

In-House Content Academy for

# Born of Empires: Filipino Americans in the United States and Virginia, 1565 to the Present

Presentation for:

## *Philippine History 101 – Pre-Colonial to 1898*

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# The Philippines: A Nation Born of Empires – China, Japan, Spain and the United States



# The Philippines Archipelago

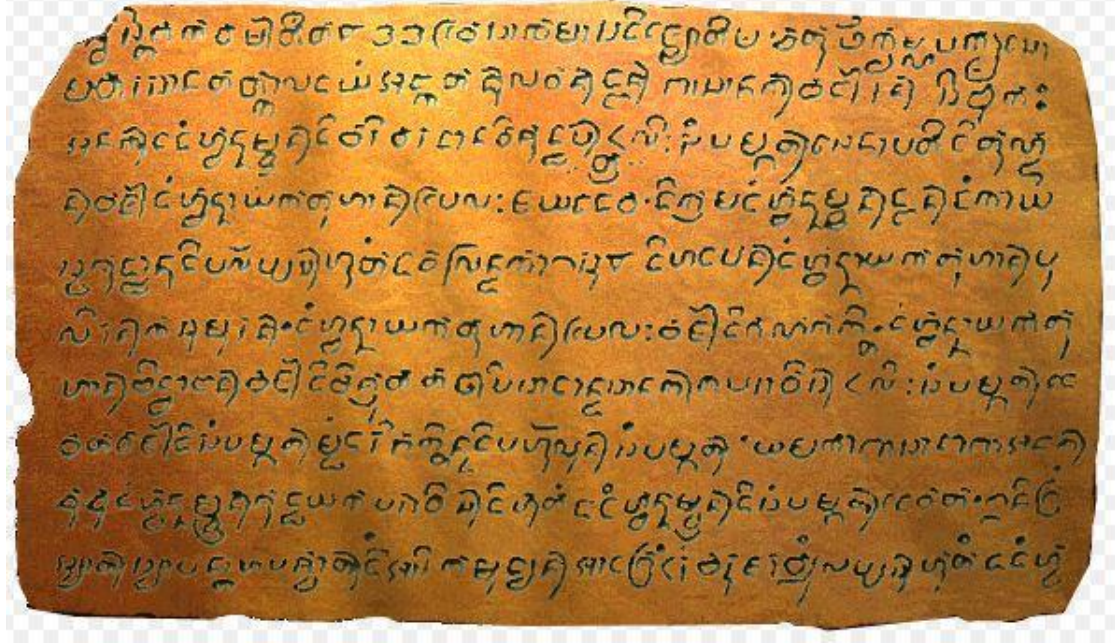
The Philippine archipelago consists of 7107 Islands; from north to south over 1152 miles situated between the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. The archipelago is 115,831 square miles, roughly the same size as Italy. Only 2773 of the islands have names with the elongated Luzon in the North the largest island, and Mindanao to the south the second largest. These two islands constitute two thirds of the country's land mass. The islands between Luzon and Mindanao are the Visayan islands that include Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Negros, Bohol and Panay. A mini archipelago to the West located in the South China Sea makes up Palawan Province which consists of 1700 satellite islands many without names.

Archaeological evidence indicates earliest human presence in the archipelago dates as far back as 250,000 years ago with the earliest settlements located on the Palawan Island. However, most anthropologists agree that the archipelago was continuously and permanently inhabited by human beings (*Homo sapiens*) 50,000 to 47,000 years ago based on a fossil known as the *Tabon* man discovered on the island of Palawan.





## The Philippines Before Colonization



The earliest Filipinos or maritime oriented tribes dating back to 5,000 BCE. As late as 4000 BCE Asians migrating to the Philippines used “balangay” watercraft outfitted with bamboo outriggers.

**Laguna Copperplate Inscription (LCI)** (above) was written in 900 C.E. It is inscribed with a Sanskrit calendar more than 500 years old. It was written before the barangay (village or settlement) of Manila turned into a Muslim community, and more than six centuries before the Europeans first learned of the archipelago’s existence. The LCI is written in a Sanskrit type language that includes old Javanese, old Malay and old Tagalog words. This copperplate noted the existence of towns that are still in the Philippines to this day on the island of Luzon such as Bulacan and Manila. The LCI illustrates the influence of Sanskrit on modern Philippine languages. It also indicates that slavery played a role in pre-colonial society.

