

## **Early Filipino Immigration**

### Filipino Immigration to the Continental United States

#### Patterns of Immigration

- The entry of Filipinos between the years 1923 and 1928 was irregular.
- 1929 had the highest flow of Filipinos into California.
- There was an increase of Filipino immigration from 1922 to 1924.
- In 1925 there was an abrupt decline - partially due to anti-Filipino propaganda by the American Federation of Labor and a number of patriotic organizations.
- Industrial and agricultural leaders who desired Filipino labor overcame this opposition and the immigration increased from 1925 to 1927.
- In 1928 sentiment against Filipino immigration was raised in Congress and once again numbers declined.
- In 1929 a record high of 6,000 immigrants came to America, reflecting an anticipation of eventual of Filipinos from the U.S.
- Only 6% of the immigrants were women.
- Most of the men were young upon entry - between the ages of 16 to 22.
- Although most of the immigrant men were unmarried - 20% to 25% were married and some had left their families in the Philippines..

#### Filipinos admitted through the Port of Los Angeles, 1922 to 1929

	Male	Female	Total
1922	1		1
1923	260	10	270
1924	702	19	721
1925	293	14	307
1926	1,204	73	1,277
1927	1,119	83	1,202
1928	535	24	559
1929	1,134	42	1,176
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,248</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>5,513</b>

#### Filipinos admitted through the Port of San Francisco, 1929 to 1934

	Male	Female	Total
1929	4,753	171	4,924
1930	1,636	97	1,733
1931	1,370	63	1,433
1932	399	63	462
1933	520	98	618
1934	856	27	883
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,534</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>10,553</b>



## Growth of Filipino Communities in the United States

Synthesis of John H. Burma article: The Background of Current Situation of Filipino Americans

### 1920s Immigration

- Prior to 1920 not over 5,000 in the U.S. mainland at any one time
- After 1920 their movement from Hawaii and direct immigration from Philippines
- During 1920s over 50,000 came to mainland / 1/4 via Hawaii
- Two-way stream for number leaving U.S. was 1/2 to 1/6 as great as number entering
- Filipinos as nationals had no restrictions on either immigration nor emigration until 1935
- Nor were Filipinos subject to any quota restrictions.

### 1930s Immigration

- Result of short-time migration movement: by 1930 there were 45,200 Filipinos on mainland
- High immigration numbers maintained because of threat of expulsionary legislation.
- It was difficult to earn a living during Great Depression so immigration slightly decreased.
- With passage of Tydings-McDuffie Act - a quota of 50 per year was set up.
- This quota was in effect until 1945.

### 1940s - 1950s Immigration

- In 1946 Philippines gained independence - quota was raised slightly to 100 a year.
- Because of the practical and then official limiting of immigration, number actually decreased.
- It was expected that the 1950 census will report 40,000 or less.
  - Most Filipino Americans were under 55 years.
  - Most came as young men in their early 20s or later teens - unaccompanied by wives or families.
  - This meant a disproportionate sex ratio in 1930 of 14 males to 1 female
  - by 1940 because of repatriation and other returns and younger families were having children - disproportion rate was down to 7 to 1.
- Most Filipinos did not intend to stay permanently in the U.S.
  - Came to save money for a business / for education / for adventure
  - Did not return because plans did not materialize:
    - \* did not accumulate desired "nest egg"
    - \* failed to complete education
    - \* their pride would not allow them to return until they succeeded
  - Because they intended to return home, most sought acculturation, not assimilation

### Filipino American Communities

Most immigrants landed and remained on West Coast:

Stockton - with 4,000 fairly permanent residents and a "floating population" of about 8,000

Its "Little Manila" probably the most highly developed Filipino ethnic area in U.S.

Los Angeles - with 3,000 to 4,000 permanent residents and "floating" population of 6,000.

Most lived on outskirts of "Little Tokyo" but during depression moved towards Temple and Figueroa.

San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, New York City and Chicago had sizeable communities.

In cities single Pinoys lived in hotels/rooming houses close to restaurants, pool rooms, dance halls.

Often lived in cities in winter and worked on farms in summer.

Better class married couples move out/ transferring their community-making power to new area.

Often local Filipino Protestant churches took lead in many community-wide social efforts.

During World War Two, Filipinos gained in social and economic status.





