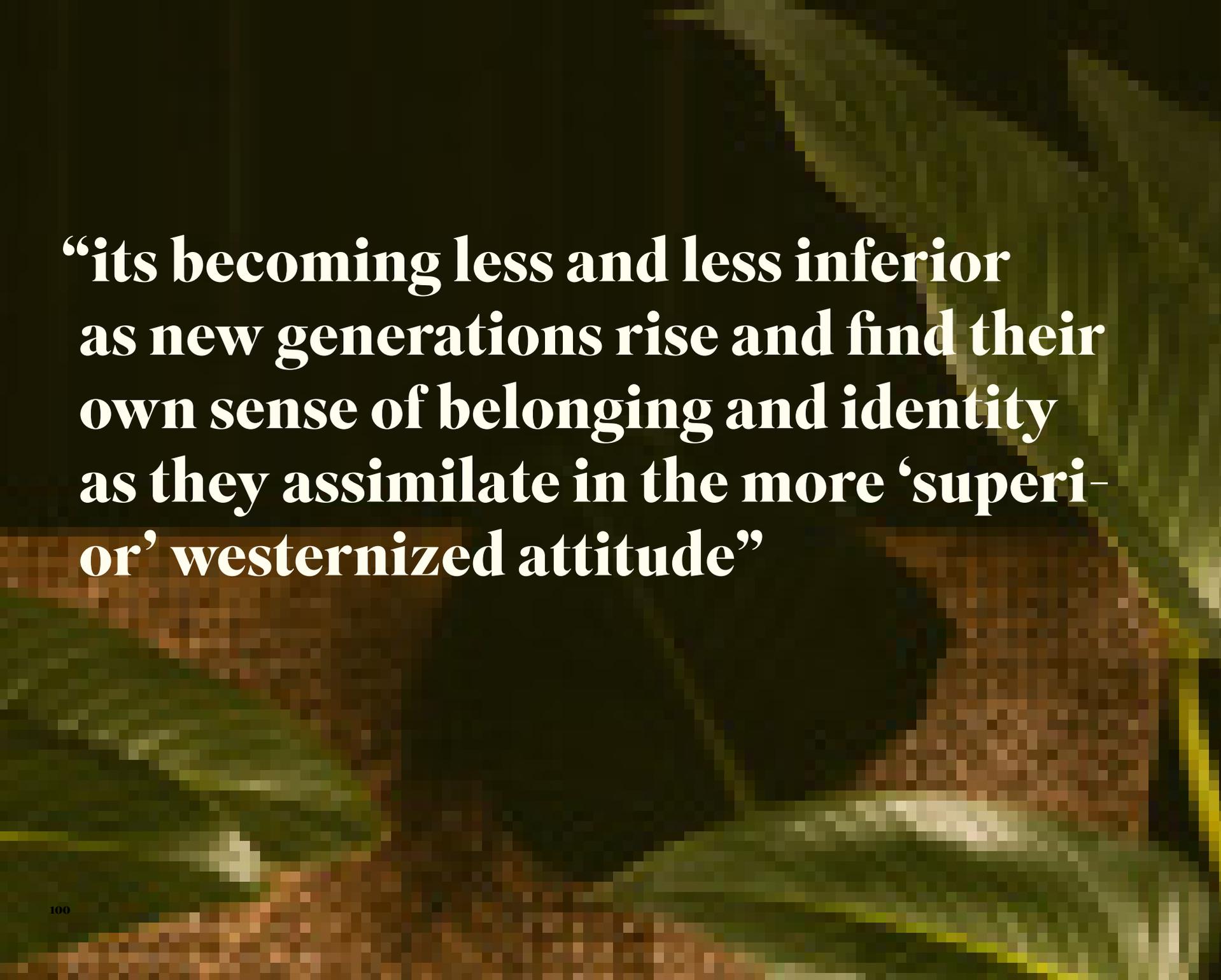
I’ve never felt inferiority being a Filipino. I’m proud to be a Filipino born here in Toronto. We’re blessed to live in an inclusive country like Canada where everyone accepts you for who you are.