# The Philippines: A Nation built by Maritime Trade

The earliest Filipinos or maritime oriented tribes dated back to 5,000 BCE. As late as 4000 BCE Asians migrated to the Philippines using *balangay* watercraft outfitted with bamboo outriggers. The Philippines was part of a trading region that stretched from the Persian Gulf to South China and encompassed much of present-day Southeast Asia to include China, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. As it is today, the Straits of the Malacca formed a key “choke point” for oceangoing trade between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. First references to this trade are contained in Chinese records written in 671 CE with the trade being well-established by 851 CE. The key trading port in the Philippines during this period was located at the city of Butuan on the island of Mindanao. Chinese records indicate that in 1003 CE the first Filipino diplomats arrived to conduct trade negotiations with the Chinese Empire. The products traded included hardwoods, beeswax, cinnamon, civet cats, cowry shells, abaca and gold.

Above right: Civet cats were collected for their musk which was used to make perfume. Until recently the makers of Chanel No. 5 use the musk from civet cats in the production of their perfume. Today the company uses artificial chemicals to achieve the scent.

Below right: Abaca is used to make durable cloth like products such as rope, chords, types of canvas and paper money because of the strength of these natural fibers.





# The Philippines: The Role of Religion before Colonization

Religion has always been an important part of Filipino culture. Prior to the arrival of Islam, anthropologists believe most of the inhabitants of the archipelago were animistic who attributed their worship to supernatural powers and elements of Nature such as ancestors, stones, the wind, headlands of water and trees. Some precolonial Filipino groups considered it a sacrilege to cut down an old tree. Also included in these animistic beliefs were malevolent demons known as *aswang* which translates into “flesh eaters” and *manananggal* or night flying ghouls who sucked out the fetuses of expectant mothers.

Islam arrived and became an important religion in the Philippines archipelago on or about 1371, 150 years before the arrival of the Spaniards. The Filipino followers of Islam built communities on Mindanao and Luzon. They established the city Manila on the island of Luzon and present capital of the Philippines. The Moslem founders of the city called it *Maynila*. The city had a population of 20,000 before the arrival of the Spaniards. The photograph to the right is an old Maranaw style mosque in Taraka, Lanao Del Sur, Philippines. Indigenous Filipino mosques were built in this architectural style until the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century. 5% of Filipinos today are practitioners of Islam.



# Filipino Society before Colonization by Spain and the United States

Precolonial Filipino society consisted of three groups: the ruling elite, their peers and followers, and slaves. Slaves in the precolonial Philippine societies were slaves in large part because they were indebted to the local chieftain or *datu*. The population of a Filipino village, city, region, or island were known as a *barangay*. In the precolonial Philippines slaves could also be people captured during inter-community conflicts, or during raids conducted to capture additional resources for community. The datu was often selected or agreed to for a variety of reasons ranging from bravery in battle to expanding the influence and survival of his village or group. As a result, blood ties, or being related to the datu through blood or marriage guaranteed a family's position within a Filipino group. It was possible for Filipinos to move up and down this social hierarchy. In addition, the principle of the bilateral or extended family was and still is an important part of Filipino culture.

Finally, during this period the eight major languages of the Philippines developed: Cabuano, Tagalog, Hiligaynon, Waray, Llocnao, Panagasinan, Bicolano, and Kapampangan. These languages are still spoken in the Philippines.

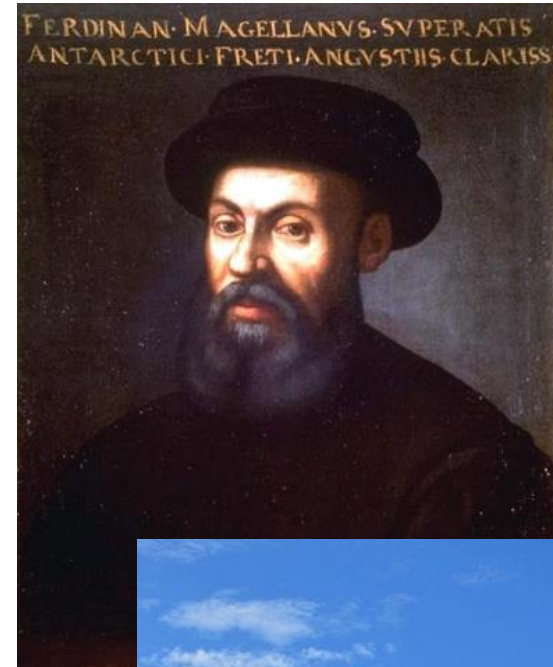


This painting by Rhon Edward depicts a young mother and her child belonging to the maharlika caste and their abode a Totogan in the background. Maharlika in Tagalog means nobility. However, anthropologists note that the pre-colonial Philippines had three classes of people within the barangay: Datus and the maginoo at the top, maharlika and timawa in the middle and alpin at the bottom.