## **World War Third Wave of Immigration**

Developed by Dorothy Laigo Cordova

### Important Dates

World War Two	December 7, 1941 to August 7, 1945
Invasion of Philippines	
Liberation of Philippines	
Third Wave of Immigration	1945 to 1965
Philippine Independence	July 4, 1946

### Third Wave of Immigration:

1. All American-born Filipinos who were in the Philippines during WWII.
2. **Families of Americans who had Filipino wives and lived in the Philippines**
  - \* Began to arrive as early as Spring 1945 - before the end of WWII
  - \* Continued to come to America through the 1960s
  - \* The Americans included:
    - *Spanish American War veterans*
    - *American civil servants (government and public school teachers)*
    - *American businessmen*
3. **War Brides of World War Two American servicemen.**

During World War Two the U.S. government offered citizenship to all Filipinos completing their basic training. Most took advantage of the opportunity. Others did not. Only those who were U.S. Citizens were able to bring their young brides to America immediately after the war ended. Some war brides began to arrive as early as Fall 1945.
4. **Philippine Scouts who became U.S. citizens before the Philippines gained its independence on July 4, 1946.**
  - The majority of these men then served in U.S. Army (at posts in the United States, Germany, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, etc.) - many until they retired.
  - They began to arrive in the United States by the late 1940s.
  - Their families arrived to join them by late 1940s
  - Most settled/retired in communities near military bases around the country - e.g. Tacoma (Fort Lewis), Seattle (Fort Lawton),
5. **Dependent children (under 21) of Filipino men who came to America as "nationals" before 1935.**

In 1948, almost-grown children who had been left behind in the Philippines when their fathers came to the U.S. were allowed to immigrate. This lasted less than a year.
6. **Young wives of "old-timers."**

Referred to as the "Late Family Phenomena." Oldtimers would go to the Philippines to marry a younger Filipina - usually arranged by a family member. Most marriages good and lasted until the husband died - leaving behind a young widow and children.

In 1952 - American citizenship was offered to all other Filipinos who had immigrated before World War Two. Thus, former servicemen who had not become citizens during the war and others - male and female - were now in the position to bring in their spouses and children.

Others Filipinos who came to America from 1949 through 1965:

1. *Exchange workers (doctors, nurses)*
2. *Exchange students*
3. *Philippine consulate staff members*
4. *Visitors*

Many of the above were expected to return to the Philippines. Large numbers remained in America - marrying U.S. citizens who were usually older Filipino men from the Second Wave. Marriages were often "set up" by older women from the Second Wave who served to a certain degree as marriage brokers. Other marriages came about because the Pinoys actively courted the women. Most of these marriages were solid.



## Fourth Wave of Filipino Immigration to the United States

synthesized by Dorothy Cordova

Congress amended the Immigration and Nationality Act when it enacted the **Act of October 3, 1965** which became effective December 1, 1965. This act revised existing quotas which had given immigration preferences to European countries.

Parents (who were removed from the quota classes by the 1965 amendments), spouses and children of U.S. citizens termed "**immediate relatives**" under the new Act were not limited numerically. A new system of preferences consisting of seven classes in place of four previous ones was now set in place. The new first, second, fourth and fifth preferences were allocated to specified relatives of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the U.S. The new third and sixth preferences are occupational preferences, while the new seventh preference pertained to certain refugees.

After a transition period which ended June 30, 1968, all numerical limitations were to be within a grand total of 170,000, with a maximum of 20,000 for any one country of the Eastern hemisphere, and if not provided otherwise by Congress; a numerical limitation of 120,000 was to go into effect for Western Hemisphere immigrants. Unused visa numbers were placed in a pool from which countries with preference waiting lists may draw on a first-come, first-served basis. Countries that benefited the most the first year was Italy, Greece, Portugal, China and the Philippines. By 1970, the Philippines was second only to Mexico in annual immigration.

### **RAMIFICATIONS OF 1965 IMMIGRATION CHANGES**

- **Exclusionary regulations of previous immigration laws were overturned. Up to 20,000 people from each Western Hemisphere country were allowed to immigrate each year.**
- **For the first 10 to 15 years, Philippines sent over more professionally-trained people than any other country in the world.**
- **It is estimated that almost 80% of immigrants to Hawaii from 1965 to 1975 were Filipinos.**
- **Entire families were immigrating. Some were three generations.**
- **Sixty percent of new immigrants were female.**
- **Many men and women were highly educated.**
- **A large proportion were health professionals.**
- **Despite their education - they often experienced problems similar to those of the first immigrants.**
- **Although many of the old "push/pull" factors have brought immigrants from the Philippines, new reasons to come here include: breaking away from an unhappy marriage, and political unrest during the Marcos years.**
- **After being in the U.S. for five years, new immigrants could apply to become American citizens. Many - especially older parents - would petition for immediate family members to come to the U.S. - thus, beginning a cycle by which numbers of individual families could increase tremendously.**
- **The presence of new professional immigrants raised the economic and educational indices of Filipino Americans in some parts of the country.**
- **New Filipino communities were created in East Coast and Midwest cities/communities**
- **Philippines ranks second to Mexico in total numbers of new immigrants.**
- **Philippines is first among Asian countries in annual immigration.**
- **More than one and a-half million Filipinos have immigrated since 1965.**
- **Because of immigration - Filipinos are now the largest Asian American group in America.**
- **Because of immigration - Filipino females now outnumber Filipino males in most Filipino American geographic enclaves.**
- **Many Filipino women are married to men of other races**
- **More than 60% of Filipino Americans were born in the Philippines.**