Would you agree that the Philippines has a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

I definitely believe that Filipinos have a preference for western American products and culture. Since our recent history has been heavily involved with the US, it’s only natural for Filipinos to value American products and culture.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

The number one reason why I’m proud to be a Filipino is our resilience and support of one another. When I was young and even until today, my family supports one another in everything we do.



**“its becoming less and less inferior
as new generations rise and find their
own sense of belonging and identity
as they assimilate in the more ‘superi-
or’ westernized attitude”**

June

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Language- because my stepdad is white we have to speak English at home but we can still liberally speak Tagalog at home. Food- food was composed of a combo of filipino and westernize cuisine. e.g. sweet spaghetti with hotdog as toppings. Religion- mildly religious household. My mom is a devout Catholic but we all only go to church on special occasions. We all went to a catholic school. Celebrations- very westernized, influenced mainly by my stepdad and his family.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Absolutely. Its a marriage of different cultures that have colonized the country, notwithstanding the influence of the Chinese and Japanese cultures as well.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Diverse, ethnic, colourful.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

absolutely, but its becoming less and less inferior as new generations rise and find their own sense of belonging and identity as they assimilate in the more "superior" westernized attitude.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Yes. it is evident everywhere from the clothes, the culture, the attitude etc.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

Work-ethic, resilience, humility.

Angela

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Food: always great always made by my mom or my grandmother. In the PH, I lived in a sort of small community of connected houses that linked to my mom's side of the family so we would always go eat at my grandma's house which was literally downstairs. In Canada, its only my immediate family now so its not everyday that we eat filipino food now.

Religion: I've noticed it's more religious in the Philippines (prominently Catholic in Manila i think) and always wondered if I would be more religious if I stayed there. I remember my cousins having likea bible group before. I was young so I just went along with my parents to Church because we had to of course. I guess cause Canada is more secular and cultural environment has influenced my faith so I'm not as religious here.

Language: same like religion if you don't practice it then it'll be less refined? I guess. I have a vocabulary of a 6 year old lol that's when i came to Canada and didn't really make an effort nor was I encouraged enough to develop my tagalog speaking.

Music: so much karaoke.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

I don't know much about the culture and traditions of Spain I think I just assume that we started whatever we have other than Religion and certain words and names that we use like the time of day lol Certainly re-garding American music its pretty prominent in our culture whatever is top in USA I always heard playing in the Philippines.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Very loud and vibrant

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

Maybe? I've lived in Canada more than I've lived in the Philippines. I've experienced different cultures and made friends from different cultures so I feel some detachment to the Filipino culture. When I go home or I'm surrounded by people (like more than 2 people) that are more "in tune" with the Filipino culture and are more eloquent when

they speak Tagalog yeah I would feel inferior. But, I also don't feel inferior since most of the time I don't care how detached I am. I'm just proud to be Filipino but also identify as a Canadian.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Possibly, the skin whitening culture in the Philippines makes me believe it's something influenced by Western culture. Definitely remember the malls all having Western brands like H&M, FF21, McDonalds and more, than Filipino brands. But I find that more of their "everyday" is like Filipino culture cause you'll see more Jollibees around. I don't know how that stats between filipino clothing brands vs american but I assume Penshoppe is pretty up there as well but they outsource their model/ ambassadors so theres another point Philippines having a stronger preference of Western culture sooo yeah actually they do lol.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

Despite the industrialization, pollution, terrible infrastructure, it's a beautiful and colourful place and I'm proud of that. Also, I think despite the colonization that Philippines went through (with the Spanish and the Americans) like it went through so much adversity and came out with, albeit influenced culture, but still quite dependent and unique culture so I'm very proud of our history. We're like a "we can get through it" kinda nation. The music is pretty nice as well, OPM, I've been out of touch with OPM since coming to Canada until hearing more of the indie scene with Moira De La Torre, Ben&Ben, Coeli.

“I also don't feel inferior since most of the time I don't care how detached I am. I'm just proud to be Filipino but also identify as a Canadian.”