# The Spanish Arrive: Ferdinand Magellion and Lapu-Lapu

In December 1497, Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama rounded Africa's Cape of Good Hope and became the first European to sail from the Atlantic into the Indian Ocean. The Portuguese immediately began to establish colonies on the East Coast of Africa and trading posts in India. In 1511, Portuguese conquistadors seized control of Malacca. A member of one of these expeditions was Ferdinand Magellan (above right) who may have purchased a Malayan slave, Enrique de Malacca, who had knowledge of the Philippine archipelago.

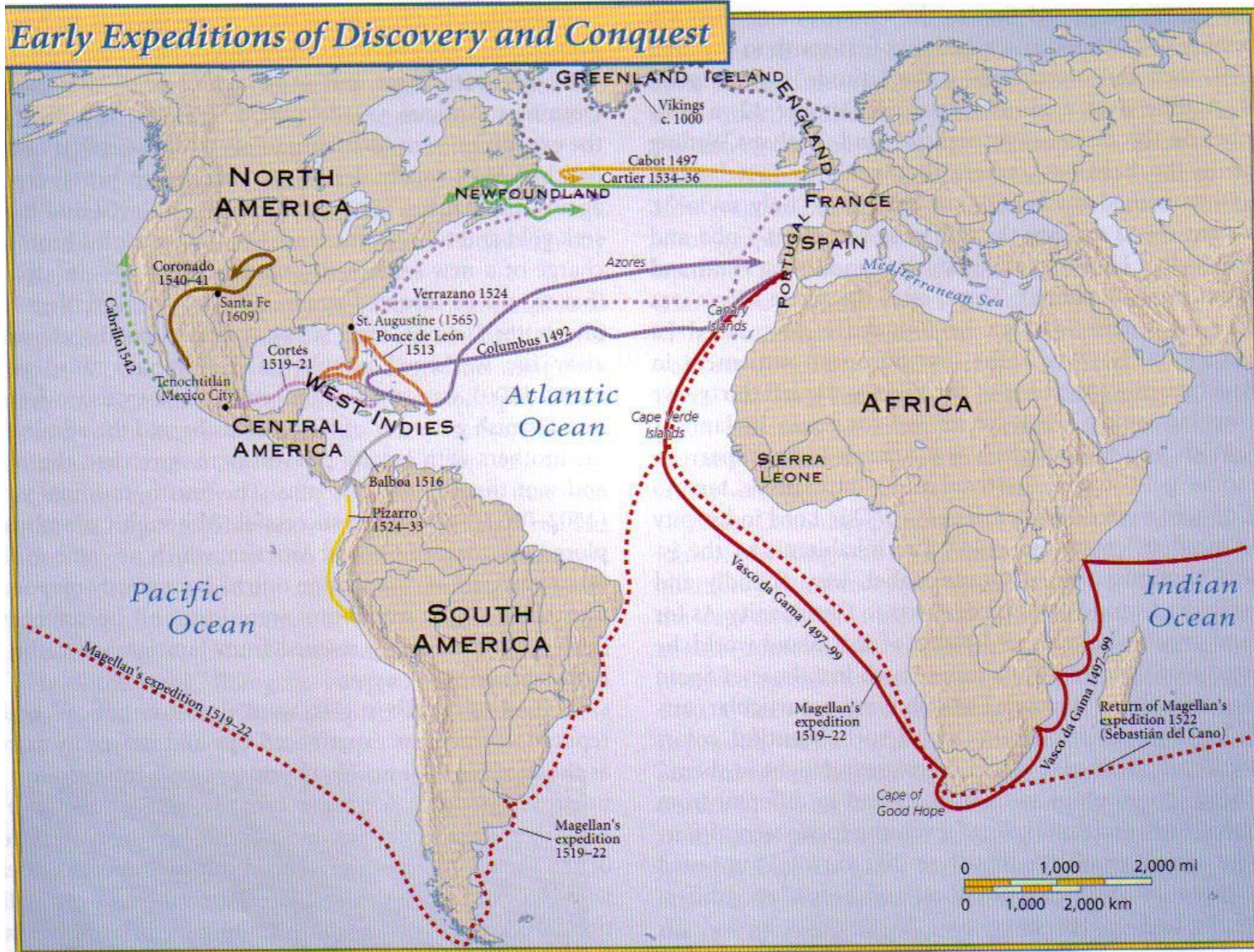


In August 1519, Magellan led a flotilla of five ships and 260 men from Spain with objective of reaching China from the west. They sailed southwest towards the coast of South America eventually sailing around what will become known as the Straits of Magellan and entered the Pacific Ocean. During this time Magellan lost ships and men. On 16 March 1521, Magellan reached the Philippines with three ships. He became involved in an inter-Filipino dispute and