

Filipino Americans: From “Indians” to “Asians” in the United States

College of Education
22 June 2018: Sacramento, CA

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Lecture Outline

- Introduction
- Spanish Colonialism: Manila Galleons
- U.S. Colonialism:
 - Spanish American War 1898
 - Philippine American War 1899
 - Labor & Agriculture
 - Racism & Exclusion
- Post-1965 Immigration: Families, College
- Contemporary: Global Migration

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Spaniards Colonialism in the Philippines

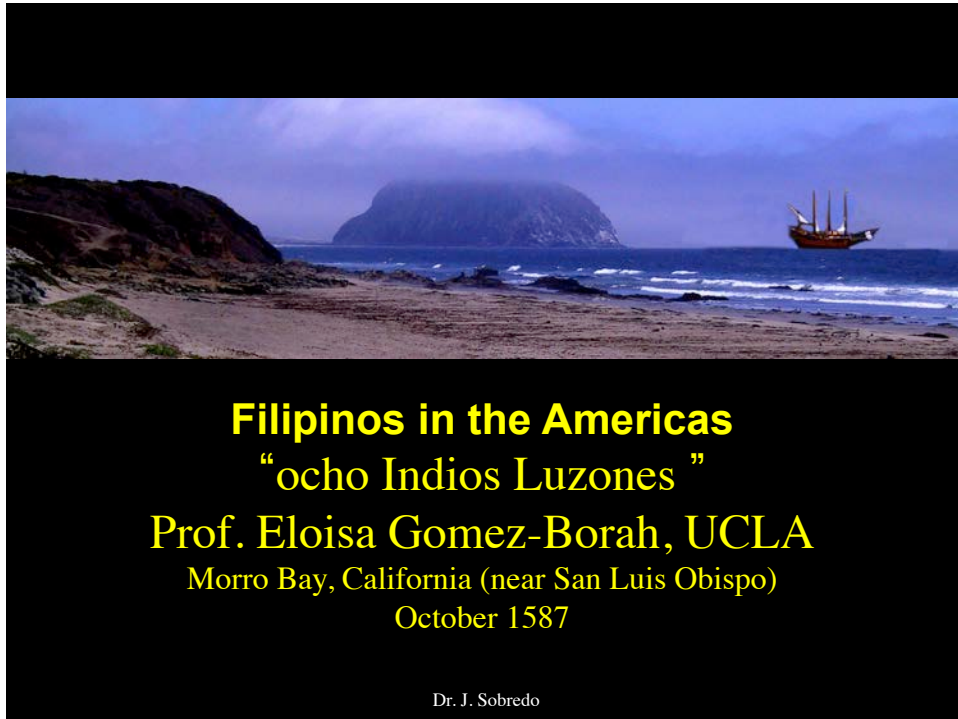
- **FAILED** for ~44 Years (cf. Cortez & Pizarro)
- Search for the “Spice Islands” (India/China)
- God & religion were used for convenience
- **Ferdinand Magellan 1521** (Portugal/Spain)
 - Killed by armed & skilled Filipinos in Cebu
- **Juan Sebastián Elcano**: 1st circumnavigator
- **Future attempts failed**: captured, killed, sold

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Manila Galleon Trade: 16th-18th Century

- **Galleons from Manila to Acapulco**
 - Miguel Lopez y Legazpi: 1565 *MEXICO* (RT)
- **Goods from China, Manila to Acapulco**
 - China: Silks & Porcelains
 - SE Asia: spices (Indonesia)
 - Mexico: silver & food products
- **Dennis O. Flynn & Arturo Giraldez (UOP)**:
 - Largest economy & trade in the world
 - 1st Global economic system

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Filipinos in the Americas

“ocho Indios Luzones”

Prof. Eloisa Gomez-Borah, UCLA

Morro Bay, California (near San Luis Obispo)

October 1587

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Dr. Jose Rizal: Filipino Nationalism

- *Ilustrado* class: wealthy & highly educated
 - Filipino, Chinese & Spanish: multi-lingual
- Studied in Europe (Germany & Spain)
- Wanted more civil rights for Filipino
- Traveled across the United States (1888)
 - SF (quarantined in Angel Island): racism
 - Stockton & Sacramento: ferry & train
 - Chicago & New York: train → Europe
- Filipino nationalist (esp. by Americans)

