

CULTURAL CONFLICTS

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND
WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE
FUTURE

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Colonialism: The Colonial Environment

- Frantz Fanon (1965)
French Colonized Algeria (1954)
- The Four Phases of Colonization
- Entry of a foreign group – exploitation
- Cultural imposition, cultural disintegration, and cultural recreation – separation of two cultures
- Oppression and Domination into practice
- Race-based societal system

The Colonized Person

Psychological Impact of Colonization

- Internalization of Ethnic and Cultural Inferiority (Fanon, 1965; Memmi, 1965)
- Desire to emulate the colonizer (Freire, 1970)
- Colonial Debt (Rimonte, 1997)
- Intergenerational Legacy of Oppression (Duran & Duran, 1995)

The Past: Pre-Colonial Tao

- A mixture of Malay and other Asian influences (fishing, shipbuilding, mining, poultry)
- Bathala (Supreme Being)
- Minor Deities (god of fire, agriculture, rainbow, war, hell)
- Baybayin or Alibata

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Spanish Colonialism

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

The Past: American Colonialism

- “...there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them...”
– U.S.
President William McKinley

The Past: American Colonialism

- “Today, we have one of the three great ocean possessions of the globe, located at the most commanding commercial, naval, and military points in the Eastern seas, within hail of India, shoulder to shoulder with China, richer in its own resources than any equal body of land on the entire globe, and **peopled by a race which civilization demands shall be improved.**”

– U.S. Senator Albert

The Past: American Colonialism

- “Senators must remember that we are not dealing with Americans or Europeans. We are dealing with **Orientalists**. We are dealing with Orientals who are Malays. We are dealing with Malays instructed in Spanish methods. They mistake kindness for weakness, forbearance for fear. It could not be otherwise unless you could erase hundreds of years of **savagery**, other hundreds of years of **Orientalism**. . . . But, senators, it would be better to abandon this combined garden and Gibraltar of the Pacific, and count our blood and treasure already spent a profitable loss than to apply any academic arrangement of self-government to these **children. They are not capable of self-government.** How could they be? **They are not of a self-governing race.**”

The Past: American Colonialism

- “Savage blood, Oriental blood, Malay blood, Spanish example – are these the elements of self-government?... we must never forget that in dealing with the Filipinos we deal with children.

– U.S. Senator Albert Beveridge
(IN)



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FILIPINO INSURGENTS



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UNCLE SAM: "The critter barks and wags at the same time. Which end of him is lyin'?"
—*The Minneapolis Times.*

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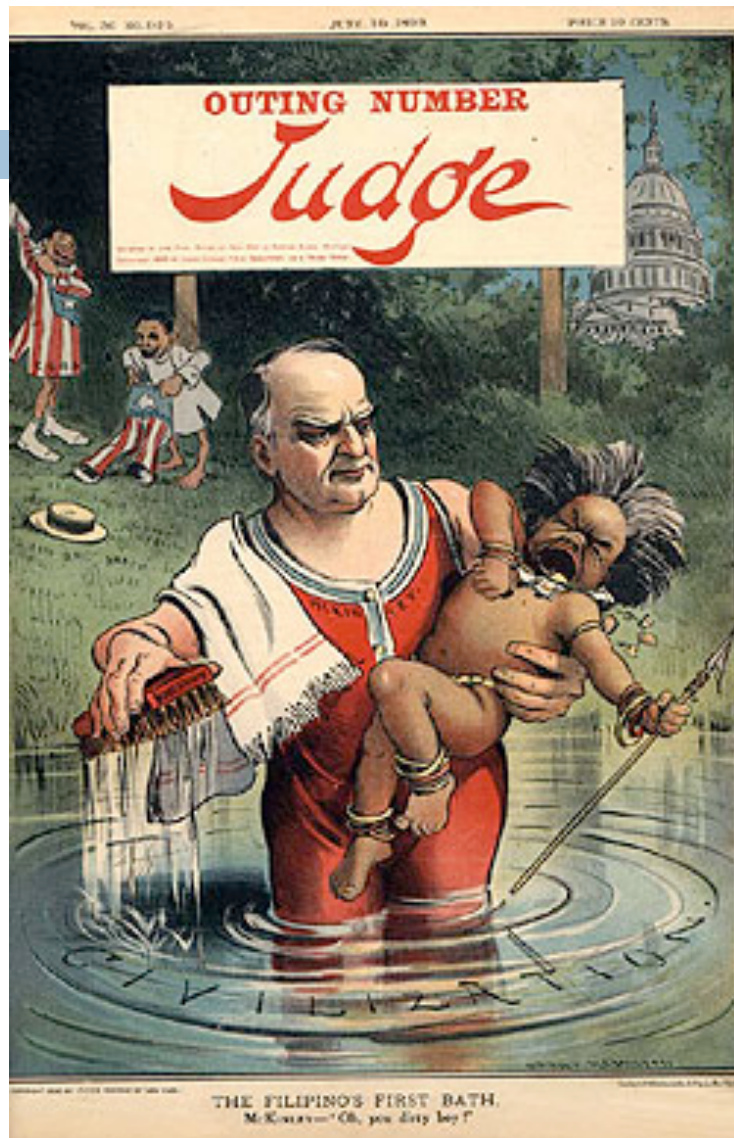
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CAN THE MISSIONARY REACH THIS OLD SAVAGE?
—The Minneapolis Journal.