at the request of Filipino Datu (chief) on Samar he and his men attacked a Filipino village on the island of Mactan ruled by Datu **Lapu-Lapu**. (below right) Magellan and his men were overconfident and attacked over 200 Filipino warriors with only 60 men. Magellan was killed in the battle on 27 April 1521. The surviving Spaniards continued their voyage arriving back in Spain in 1522 with one ship and 18 survivors. However, they were the first Europeans to circumnavigate the globe and the secret of the Philippines was out.





# The Renaissance and the European Explorers





# The Monastery Period: 333 Years of Spanish Rule, 1565 to 1898

A Filipino scholar once told American journalist Stanley Karnow that Philippine colonial history can be described as “four centuries of the monastery and 50 years of Hollywood.”

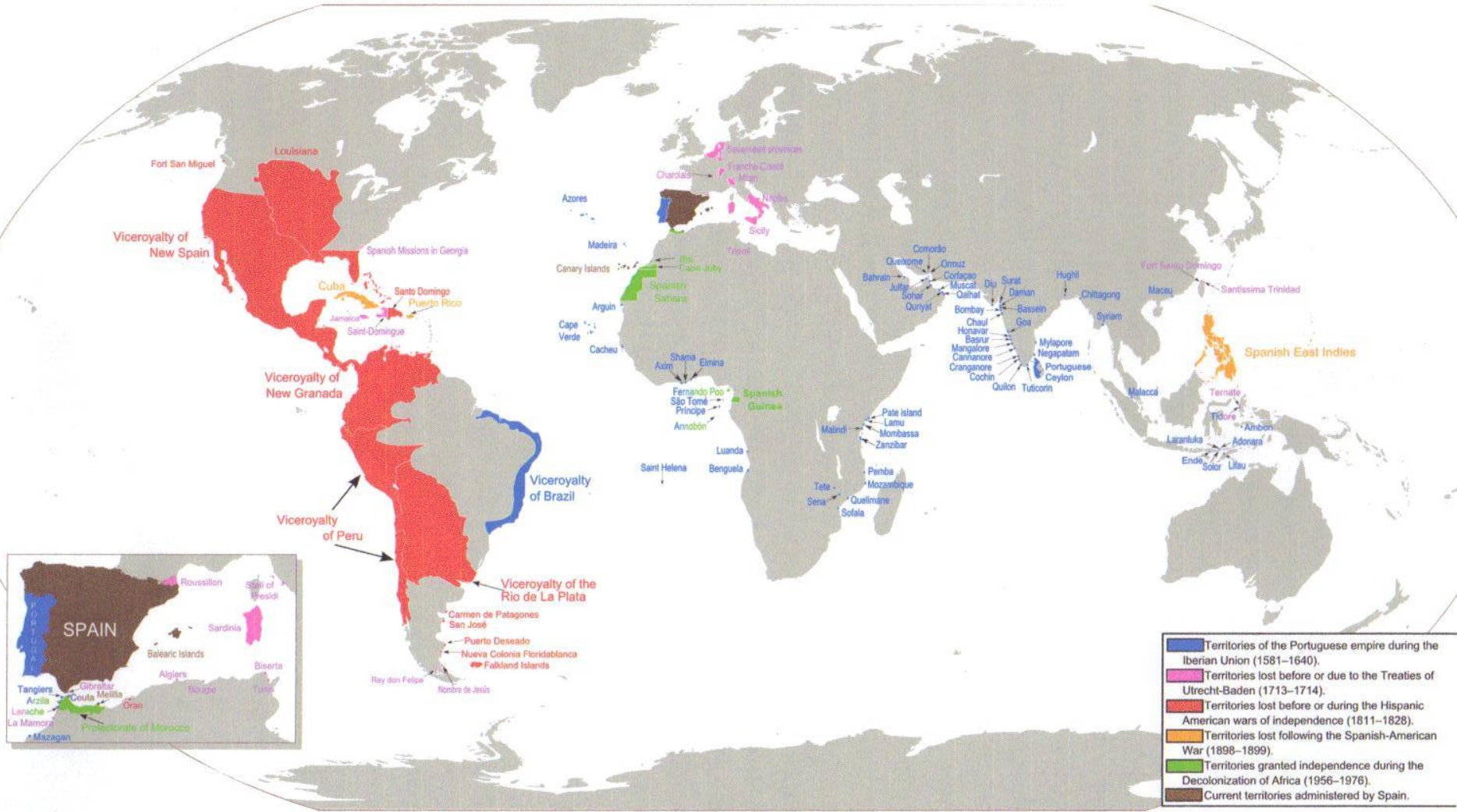
In 1543, in a second Spanish expedition, led, Ruy Lopez de Villalobos arrived in the Philippines. He named the archipelago “las Filipinas” after King Felipe (Philip) II of Spain. The Anglicized version became known as “Philippines.”

