

CHAPTER 10

THE POLITICAL SELF

The political self refers to a representation of oneself about him/herself in a political position based on the interest and perspective of one social organizations. The Political Self is that the conceptually discrete categories of 'inner' and 'outer' in reality constantly interact, shape, and inform each other. The Philippines as we know it today has only emerged in the 1890's after over three centuries of colonization of the Spaniards. Meanwhile, liberation from the last colonizers, the Japanese, only occurred in 1946. Foreign culture, beliefs, language and religion have made a huge dent on our own by setting a foundation to the contemporary Filipino identity and culture. To date, colonial mentality remains an issue. Given the wide discrepancy between the liberation period and today's time, would it be safe to say that Filipinos have truly developed an identity of their own? Or are we still living in the shadow of our colonial friends?

Kendall (1998)

- Defines politics as a social institution through which power is acquired and exercised by people in the groups "man in nature is a political animal"
- It serves as a mechanism by which individuals develop power and understand proper functioning of a democratic.

Stevens, Anglin, and Jussim (2015)

- Politics is a central component of their identity.
- Organizes one's beliefs, attitudes, and affiliations and aids the processing of politically relevant information
- It constitutes knowledge about the Constitution, government and governance.
- Exemplifies the ideals and aspirations of the people, embodies the rules and principle of the States, and determines the status and power of the people, often defined by Citizenship.

Ma. Serena Diokno (1997)

- Political self and identity are developed through socialization, through the ways of people learn the knowledge, norms, values, motives, and roles appropriate to their positions in a group or community. Through social interaction, people learn the status, duties, rights and power necessary to interact successfully with other people in the group and community
- The political self is influenced and modified by the opinions, comments and suggestions of other people.

POLICAL SELF THEORIES

Social Learning Theory (Albert Bandura)

- A person can acquire learning through observation and imitation
- Observation and imitation is important in a process known political socialization,
- Political socialization is the lifelong process by which individuals gain knowledge about politics.

Cognitive Theory (Jean Williams Fritz Piaget)

- Suggest that mental activities (e.g., knowledge, perceptions, ideas) of individuals are important determinants of behaviour (e.g., political attitude)
- Example: individuals interpret meaning of politics and then choose and decide the actions they will make.

Theory of Symbolic Interaction (George Herbert Mead)

- Suggests that behaviors are products of communication, meaning, and symbols.
- People give meanings to symbols and they express these meanings through language communication.
- Example: children develop their political attitudes according to the symbols and meanings that their parents communicate to them.

Theory of Political Participation (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

- Defined as the citizen's action or activities anchored in politics
- The extent and scope of political participation may be an important criteria for assessing value or quality symbols and meanings that the people ascribe to politics.
- Example: An ordinary Filipino citizen must be allowed to take part in the policy and decision making process regarding the administrations of the country which is in accordance to the democratic nature of the Philippine society.

ORIGIN OF POLITICAL SELF

Family

The family has a hierarchical structure Through hierarchy of positions, status and power. Example: Father acts as a leader and establishes rules to maintain order in the family. This shows that authority is necessary in the development of political self and identity

School

The school's responsibility is to teach moral, spiritual, and political values that will help the students to become patriotic and morally upright citizen. Example: UTS subject, GMRC, ROTC The school is similar to family, where the teacher acts as the leader in classroom that sets the rules and regulation to maintain order in class.

Church

Helps the shape ideals of citizenship and democracy through the religious teachings, values and tradition

Peers

Interaction with the peers encompasses and emphasizes the equal distribution of power, rights, and privileges among members of the group

Mass Media

Key to the source of information on politics Family, School, Church, Peers and moral behaviors' that influence political behavior and political self

Democracy

A government in which the supreme is vested in and exercised by the people directly or indirectly through a system of presentation, usually involving periodical held free elections. Although democracy has several flaws it also uniquely posses a number of features that most people — whatever their basic political beliefs- would consider desirable.