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EXPANSION, BEFORE AND AFTER.



The Present: Colonial Mentality

- Throughout my days at elementary school I had an acute fear that someone would discover that I was Filipino. It was open season on Filipinos. There were the “buk-buk” (sic) jokes, other derisive nicknames created by students, and a large number of stereotypes expounded and attributed to Filipinos. They were labeled as being stupid, backwards, and capable of only the most menial jobs available...In my own experiences, I knew that these generalizations were false, but still **I feared association with them**. These images and stereotypes persisted in the consciousness of the student body for so long that **I began to look at being Filipino as a curse. It embarrassed me that I should be a part of a race so disregarded and dehumanized by society** (by a young Filipina American, as quoted

The Present: Colonial Mentality

- My ambition as a kid was to be like an American. We'd been taught in school that the **Americans were our saviors, that they brought us democracy**. When I saw cowboy-and-Indian movies, I always rooted for the cowboys. I preferred American-style clothes. **Americans were rich, handsome and superior. Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary looked like Americans, with their white skins and long noses** (by a Filipino in the Philippines, as quoted by Karnow, 1989, p. 17).

The Present: Colonial Mentality

- My idea...of Filipino culture and identity is split into two forms: the FOB...and the Filipino American. I didn't associate with "FOBs." They were backward, had accents, and just acted weird...Then there was me, the non-"FOB," who spoke perfect English, born and raised here, had only white friends...I was "white" in every way except for the color of my skin, my nose, and eyes...I hate to admit but I have been an accomplice to the cruel acts that have been perpetrated against Filipinos (by a young Filipino

The Present: Colonial Mentality

- "My father is Filipino-American. He was born in San Francisco, CA in 1932 (not the best time to be born in the U.S. when you don't fit in with the white majority.) I feel deeply saddened to say it, but my father was a victim of the "colonial mentality." My mother is English/Scottish/German ancestry. My English side goes as far back as the founding of Jamestown. I truly believe **my father married my mother simply to improve his status in the U.S. and to produce the ideal "mestiza" child, namely me. I grew up with my father worshipping my "half white" status. Of course, as a teenager, I felt superior because of my mestiza look and bloodline. I grew up "ignoring" and sometimes "hating" my Filipino side, just as my father has done.**"

"My father died over a year and half ago and my eyes opened up to the truth. My mother treated my father as a "house negro." He would do anything for her, even though she cheated on him and basically treated him like an errand boy. She would often brag to me how she could get him to do anything she wanted him to do. I haven't spoken to my mother since the funeral. **I guess the point I'm trying to say here is I was deeply affected by my father's "colonial mentality." I, too, was caught up in the colonial mentality.**"

"At the moment, I'm in an identity crisis, a war within myself. I feel

The Present: Values and Beliefs

- Collectivistic (Family-oriented)
- Interdependence
- Pampering and Spanking of Children
- Parental Control
- No Secrets, No Boundaries
- Importance of Elders
- Utang na Loob
- Pakikisama
- Hiya
- Kapwa – Core Filipino Value

The Present: Contradictory Messages

- Colonial Mentality
- Schools
- Peers
- Media

The Present: Alarming Issues

- High suicide rates
- High depression rates
- High rates of HIV/AIDS, unintended pregnancy, eating disorders, STDs, and alcohol and drug use
- High rates of school dropouts
- Low college admission and graduation rates
- Low income

What to do about the future

- Acculturation

We don't have to choose over the other.
We can know, value, and respect both.

- Decolonization

Know the complete and accurate history.
Appreciate the efforts of our ancestors,
and the resiliency of our people.

Be aware of the current state of
inequalities in our current society.

What to do about the future

- Cultural Conflicts For Hundreds of Years
- Choosing one over the other when faced with such conflicts does not do us very well.
- Lets Break the cycle of choosing one over the other. Break the cycle of Colonial Mentality.
- Lets value ourselves highly by regarding ourselves as capable of knowing, valuing, and respecting both.

What to do about the future

- Lets Talk About These Issues, No Matter How Controversial, Painful, and Sensitive They May Be
- Lets Not Blame Ourselves, Our Parents, Our Ancestors
- Send Positive Messages About Filipino Culture

Thank you very much!

- Department of Psychology, University of Alaska Anchorage
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Top Youth Challenges

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- why can't you let go
- Independence
- Trust
- Cultural Gap and disconnect
- Language Barrier
- Unrealistic expectations (boys and girls)

Top Parents Challenges

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- Driving privileges
- having friends over without permission
- House rules and consequences
- disrespect to elders
- Individualism
- Sexuality, Sexual Identity
- Time Management, lack of family time
- Language Barrier
- Being consistent

Finding Common Ground

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- Open communication
- Positive reinforcement
- Trust
- Mutual Respect
- Managing your time
- Accepting differences
- Patience and understanding
- unconditional love
- Community connections

For Next Time

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- Religion
- Sexuality
- Expectations for boys and girls
- Communication is easier said than done
- Interdependence

Our Pledge

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- to listen, without judging
- to recognize and celebrate who we are
- to respect each other's differences, and allow these differences to strengthen relationships, rather than push us apart
- to always strive for understanding, honesty, and acceptance
- to learn & speak each other's language

Our Pledge

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- Sa Isip, Salita, At Gawa
- In Thoughts, Words, and Deeds