Sheera

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

It was very religious. I learned a lot of traditional Filipino things like going to church, being respectful to your elder, and making sure school is important etc. Since I wasn't born in the Philippines, I only spoke English but as I grew older, I adapted to speaking more Filipino specifically Tagalog.

How did you feel about the Filipino culture and its difference to other cultures you experienced while growing up?

I think we are very reserved and we like to stick to our traditions. An example would be learning how to pray and use the rosary. It was heavily religious.

Do you think we owe much of our practices and traditions because of the colonization from Spain and the United States?

I would agree to that. If they hadn't colonized the Philippines, we wouldn't have been able to adapt over time from when they took over the Philippines. I view this positively because without their influence, we would not have our identity today.

Are there other examples of Filipinos expressing a desire to look / have Western features?

I think it's because they stereotype us as uneducated or not as high-class. Since we want to look like them, we want to fit in. Being born here in Canada they want to be anything but themselves.

Have you had any experiences where you did not want to reveal your ethnic identity?

In unsafe conditions only. I've had discomfort revealing my identity because they automatically think when you're Filipino, you are easy to hit on.

Do you think there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

In the media, you never see Filipinos and it's always other cultures. As a Filipino I would prefer to see more of Filipinos in the media for representation.

Is the Philippine culture and traditions today authentic? Why?

I feel that it's not because the Spanish and the U.S. in the past so throughout the generations it has changed and we've carried that.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

People view us with a sunshine attitude. I'm happy that my dad and mom were able to come to Canada so I have more opportunities here. I feel like in the Philippines you don't have as many jobs, healthcare like it is here abroad.



Paulina

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

It was overall good. Food is always great and I loved that food was a way to bring people together and spend time with one another. I think we have good traditions (e.g., respect for the elderly) but I think some of these traditions do need to be updated to the current era (e.g., respecting the elderly but also acknowledging that age does not necessarily come with knowledge or wisdom and that young people do have valid opinions and good suggestions). I also love the strong familial bond Filipinos have. Even when we are far away from our families, we want to be involved and make efforts to let them know they are loved.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Yes. This is unavoidable however, because Spain did colonize the Philippines and the United States was a major presence in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation.

It was unavoidable that they would leave marks in our culture and traditions that would last a long time.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

I think the Philippines' cultures and traditions are very rooted in loyalty to the family, respect to our elders, and familial love.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

I think some people do feel this sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture, especially now in this age where many people feel that they are free to express their somewhat less than friendly views towards immigrants and other races. For example, I know some parents who dislike it when their children talk in Tagalog and they think the Filipino accent is ugly and sounds less prestigious. For a long time (and even now), I do sometimes feel like people view me and other Filipinos as inferior due to our accents, but I read this beautiful line in a book one time, saying that an accent is just the marriage of two languages.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Yes. I think this is primarily because the media is saturated with Western products and culture. I would often look at my cousins' Facebook posts (they live in the Philippines) and they are very obsessed with Western shows and products. This is likely due to the colonizations that occurred in the Philippines. Western people were often viewed as superior, and so, many elements of their culture has been integrated into ours. This is a big reason why a lot of people patronize whitening products and a lot of Filipinos view being fair-skinned as beautiful and being tanned as slightly inferior.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

There's so many! The Philippines is such a beautiful country and the sense of community is unparalleled. I love that people are always ready to help one another when the need arises. People are always smiling, and I do love the strong familial bond in our culture.

I especially love that there is a strong emphasis on respect, because that is so important growing up. I think Filipinos grow up with the idea that everyone deserves respect and I'm proud of that. Nowadays, a lot of people can't even show the most basic modicum of respect to others. A lot of people just think about themselves and forget that others also have needs and feelings. I also love that we have national pride. We are very eager to represent our country and we are very proud when a fellow Filipino does well and accomplishes big things.

“It was unavoidable that they would leave marks in our culture and traditions that would last a long time.”