## ACT of OCTOBER 3, 1965

*synthesized by Dorothy Cordova*

Oct. 3, 1965 Congress amended the Immigration and Nationality Act which became effective Dec. 2, 1965. This act revised existing quotas which traditionally had given immigration preferences to European countries.

Parents (removed from the quota classes by the 1965 amendments), spouses and children of U.S. citizens termed "immediate relatives" under the new Act were not limited numerically. A new preference system consisted of seven classes in place of the four previous ones. The new first, second, fourth and fifth preferences were for specified relatives of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the U.S. Third and sixth preferences were occupational preferences, while the seventh preference pertained to certain refugees.

After a transition period which ended June 30, 1968, all numerical limitations were to be within a grand total of 170,000, with a maximum of 20,000 for any one country of the Eastern hemisphere, and if not provided otherwise by Congress, a numerical limitation of 120 went into effect for Western hemisphere immigrants. Unused visa numbers were placed in a pool from which countries with preference waiting lists may draw on a first-come, first-served basis.

In 1965 changes in immigration law made family reunification a priority, consequently the Asian Pacific American population grew rapidly. Consider that in the mid-1880s, almost 9 out of 10 immigrants to America came from northwestern Europe, while by the mid-1970s almost 80 percent of immigrants came from Asia and Latin America. Mexico sent the largest number, followed by the Philippines. In 1990, over 7.2 million Asian-Pacific Americans represented 31 diverse groups. Family-sponsored and employment-based preference visas were issued to eligible immigrants in the order in which a petition had been filed.

### FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES

- First: Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Citizens
- Second: Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents
- Third: Married sons and Daughters of Citizens
- Fourth: Brothers and Sisters of Adult Citizens

### EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCES

- First: Priority Workers
- Second: Professionals Holding Advanced Degrees or Persons of Exceptional Ability
- Third: Skilled Workers, Professionals, and Other Workers
- Fourth: Certain Special Immigrants
- Fifth: Employment Creation (investors in a targeted rural or high-unemployment area)

Immigrants:	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>
1957	1,996	648	5,425	6,354	337	27
1958	2,236	1,604	3,213	6,543	513	45
1959	2,633	1,720	5,722	5,851	506	51
1960	2,954	1,507	3,681	5,471	391	56
1961	2,738	1,534	3,213	4,313	421	83
1962	3,437	1,538	4,017	3,897	545	105
1963	3,618	2,580	4,658	4,056	1,173	140
1964	3,006	2,362	5,009	3,680	636	226
1965	3,130	2,165	4,057	3,180	2,458	226
1966	6,093	2,492	13,736	3,394	2,458	275
1967	10,865	3,954	19,741	3,946	4,642	490
1968	16,731	3,811	12,738	3,613	4,682	590
1969	20,744	6,045	15,440	3,957	5,963	983
1970	31,203	9,314	14,093	4,485	10,114	1,450
1971	28,471	14,297	14,417	4,457	14,310	2,038
1972	29,376	18,876	17,339	4,757	16,926	3,412
1973	30,799	22,930	17,297	5,461	13,124	4,569
1974	32,857	28,028	18,056	4,860	12,779	3,192
1975	31,751	28,362	18,536	4,274	15,773	3,039



### Second Wave

- April 8, 1901 - President McKinley authorized General Order No. 40 to allow Filipino nationals to join the U.S. Naval Insular Forces in the Philippines. The U.S. Navy recruited up to 500 Filipinos. The Naval Insular Force was a division of the military that allowed Filipino Nationals to serve on U.S. military installations in the Philippine Island.
- They were given the opportunity to enlist in several ratings: coxswain, seaman, steward, machinist, cook, coaler, and fireman. Most were assigned the steward rating. Few were given the opportunity to operate navy vessels. They proved to be dedicated sailors with excellent seafaring skills.
- Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the life of his shipmate, Fireman Second Class R.E. Daly in 1915
- From 1919 to 1932 the Navy increased number of Filipino recruits and halted that of African American. However, Dec. 1930, the Navy decreased Filipino recruitment, but would reenlist qualified Filipino sailors because additional mess men were not needed.
- There were no new enlistments from the Philippines during the early war years.