The primary conquistador of the Philippines was Miguel Lopez de Legazpi (1502-1572)(above right). He led the 1565 expedition that successfully brought most of the archipelago under permanent Spanish rule. It took several decades for the Spaniards to completely conquer the archipelago using the same model they used to conquer the North and South American populations throughout the 16th century.

By 1571, the Spaniards led by Legazpi had conquered the city of Maynila. Like they did in Mexico City, they renamed the city and reconstructed Manila in the image of the European city. In addition, Roman Catholic clerics quickly began converting Filipinos to Roman Catholicism. Scholars speculate that the reason Filipinos embraced Roman Catholicism was that many of their pre-Christian social and bilateral familial traditions were continued within the sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. Below left is Legazpi’s crypt at St. Agustin Church, Manila.



# The Spanish Empire



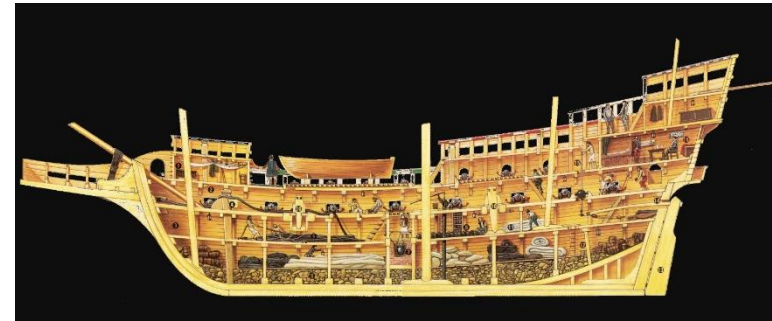


# The Galleon Trade: Economics Engine of the Spanish Empire

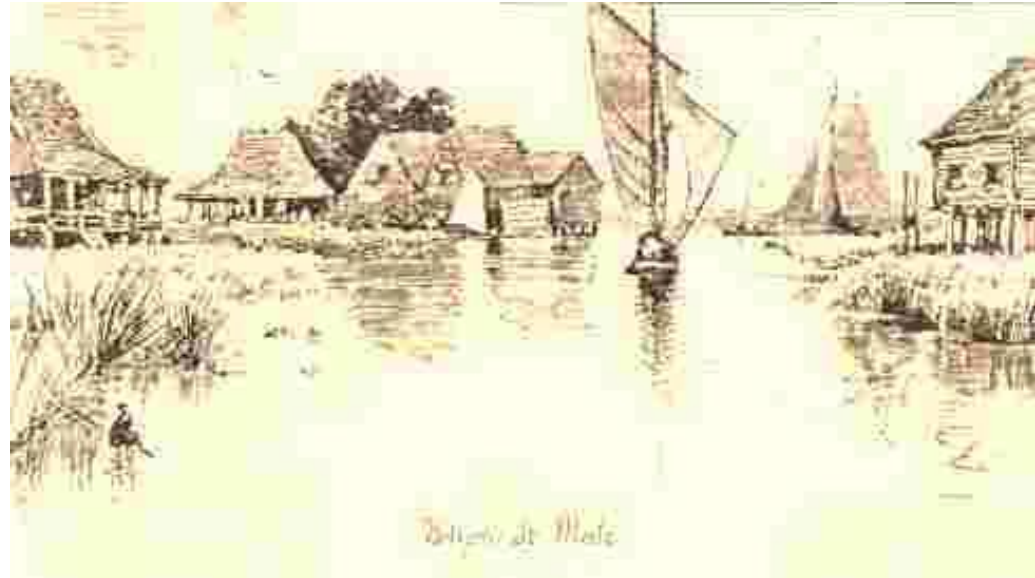
Spain's **Galleon Trade** became the principal economic engine of the Spanish Empire beginning in 1565. Because they lacked an effective means of global communication, the Spanish government located the headquarters for colonial trade in the city of Sevilla, and placed the Philippines under the rule of the Spanish Governor General of Mexico. The way the trade worked was Spanish galleons loaded with European goods would leave southwest Spain sailing to Mexico. Upon arrival in Mexico, the goods were unloaded from the ships and placed on mule trains moving towards the west coast of Mexico. Along the way the mule trains were loaded with Mexican silver which was highly valued by the Chinese. Upon arrival in a port such as Acapulco, empty galleons were loaded with silver, other goods and sailed to Manila. The voyage from Mexico to the Philippines on average took 3 to 4 months. Upon arrival in Manila the goods on the galleons were unloaded onto smaller ships and taken to ports throughout Asia and traded. These smaller ships returned to Manila with Asian products which were then loaded aboard the galleons which then retraced the route back to Mexico and then on to Spain. Filipino sailors were conscripted to replace Spanish sailors who died during the voyage. By 1650, Manila was the most prosperous European city in Asia with a population of 42,000 people due in large part to the Galleon Trade.