Kristine

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

I didn't realize I was Asian or Filipino until I was around 10 because I thought the only races were white and black and my skin tone isn't dark. We didn't talk about the Philippines or culture unless it was fought up directly (e.g. "going to visit family in the Philippines"). As I got older I started to educate myself about the culture and embrace it more, as I shyed away from anything associated with Asian culture due to fear of getting mocked by my white friends. My sister says our childhood was "whitewashed" due to the lack of Filipino customs and traditions we grew up with. Being Filipino was never part of my own self-identification until I got older and became proud of it.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

I'm unfamiliar with Spanish culture and traditions, so I'm unsure, but I'm aware of the Spanish influence in the Philippines, such as how much of Tagalog consists of Spanish. As well, I think the ideology that white = epitome of beauty is something influenced by the Spanish and American.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

I think our culture and traditions are a lot of fun, and consist of a lot of hospitality and a sense of family. However, I'm also still unfamiliar with a lot of Filipino traditions as we never celebrate or talk about them at home.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

Yes, but undeservingly so. I think Filipino culture/Filipinos are viewed as inferior by others.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

It has such close family ties and in times of calamities and catastrophes Filipinos always manage to be resilient.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

Seeing every Filipino is inspiring and enough to feel proud to be a Filipino. Resiliency, adaptability & having courage to face bad times, us Filipinos have shown being compassionate, selflessly eager and always ready to help anybody in need.



“Being Filipino was never part of my own self-identification until I got older and became proud of it.”



Jason

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

I have very fond memories growing up in the Philippines and being in a Filipino household. Back home it's always exciting because the family is complete and we get to share our experiences with each other. Like any other culture, we Filipinos have many traditions some of which emphasize greatly on holidays like Christmas and religious festivities too. There are many festivals that celebrate a particular event or person. In my province Aklan, we have an ate atehan festival that celebrates the indigenous people of the

Province. Overall, it's a very lively and fun culture to grow up in.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Yes. The language has many similarities to Spanish and even our traditional costume has influences. Because of the relationship of the Philippines with America, they are heavily present in our media and we often emulate the physical features of their people. Tradition wise I think we have kept most of the old

practices though I know it may have changed because of the two countries influence.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

We are a colourful nation with made up of different languages, traditions, practices and people. The Philippines has over 7000 islands that make up the archipelago. It's inevitable that the people who live in these islands have created unique cultural traditions of their own. It's more important to preserve these practices rather than choose one single tradition that symbolizes the Philippines. The diversity is what makes it a nation.

Do you think there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

I believe so. In my experience, Filipinos are very critical of their own people. Everyone is always judging one another for who they are and it is mostly negative. I think this criticism is linked to our history in which we were led to believe that we are inferior to the Spaniards and Americans.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

Yes, if it comes down to clothing brands and food. I think that mostly millennials believe that products outside of their country are better in quality and there's a lack of support for locally made goods.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud of to be a Filipino?

I am proud to be Filipino because of the hard work ethic that I have been instilled with since I was young. Every Filipino mother specifically, who work abroad are one of the most hardworking people that I can think of. To leave your family in the Philippines and live in a different country, work, provide for your family, and pull your family to a better place is what they do. There's resilience and mental fortitude that Filipinos are born with. That no matter their current disposition, they will work and work in order to create a better livelihood not just for theme selves, but for their family.

“the people who live in these islands have created unique cultural traditions of their own. It’s more important to preserve these practices rather than choose one single tradition that symbolizes the Philippines. The diversity in the island is what makes it a nation.”

Jenn

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Growing up in a Filipino household first and foremost is a Catholic household. Not every Filipino, but a lot of us are religious/spiritual. In a lot of Filipino households you're bound to find in the living room or somewhere in the foyer near the front door a section that's decked out in religious antiques like crosses and decorative candles with saints plastered on the front. In my household, we typically speak English withstanding my brother and I were born and raised in Canada — we do however brush up on speaking Tagalog whenever there are guests. We acknowledge all of our family friends as family members with titles like "tita/tito" and "ate/kuya" as we were raised to be respectful, especially with our elders who we bless with their hand to our foreheads. Greetings and goodbyes are as intimate as parties in which food plays a big role in socializing. Every minute at a get together you are beckoned to eat and the food is always just...amazing. Whenever it's that time of year again for the Taste of Manila festival, my mom would say, "We have that in our kitchen!", though we'd attend regardless as it is such a lively event with a huge turnout and no Filipino turns down the opportunity to celebrate with their community.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