### Third Wave

- Between 1944 and 1946 about 2,000 Filipinos were recruited to help complete the final phases of World War II.
- In 1946 the Philippines gained independence. The U.S. and Republic of the Philippines signed a military base agreement in 1947, allowing U.S. military bases and forces to remain in the Philippines. Provisions of Article XXVII of the Military Base Agreement allowed the U.S. Navy to be the only military branch and foreign country to have the right to recruit Filipino citizens for voluntary enlistment upon military need.
- In 1952, the U.S. Government negotiated with the Philippine government to recruit 1,000 Filipinos. Due to the Korean Conflict, in 1954 the agreement was amended to increase the number to 2,000 recruits. Nearly 4,000 Filipinos were recruited the next two years.
- During the 1960's around 2,000 Filipinos were allowed to be recruited. The Philippines was experiencing an economic slump, so some college graduates from the Philippines felt the U.S. Navy was a great opportunity. They also realized that they could receive American citizenship in a few years. Once they were naturalized they would be able to file petition for the immigration of parents and siblings.

### Fourth Wave

In 1971, the U.S. and Philippine governments modified the agreement to enlist Filipino citizens as only stewards. They could now enter any enlisted rating depending on qualifications of education, experience and security clearance.

In 1974, current Filipino Navy stewards were able to change their rating. This move arose out of public and government pressure on the Navy to offer equal opportunity to Filipinos and other ethnic minorities. Tensions between Caucasian and African American sailors sometimes escalated into violent brawls. Adm. Zumwalt decided the Navy would require sailors to take a course in race relations.

1978 President Jimmy Carter curtailed permanent immigration and U.S. citizenship opportunity to Filipino recruits from the Philippines. Since the Vietnam conflict had ended, he felt no need to recruit foreign citizens. Four hundred Filipino citizens were allowed to enlist with the understanding they were not offered permanent immigrant and citizenship status.

During the '80s the practice of recruiting Filipino citizens without a chance of permanent residency was a controversial issue in Congress. U.S. Congressmen representing communities with large Filipino American populations proposed a legislation to offer the latest recruits/enlistees the opportunity to remain in the U. S. when they retired from the Navy.

By 1985, Filipino Americans in the Navy were the second largest minority group, second only to African American. That year there were 19,604 enlisted petty officers and 481 commissioned officers of Filipino descent. In 1988 there were approximately 22,500 Filipino American sailors in the U.S. Navy.

The withdrawal of the United States from military bases in the Philippines in 1992, ended recruitment of Filipinos in that island nation.





AAS 360

Filipino American History and Culture  
Supplementary Material

Read "Adverse Conditions" in *FILIPINOS: Forgotten Asian Americans* by Fred Cordova.

### Anti-Miscegenation Laws

Section 60 of California's Civil Code was amended in 1901 to declare "All marriages of white persons with Negroes, Mongolians or mulattoes are illegal and void." Although Filipinos were considered "Mongolian," there were intermarriages between Filipinos and whites - because some California clerks did not know how to classify Filipinos, thinking they may have been Mexicans. Salvador Roldan, a university student challenged the law, in *Roldan vs. Los Angeles County*, contending that as a Filipino he was not Mongolian" but Malay.

- \* March 30, 1933 a court ruling allowed Roldan to marry his white fiancee because he was Malay.
- \* April 21, 1933 the California Assembly passed an amendment to include Malaysians as among those people not permitted to marry Caucasians.
- \* Twelve other states carried anti-miscegenation laws.
- \* November 1948 California's anti-miscegenation law was declared unconstitutional.

### Exclusionary Laws

In 1924 Congress enacted a law to exclude Japanese and other groups from immigrating to America. As American nationals, Filipinos could not be barred from coming here but were ineligible for citizenship. American industrialists intended to use Mexicans to offset the shortage of laborers created by the 1924 law. When the Box Bill and Harris Bill sharply reduced the number of Mexican laborers allowed in this country, California farmers looked at Filipinos as their main source of field labor. Some Filipino workers had been involved in the labor conflicts on Hawaiian plantations. Their conviction for more equitable working conditions caused antagonism and became one of the reasons to demand their eventual exclusion.