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American Colonialism

- CONTEXT: U.S. wanted ports in China
- **Spanish-American War 1898:**
 - Cuba → 1st act of U.S. was to attack Manila!
 - **Secret orders to Com. Dewey (T. Roosevelt)**
 - Spain & the “Mock Battle”: surrendered to US
 - Treaty of Paris 1898 (Dec.): \$20M war damages
 - International Law: Phils. = U.S. territory
- **Philippine-American War 1899**
 - Racist War: “Injuns,” “N-word,” brainless monkeys” (social Darwinism → genocide)

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Battle of Manila Bay: 1 May 1898

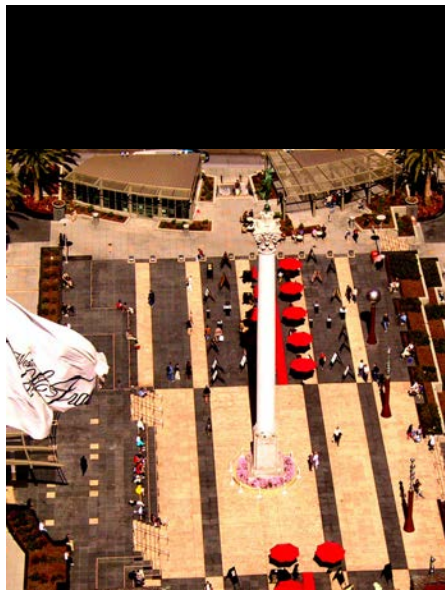
- *USS Olympia*: modern naval warship
- Annihilates an antiquated & unprepared Spanish Fleet
- News of spectacular victory reaches the US
- Commodore Dewey becomes a national hero

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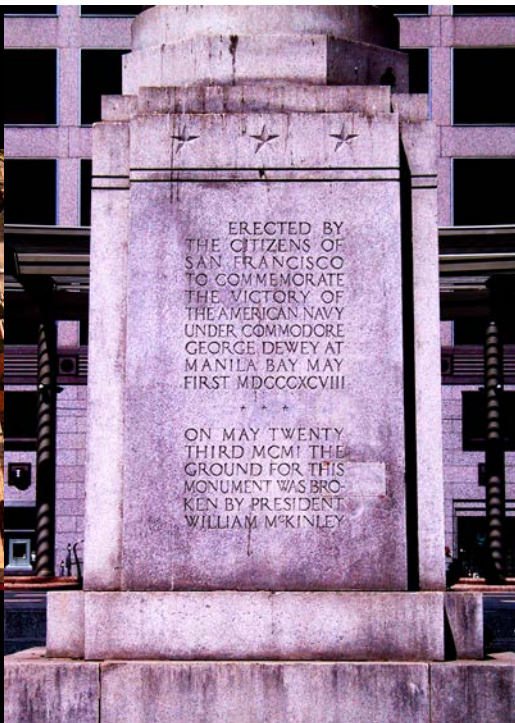
“Line up, fellows, the niggers are in
here all through these yards!”

-Nebraska Volunteer, testifying before US
Congress on the 4 Feb. 1899 event.

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Photos: James Sobredo



Philippines came into contact with America

* *HEIGHT OF RACISM* *

“brainless monkeys”

“dog-eaters”

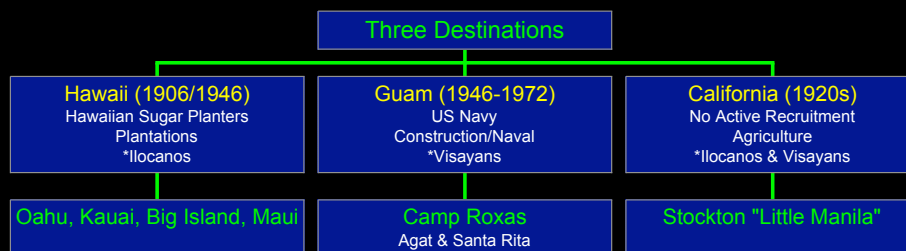
“niggers”