I'd say there is definitely similarities to the culture and traditions of Spain given our country's colonization of Spanish people that I find has influenced our cuisine and traditions, such as a Filipino debut in comparison to a Spanish Quinceañera — a largely celebrated event that is a pivotal moment in growing up.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

The first word that pops into my head is celebrated. I think our people definitely take pride in our culture and traditions in the ways that we try to get everybody involved to create a lively setting with food, music, dance, and decorations.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

I do think there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture as we are often put into the category of caregivers. We are in fact natural caregivers, but we are so much more than the positions we are stereotypically given such as doctors and nurses, and nannies.

There are enough public murals in the Philippines, singers, and other ground breaking celebrities from our home country that prove our people thrive with whatever we are given.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

The overall culture of the Philippines is both Eastern and Western but considerably more skewed towards the West in terms of our cultural desires in modern times. Nonetheless, the Philippines has been increasingly involved on the global scale with production and culture.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

I am proud to be Filipino because we exceed expectations through inventions of creativity with passion and integrity that root back to our ancestors who made something out of nothing in an impoverished place. We find beauty in all things nature and we take care of it. We love the sun and we're all full of energy. We're proud so that other generations can be proud and so forth.

“We are in fact natural caregivers, but we are so much more than the positions we are stereotypically given such as doctors and nurses, and nannies.”

Tara

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

I was born in Canada, but any time I felt Filipino in our house was whenever we had a lot of gatherings for birthdays or house warmings - any celebration where we could invite family, friends, coworkers, and neighbours and eat good food together. In the Philippines, the same experience was heightened by being able to be around hundreds of members of my family, in the place they all grew up together.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Moreso a general modernization from Western culture and the natural shift of Western lifestyle and culture, but catered to a still very Filipino audience and community.

How would you describe the Philippines' culture & traditions?

Filipino culture heavily surrounds service and family: serving others; gathering with family, consideration for family, every act you do in favour of your family.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

I think there is a sense of inferiority in Filipino culture because many Filipinos are in the service industry (like janitorial jobs) and find themselves working super hard to support their family, and at the same time, to please people they don't even know.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

The Philippines has an infatuation for Western products and culture because it's a luxury to have something from abroad, or to show success outside of the Philippines.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

I personally have a strong sense of nostalgia and sentimentality, so I appreciate the culture that I have grown up around and how welcomed I am to my own culture. Filipino culture is something that I find myself bonding over with new people who can relate to my experiences or teach me new things about Filipino culture.

“The Philippines has an infatuation for Western products and culture because it’s a luxury to have something from abroad, or to show success outside of the Philippines.”

**“For a long time
(and even now), I do
sometimes feel like
people view me and
other Filipinos as
inferior due to our
accents, but I read this**

**beautiful line in a
book one time, saying
that an accent is just
the marriage of two
languages. That’s what
I try to remember.”**

- Paulina

Anonymous

What was it like growing up being Filipino in a Filipino household?

Although I grew up in a biracial household, I was still very exposed and very closely connected to my Filipino side. When you envision parties or family gatherings, the first thing that comes to mind is “Loud.” The adults are always drunk and laughing out loud or singing karaoke. The mothers are always engaged in chismis (gossip) and bragging about their children’s achievements to try and one-up each other. The downside is hearing your mother scolding you in the car randomly on the way home just to hear her question, “Why can’t you be more like [insert name]?” Which takes a toll on your self-esteem because everyone is obviously different from one another. Moreover, you always have to show respect and greet the elders (mano)--even if you don’t know them. And, a Filipino party wouldn’t be complete without a LOT of Filipino food... to the point where the hosts beg you to take baon (supply of food) home. My mom never fully spoke to me in Tagalog, only saying occasional phrases and words every once in a while. However, it’s not that difficult for me to understand sometimes since

Filipinos grew up learning English. Therefore, they often use “Taglish” (Mixture of English and Tagalog) while they’re speaking.