Above a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish Galleon.  
Below: A cross section of a galleon.



# The First Filipino Americans



The Galleon Trade brought the first Filipinos to the North and South America. A group of Filipinos landed in Morro Bay, California on 18 October 1587 from the Spanish Galleon *Nuestra Senora de la Esperanza*.

A second group, arrived in present-day Louisiana that same year in six “liberated” Spanish galleons. These Filipinos established communities on islands in Barataria Bay, Louisiana such as Manila Village and Saint Malo. Louisiana was a Spanish colonial territory until 1682 when France colonized and took control of the Mississippi River Valley. These communities remained active in the United States until the 20<sup>th</sup> century before they were destroyed by hurricanes: Saint Malo in 1915 and Manila Village in 1965.

Above left the decedents of Manila Village, Louisiana play cards at social gathering sometime in the 1930s. Above right is a lithograph from an 1883 issue of Harper’s Bazaar of Saint Malo, Louisiana There were probably Filipinos living in present day Mexico prior to that year.

# The Rise of a Filipino Identity and Philippine Nationalism

**1850-1892:** The Spanish government permitted Filipinos to travel to Europe to be educated. There they studied the Enlightenment and the American and French Revolutions. When the Spanish government refused to permit Filipino representation in the El Corte (Spanish Parliament), they began their struggle for independence.

In June 1892, Jose Rizal, a Filipino physician educated in Spain, returned to Manila and formed a civic movement called *La Liga Filipina*. In 1889, he wrote his most famous novel was *Noli Me Tangere* (Latin for “Don’t Touch Me”) which was an indictment of the corruption of Spanish colonial rule and the abuse of the Roman Catholic clergy in the Philippines.

The leaders of *La Liga Filipina* advocated moderate social reforms through legal, nonviolent means. However, the Spanish Governor General of the Philippines Eulohio Despujol y Dusay believed Rizal and *La Liga Filipino* were a threat to Spanish rule of the Philippines. Despujol arrested Rizal four days after *La Liga Filipina*’s first meeting and sent him into exile on Mindanao. Rizal spent four years there building infrastructure and operating medical clinics, generally making the daily lives of people better. In 1896, he returned to Manila and volunteered to be a medical doctor with the Spanish Army in Cuba. However, he was soon swept up in the Filipino Revolutionary War against Spain.