“gooks”

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Pre-1965 Immigration: mostly men, agricultural labor

Contract Labor Recruitment



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Hawaiian Labor Migration



- **Sugar Plantations, 1906/46**
 - Labor Recruitment 1906
 - **Albert J Judd, US recruiter**
 - Ilocos region & Visayas
 - Japanese labor unions
 - Continued until 1934
- **Post-World War II, 1946**
 - Labor shortage (Roxas!)
 - *Labor Recruitment* (7,000)
 - Visayas & Luzon

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California Labor Migration 1920s-1930s

- * 2nd migration from Hawaii to California
- * Better jobs & salaries than Hawaii
- - -
- * Great Depression 1929
- * Low wages & difficult transition

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Labor Migration: 1920s-1930s

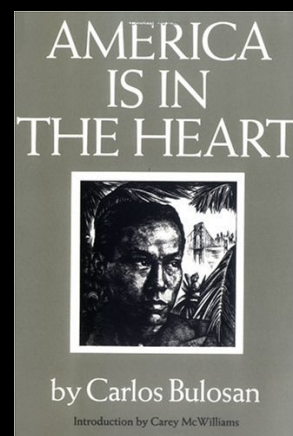
- Filipinos = U.S. '*nationals*'
 - 1904 Supreme Court Decision
 - *NO CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS!*
- Agriculture labor sector (80%)
- Domestic service (urban areas)
 - San Francisco: Kearny Street
 - Seattle: King Street
 - Los Angeles: Bunker/Temple
- Fish Canneries
 - Seattle & Alaska

Photos: James Sobredo



Carlos Bulosan: *America is in the Heart*

- LUZON: Bayambang, Pangasinan Province
- Seattle, Washington: salmon fisheries
- Great Depression & Life of Migrant Worker
- Stockton, California Agriculture economy



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Excluding the “Third Asiatic invasion”

Filipinos were becoming an
“undesirable” migrant labor force

*No longer the “pensionados”

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Economic Context: Sugar

- US sugar prices were declining
- US sugar farmers suffering economically
- Philippine sugar were seen as an economic threat to American sugar economy
- Attempts to pass “tariffs” on Philippine sugar imports (protectionism)
- Great Depression 1929: 25% unemployment

Labor Unions Wanted Exclusion

- California Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO)
- Opposed Filipino immigration
- FAs were perceived as a threat to white workers' jobs
- Cf. Dennis Kearney & Workingmen's Party



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1934 FILIPINO EXCLUSION: Tydings-McDuffie Act

- - -

*Promises Philippines Independence

*Excludes Filipino labor

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Asian Immigration Exclusion

- 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act
 - Excluded all Chinese labor immigration
 - Merchants & diplomats exempted
- 1907-1908 Gentlemen's Agreement
- 1917 & 1924 Immigration Act
 - “Barred Zone”
 - “All aliens ineligible to citizenship”
- 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act
- All Asians are excluded from entering the US

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Something to think about the term: “Illegal immigrants”

Only Asians had race-based exclusion laws
that were passed specifically against them...

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Filipinos formed United Farm Workers Union with Mexicans 1965 Strike



Photos:
<https://www.reuther.wayne.edu/>
Wayne State University

(7448) Pete Velasco, Larry Itliong, and Cesar Chavez, 1968

Posted August 8th, 2008 by eclemens

in *UFW, United Farm Workers*

Pete Velasco, Larry Itliong, and Cesar Chavez meet at the Filipino Hall, Delano, California, Christmas, circa 1968.