I grew up listening to a lot of old-school music that my mom grew up listening to--a lot of which were famous English songs like Celine Dion, Bryan Adams, Shania Twain.. but also some famous Filipino songs too at parties. There’s this unspoken thing about being musically inclined if you’re Filipino, unfortunately, I didn’t inherit any of those genes as no one in my family can sing.

Since I grew up in a biracial family, a lot of the food my mom made was more-so “Americanized.” Yes, I ate Filipino food sometimes, but I didn’t eat white rice three times a day every day as my Filipino friends did.

I was baptized in another religion because of my dad, despite my mom being Catholic. Although, I went to a Catholic school and was very much exposed to both cultures. I personally believe that their views are very much alike, just certain aspects are slightly different. Filipinos are avid Catholics and strongly believe in their faith and in God.

When I was young, my mom would light up a candle and make me pray the rosary with her every night. Even until now, she still regularly attends mass; this goes to show how much she believes in her faith.

As much as I love the Filipino culture, some of the traditional views that transcend unto our parents can be very toxic--especially to the mental health of children. They grew up in a very authoritative household where the parents have the final say and are always considered right, even if they’re not. Therefore, the most “communication” involves screaming and yelling rather than having a normal and calm conversation. They’ll blame your losses on all your weaknesses or on completely irrelevant things. It is also very hard to feel a supportive or encouraging environment pertaining to something that you might be passionate about, especially if it is outside the norm. At the most crucial times of your life, you often find yourself relying more on your peers rather than your parents; however, this isn’t necessarily the case for all Filipino households. Moreover, having strict parents and toxic environments often create rebellious children. Luckily, at the peak of my

teenage years, my mom eventually realized that grasping unto traditional views can often impede a family’s relationship.

Did you ever find that Filipino cultures and traditions to be influenced by the culture and traditions of Spain and/or the United States?

Yes of course. Since the Philippines was colonized by both countries, a lot of its culture and traditions were molded around it. Many Spanish and Filipino words and foods are similar. Many of the traditional Filipina costumes were inspired by the Spanish, and even hold Spanish names. Moreover, the reason why Filipinos are quite fluent in English are due to the influence of the United States.

How would you describe the Philippines’ culture & traditions?

The Philippines’ culture & tradition has a strong emphasis on family. Everything that you do must take your family into consideration as well.

Do you feel that there is a sense of inferiority in the Filipino culture?

No, I don’t think Filipinos feel inferior; maybe they might feel that way because of their status or upbringing, but definitely not because of their culture. Filipinos take pride in who they are and always feel grateful for where

they are in life because of their faith in God and because of their parents.

Does the Philippines have a strong preference for Western (American) products and culture?

I personally believe so because many Filipinos regard America so highly. Many Filipinos strive to move to the United States in search of a better life to support themselves and their families. Knowing the English language is perceived to be correlated with status; the more fluent, the “smarter” you are etc.

What are some of the reasons that you are proud to be a Filipino?

The hospitality. Filipinos love to help each other out and are so thoughtful and kind-hearted. You will always feel welcomed in a room filled with them, even if you are a stranger.

“Filipinos are avid Catholics and strongly believe in their faith and in God.”



Insights

Their view on being Filipino

Amongst the twenty respondents that are included in this book, there is a sense of pride in being an individual who is Filipino. The emphasis on the sheer beauty of the archipelago is always emphasized in the answers that are given. No matter what province they may have originated from in the Philippines, they are ready to tell you all the fun and amazing qualities that it has. The value of respect in the culture is evident in how each individual was brought up. The idea that everyone regardless of who deserves respect and should be welcomed. Hospitality is an admirable quality that is ingrained in every Filipino which they take pride of. It is the sense of community and resilience that binds Filipino's amid trials and tribulations they and their country may be facing. A smile on their face is what one can expect.

Growing up in a Filipino household

Each interviewee and the respondent had an overarching theme with their answers on this topic. There is an emphasis on the importance of family and togetherness that binds every Filipino to their household. Filipinos are family-oriented. Being immersed in the Filipino culture specifically through the language and food is largely talked about by the respondents. Religion also played a role in such instances. It is the norm to be Catholic, to go to church, and to practice religious traditions that abstain from secularism.