Examples:

1. Democracy helps prevent cruel and vicious autocrats from ruling
2. It fosters human development i.e. health education, personal income and any other indicators more fully than do other forms of government
3. Democracy helps protect fundamental individual rights and interest
4. Democratic societies provide people the maximum opportunity to take moral responsibility for their choices and decisions
5. Democratic societies offer a relatively high chance of political equality: Three Major Concerns in Building an Identity

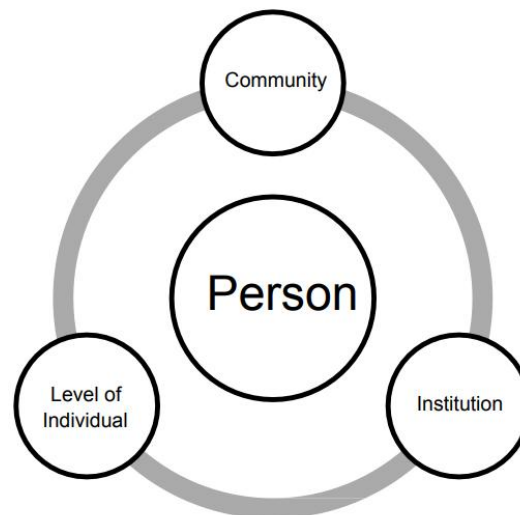
Developing a Filipino Identity: Values, Traits , Community, and Institutional Factors

Collective action, shared vision, means of sustainable future and the link to generation has been crucial in the construction of identity and sense of belonging in the democratic standpoint. On the other hand, in the socio-psychological perspective, citizenship or being a Filipino serves a a cognitive and motivational basis for ones beliefs and behavior. Thus, enhancing the practice of citizenship and democracy is crucial to the awareness and understanding of self and community.

Three Major Concerns in Building an Identity

The level of individual, community and institution are primary factors that come into play in the building an identity. At the same time, it is essential to consider the following concerns in building an identity:

1. **Instrumental** - An individual act in accordance with rules and identities consistent with supportive of democratic processes.
2. **Morals** - Values and beliefs embody and reinforce democratic principles.
3. **Transformative** - Includes process of self-reflection and redefinition of individuals, institutions and communities.



Aspects in Developing Filipino Identity

Individual Attitudes and Traits	Institutional Factors	Macro-Factors at the Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dualism of Filipino Traits (negative and positive)• Colonia / Accomodative Surface Value (hiya, utang na oob, pakikisama)• Confrontative Surface Value (bahala na, sama/lakas ng loob, pakikibaka)• Pivotal Interpersonal Value (pakiramdam)• Linking/socio-personal Value (kagandahang-loob)• Associated Societal Value (karangalan, katarungan, kalayaan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family• Church• School• Media• Government• Non-government• People's organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate community with which one readily identifies one's self• Less intimate grouping of which one is a member

Establishing a Democratic Culture

Sense of community and public good and empowerment of people are central questions to consider in the development of democracy agenda. The following frameworks were used as a guide in the development of action agenda. According to Diokno 1999, in her article *Becoming a Filipino Citizen, Perspective on Citizenship and Democracy*, the agenda

was crafted in September 1996 conference in which perceptions of citizenship and democracy from different standpoints were discussed.

March and Olsen's Framework of Democratic Political Development

- Building institutions that civilize expressions of solidarity and confrontation of conflict among identities.
- Forming specific identities (character, habits of thought, sense of reality and codes of conduct) that fit into and support a democratic political order
- Sense of solidarity that connects the individual to a broad political community of others and organize others and organizes other belongings in a way that enriches the community

Przeworski's Concept of Effective Citizenship

- Official conduct in accordance with the law.
- A judicial system applied equally to all.
- Social conditions for the exercise of citizen's rights.

Based on the frameworks above, the democratic agenda was crafted to:

1. Improve the political and social environment and reduce poverty through structural reforms in order to foster a sense of community and enable citizens to exercise their rights and fulfill their obligations.
2. Continually re-examine societal institutions responsible for value formation so that they can inculcate, rather than indoctrinate, democratic citizenship values.
3. Incorporate cross-cultural activities in public and private sector programs, including those of schools, churches, NGOs and POs, so as to recognize ethnolinguistic and cultural diversity in the country and encourage the sharing of experiences.
4. Further promote the use of Filipino and Philippine languages in all transactions so as to enable the articulation of citizenship and democratic views and values.
5. Continue to harness institutional as well as informal mechanisms that open up space for the exercise of citizenship and democracy.