Date: circa 1968

Physdesc: Photograph

Photographer: Mike Calamar



The Importance of Filipinos in the United Farm Workers Union

Larry Itliong: union leader

Andy Imutan: union organizer

Philip Vera Cruz: intellectual

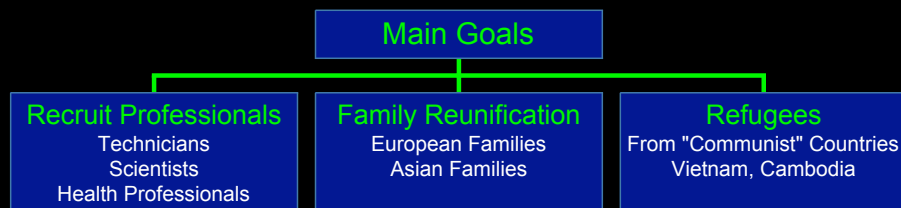
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Larry Itliong PBS film trailer
Marissa Aroy, *Delano Manonngs* film



Post-1965 Immigration
mostly women, educated, non-ag economy

1965 Immigration Reform Act



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Pause ... Lecture Outline

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Asian Global Migrations: Transnationals & the New Global Economy

A Case Study of Filipino Global Migration:
Aklan, Stockton, Qatar

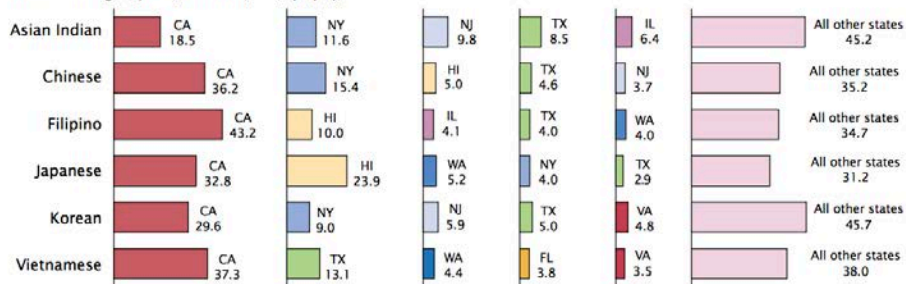
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Filipinos are Largest Asian Population in California (2010 Census)

Figure 10.

Percentage Distribution of Largest Detailed Asian Groups by State: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)



Note: Percentages are based on the alone-or-in-any-combination population for each group. Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census special tabulation.

Source: US Census 2010



Remittances: Philippines

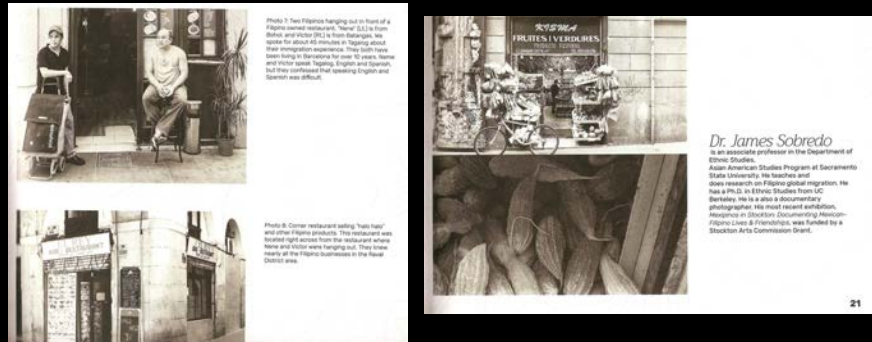
- 4th largest recipient
- 2010 remittances:
 - India \$55 billion
 - China \$51
 - Mexico \$22.6
 - Philippines \$21.3
- 10 percent of GDP
 - Not good for economy
- Remittances (2011)
 - KSA
 - \$1.6 Billion
 - UAE (Dubai)
 - \$877.9 M
 - Qatar
 - \$282.7 M
 - Italy
 - \$550.6 M

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Filipinos in Barcelona, Spain 2017

*Published in *Maganda*: May 2018



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Summary & Lessons Learned

- Significant differences:
 - Pre-1965 = mostly men, agriculture labor
 - Post-1965 = mostly women, educated, service sector
- Filipinos now migrate globally: not just Phils → U.S.
- Globalized economy
 - dynamic flow of migrants & goods: goes “both ways”
 - not just one-way flow of poor to rich areas: e.g. Aunt Lucia
- Classic socio-economic models are inadequate
 - Philippine economy is booming
 - 2nd fastest growth rates in Asia (after China): #1 call centers/BPO
 - U.S. society & economy is “complicated”

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Maraming Salamat...Thank you



“Salinas Lettuce Field, Highway 101”

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Canon EOS A2E, Velvia, 1999