On the issue of exclusion there were four distinct opposing groups of Americans:

- 1) **Independents** - pushed Philippine independence to legally exclude further Filipino immigration.
- 2) **Restrictionists** - favored only restricting numbers allowed to immigrate in order to maintain social and political solidarity between Americans and Filipinos.
- 3) **Exclusionists** - groups like the American Federation of Labor and patriotic organizations wanted the immediate exclusion of Filipinos maintaining (1) they endangered the economic status and standard of living of American workers by working for lower wages, and (2) an alleged forwardness on the part of Filipinos in seeking association of English and Spanish-speaking women.
- 4) **Anti-exclusionists** - wanted continued open immigration of Filipinos to the United States. Brig. General Lej Parker, chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs emphasized 28,000 Filipinos voluntarily fought for America during World War One. Some California farmers needing the labor of Filipinos in the fields offered the opinion that Filipinos could bring back to the Philippines skills they learned about farm production.

### Tydings-McDuffie Act

The Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed on March 24, 1934 and went into effect May 1, 1934. This made the Philippines a commonwealth and provided for full independence in ten years. Filipino immigration was curtailed to 50 a year and the status of Filipinos changed from nationals to alien. The U.S. retained economic controls of the Philippines and its inhabitants.

### Repatriation Act

Signed on July 1935 the law provided authorized transportation at federal expense to Filipinos who wanted to return to the Philippines. However, since they were now aliens they could return to the U.S. only as part of the annual quota of 50. This was offered to 45,000 Pinoys. Only 2,190 took advantage of repatriation.





## FILIPINO AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Pre-1934

- \* American nationals
- \* no quota restrictions
- \* by 1929 more than 10,000 were coming each year
- \* economic opportunities
- \* education (pensionados/ self-supporting students)
- \* better life
- \* adventure
- \* encouraged by Americans teachers
- \* U.S. military (Navy, Army, Coast Guard)
- \* recruited by Hawaiian Sugar Plantation Association
- \* influenced by steamship companies
- \* family reunification

- \* predominantly male and single
- \* 16 to 22 years
- \* agriculture, canneries, menial laborers
- \* most men had less than 8th grade education
- \* most lived in Hawaii, California - Washington, Illinois and New York had significant populations

- \* bachelor oriented

- \* blatant discrimination
- \* anti-miscegenation laws
- \* loneliness
- \* Great Depression / low wages
- \* terrible working conditions

1910 17  
1920 958  
1930 3,480

Developed by Dorothy L. Cordova 4-8-91

1935 to 1964

### IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

- \* Tydings-McDuffie Act passed in 1935
- \* Annual quota reduced to 50 per year
- \* After Philippine Independence in 1946 quota raised to 200 per year

- \* war brides
- \* dependents of Spanish American War veterans or other Americans who had remained in Philippines
- \* Philippine Scouts/Army members who had become U.S. citizens before Philippine independence
- \* exchange workers (nurses, doctors) and students
- \* family reunification
- \* consulate corps
- \* wives of early immigrants ("late family phenomena")
- \* U.S. Navy enlistees

### PROFILE OF IMMIGRANTS

- \* mostly female
- \* adults - some children
- \* married / some single later married oldtimers
- \* grade school / high school / college
- \* most lived in Hawaii and west coast, but due to health professionals numbers growing in midwest and east

### LIFESTYLES

- \* family and bachelor oriented
- \* organizational and community-based

### MAJOR PROBLEMS

- \* discrimination
- \* restrictive housing
- \* anti-miscegenation laws (until 1952)
- \* lack of affirmative action in work place
- \* lack of educational opportunities for children

### POPULATION - WASHINGTON STATE

1940 2,222  
1950 4,274  
1960 7,110

Post-1965

- \* Immigration Law of 1965
- \* Annual quota raised to 20,000
- \* By late 1970s through present, immigrants from were second only to those from Mexico

### WHO CAME and REASONS FOR IMMIGRATION

- \* economic opportunities
- \* education for children
- \* better life
- \* family reunification
- \* U.S. Navy enlistees and families
- \* wives of American citizens (U.S. servicemen, and older Filipinos, etc.)
- \* mail order brides
- \* political freedom

- \* 60% female
- \* range from infancy to 80 years / most 20-29 years
- \* family (alone and groups) / singles
- \* at least one-third have college degrees / professionals
- \* most lived in Hawaii and California, but sizeable communities in Chicago, New York, Virginia and

- \* family oriented
- \* organizational

- \* underemployment / unemployment
- \* acculturation of children
- \* elderly
- \* effects of Martial Law (1975 - 1986)
- \* youth gangs

1970 11,462  
1980 24,363  
1990 45,000 (now largest Asian American group)