**Jose Rizal** (1861-1896)  
Father of the Philippine nation.



# The Rise of the Katipunan and the Filipino Revolt Against Spain

The official title of the Katipunan was “Ang Kataastaasang Kagalagalangan Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan” which means “the Highest, Most Honorable Society of the Country’s Sons and Daughters.” Katipunan means “assembly” or “association.”

Andres Bonifacio was a warehouse worker who was member of *La Liga Filipina*. He was educated, well read, but advocated more direct action against Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines. In 1892, he founded the Katipunan as a secret revolutionary organization within *La Liga Filipina*. Over the next four years Bonifacio developed the organization, its military component and collected weapons. In 1896, Spanish colonial authorities learned of the organization’s existence forcing the Katipunan into open revolution against Spain. The Governor General of the Philippines Ramon Blanco proclaimed an insurrection was in progress ordering mass arrests and executions of Filipinos.



**Andres Bonifacio** (1863-1897), founder of the Katipunan. Below is the flag of the Katipunan.



# The Execution of Jose Rizal, 30 December 1896



In 1896, Rizal requested permission to become a medical officer in the Spanish Army and serve in Cuba as demonstration of his loyalty to Spain. Spanish Governor General of the Philippines Ramon Blanco approved the request. However, fighting broke out between the Spanish Army and the Katipunan shortly after Rizal left for Cuba via Spain. Katipunan literature captured by the Spanish Army in the Philippines falsely implicated Jose Rizal as a member of the Katipunan. The Spanish government promptly arrested Rizal and return him to the Philippines for trial on the charge of treason. Against the advice of Governor General Blanco, Spanish authorities found Rizal guilty of treason. Blanco feared Rizal's death would only inflame Filipinos and provide a martyr to the ongoing revolution. Shortly before Rizal's execution the Spanish government relieved Blanco of his duties and sent him home. During the trial Rizal plead innocent to all charges and announced in court he only wanted political change in the Philippines through nonviolent means. The Spanish court found him guilty and he was publicly executed on the "Luneta," a public park on the shores of Manila Bay on 30 December 1896. Thousands of Filipinos witnessed his execution. Filipino military auxiliaries were used to execute Rizal however, Spanish authorities had a second firing squad made up of Spanish soldiers stand behind the Filipino auxiliaries in order to ensure they carried out the execution. As Blanco predicted, Rizal's death became a rally cry for revolution against Spain in the Philippines. Spanish photographer Manuel A. Rodriguez recorded Rizal's execution in the photograph above.



## The Rise of a Filipino Identity and Philippine Nationalism



Beginning in August 1896 and throughout 1897, the fighting between the Spanish Army and the Filipino Katipunan army grew more violent. On 29 August 1896, Bonifacio (above left) declared war on the Spanish government. However, Bonifacio's attacks on Spanish strongholds resulted in heavy Filipino casualties. It was during this time that a Filipino officer by the name of Emilio Aguinaldo y Famy conducted a series of successful military battles against the Spaniards. In October 1896, Aguinaldo stated his intention to create a government like "that of the United States." As the fighting intensified both Spanish and Filipino forces resorted to fear and intimidation tactics in order to control the population. In the middle of this war Bonifacio and Aguinaldo soon became political rivals. In March 1897, an attempt to settle differences between the two branches of the Katipunan failed. The members of Katipunan loyal to Aguinaldo arrested Bonifacio and executed him and his brother on 10 May 1897. How much Aguinaldo knew about this is still subject to great debate among Filipino historians.





Left: Katipunan soldiers.  
Right: Emilio Aguinaldo



## The Fall of the Katipunan

With the death of Bonifacio, his followers within the Katipunan soon ceased resistance the Spanish forces. Spanish colonial authorities took advantage of the situation to request truce talks between the Katipunan and the colonial government. By mid-December 1897, Aguinaldo and the Spanish government reached an agreement called the *Pact of Biak-na-Bato* in which insurgent Filipinos were granted amnesty. Aguinaldo and 18 of his key lieutenants agreed to go into exile for "\$800,000 (Mexican)" paid in three installments. In addition, the Spanish government agreed to pay the rebels \$400,000 to lay down arms and to compensate noncombatant Filipinos who suffered losses as a result of the war \$900,000. Aguinaldo and his lieutenants left the Philippines for Hong Kong on 27 December 1897 once the Spanish deposited the agreed to indemnity in a Hong Kong bank. Thus, the first Philippine Revolutionary war against Spain came to an end.

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