Perception of cultures and traditions of the Philippines

Despite their awareness of the influence that Spain and the United States have on the Filipino culture, they seem to have adopted these qualities and infused it to be of their own unique Filipino culture. A melting pot that is unified by the differences of which its' rich history has brought forth. Many describe the culture as being lively, colourful, tumultuous, and celebratory. There is a unique quality that every Filipino can

attest to and that is the cultures' sense of hospitality and familial bond. The deeply rooted respect and loyalty that is showcased amongst Filipino's is part of the normative standards in the culture. Filipinos feel the need to make those who visit them, feel safe and apart of their family no matter who they may be.

Negative aspects that are prevalent in the culture (inferiority)

Although it is clear that there is a sense of nationalism amongst being a Filipino, there are some interesting traits that respondents have pointed out to express their critical views that this group has. An example would be the authoritativeness that parents transcend onto their children. It seems that Filipino parents are very critical of their children in terms of what they do and what they accomplish. It is the norm for parents to constantly compare a child to another child, pointing out their weaknesses. It is important to say that these views do not represent all Filipino parents and they are examples based on the respondents answers in this book. There is a theme of Filipino's being looked down upon and condescended on based on their occupation. Many Filipinos who immigrate take on jobs that are in the category of caregivers as one respondent puts it, "We are in fact natural caregivers, but we are so much more than the positions we are stereotypically given such as doctors, nurses, and nannies." The stereotypes that are given to Filipino individuals creates a limiting and condescending view not just to this group but to many who are labeled. Another example is that some parents prefer their children to strictly speak English alone as they view Tagalog (national language) as inferior and less prestigious to English. The preference for supporting more Western products and attributing the qualities of American culture is also prevalent. Many respondents believe that the media is the main influencer of such advertisements as it indoctrinates viewers to think that it is better than what they currently have. On the

other end of the spectrum, some respondents are not aware if there is a sense of inferiority that exists in the culture.

Based on the interviewees and questionnaire that was answered by the participants, it is clear that their subjective upbringing molds their opinion of how they see themselves as a Filipino and what they think about the culture and tradition. Commonalities based on cultural qualities such as how one grew up in a typical Filipino household and the upbringing imposed by their parents create a shared attribute amongst other Filipinos. The influence of western media and culture is prevalent amongst Filipinos and they have a high awareness of this quality that is perpetuated by the media. Many point out that in the media, there is a white dominance that overpowers the Filipino quality in an individual. This manifests in the form of a Filipino person wanting to have fairer skin, speaking English more than Tagalog, and wearing Western clothing brands. This, of course, is an archetype that we are providing. Because the media influences the population, the focus on emphasizing on Filipino culture and traditions becomes the responsibility of the family to instill such values on the next generation.

Despite the brutality and violence that colonization has done on the land and the people of the archipelago, the effects that have transcended throughout many generations was inevitable. Though there is a strong emphasis on the early history of the Philippines by the Spaniards and the Americans, it is also important to shed light on the precolonial aspects of the culture. Doing so, there is value in understanding that the first Filipinos before the occupation of the country by invaders, were a thriving society that utilized the land and resources for their gain, invented tools, and had their education system. Recognizing the creativity and innovation

of what our ancestors have produced, provides an awareness that our culture and traditions are uniquely inspirational and what the Western world presents does not necessarily have to be regarded as the standard. In creating a discourse of colonial mentality amongst Filipinos will hopefully allow them to question parts of themselves both good and bad and how this constitutes to their view of themselves and as a group. Only through the examination of one's behaviour and how this correlates to one's culture, can an individual begin to change their way of thinking.

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- 19.** John Tewell. Philippines, place and date unknown, probably 1940s after WWII
- 21.** Pedro Murillo Velarde, 1734.
- 24.** John, Tewell. US Army photographer, aerial camera, native Filipinos, Luzon, Philippines, 1920s
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