[Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef" \o "Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

The **Philippines** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-fil](/wiki/Template:Lang-fil) [Template:IPA-tl](/wiki/Template:IPA-tl)), officially known as the **Republic of the Philippines** ([Template:Lang-fil](/wiki/Template:Lang-fil)), is a [sovereign](/wiki/Sovereign_state) [island country](/wiki/Island_country) in [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia) situated in the western Pacific Ocean. It consists of about 7,641 islands[[1]](#cite_note-1) that are categorized broadly under three main geographical divisions from north to south: [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon), [Visayas](/wiki/Visayas), and [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao). The capital city of the Philippines is [Manila](/wiki/Manila) and the most populous city is [Quezon City](/wiki/Quezon_City), both part of [Metro Manila](/wiki/Metro_Manila).[[2]](#cite_note-2) The Philippines' location on the Pacific [Ring of Fire](/wiki/Ring_of_Fire) and close to the equator makes the Philippines prone to earthquakes and typhoons, but also endows it with abundant natural resources and some of the world's greatest [biodiversity](/wiki/Megadiverse_countries). The Philippines has an area of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[3]](#cite_note-3) and a population of more than 100 million with faster growth than any other east Asian country.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) It is the [seventh-most populated country in Asia](/wiki/List_of_Asian_countries_by_population) and the [12th most populated country](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) in the world. An additional 12 million Filipinos [live overseas](/wiki/Overseas_Filipino), comprising one of the world's largest [diasporas](/wiki/Diaspora). Multiple [ethnicities](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_the_Philippines) and cultures are found throughout the islands. In prehistoric times, [Negritos](/wiki/Negrito) were some of the archipelago's earliest inhabitants. They were followed by [successive waves](/wiki/Models_of_migration_to_the_Philippines) of [Austronesian peoples](/wiki/Austronesian_peoples).[[6]](#cite_note-6) Exchanges with Chinese, [Malay](/wiki/Ethnic_Malay), [Indian](/wiki/Outline_of_ancient_India), and [Islamic](/wiki/Islam) states occurred. Then, various [nations](/wiki/History_of_the_Philippines_(900–1521)) were established under the rule of [Datus](/wiki/Datu), [Rajahs](/wiki/Raja), [Sultans](/wiki/Sultan) or [Lakans](/wiki/Lakan).

The arrival of [Ferdinand Magellan](/wiki/Ferdinand_Magellan) in [Homonhon](/wiki/Homonhon), [Eastern Samar](/wiki/Eastern_Samar) in 1521 marked the beginning of Hispanic colonization. In 1543, Spanish explorer [Ruy López de Villalobos](/wiki/Ruy_López_de_Villalobos) named the archipelago [*Las Islas Filipinas*](/wiki/Es:Filipinas) in honor of [Philip II of Spain](/wiki/Philip_II_of_Spain). With the arrival of [Miguel López de Legazpi](/wiki/Miguel_López_de_Legazpi) from Mexico City, in 1565, the first Hispanic settlement in the archipelago was established.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The Philippines became part of the [Spanish Empire](/wiki/Spanish_Empire) for more than 300 years. This resulted in [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Catholic_Church) becoming the dominant religion. During this time, [Manila](/wiki/Manila) became the western hub of the trans-Pacific [trade](/wiki/Spanish_treasure_fleet) connecting [Asia](/wiki/Asia) with [Acapulco](/wiki/Acapulco) in the [Americas](/wiki/Americas) using [Manila galleons](/wiki/Manila_galleon).<ref name=Kane>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, there followed in quick succession the [Philippine Revolution](/wiki/Philippine_Revolution), which spawned the short-lived [First Philippine Republic](/wiki/First_Philippine_Republic), followed by the bloody [Philippine–American War](/wiki/Philippine–American_War) of conquest by US military force.<ref name=Constantino1975/> Aside from the period of [Japanese occupation](/wiki/Japanese_occupation_of_the_Philippines), the [United States](/wiki/United_States) retained sovereignty over the islands until after [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), when the Philippines was recognized as an independent nation. Since then, the Philippines has often had a tumultuous experience with democracy, which included the overthrow of a dictatorship by [a non-violent revolution](/wiki/People_Power_Revolution).[[8]](#cite_note-8) The nation's large population and [economic potential](/wiki/Economic_potential) have led it to be classified as a [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power). It is a founding member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization), [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](/wiki/Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations), the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation](/wiki/Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation) forum, and the [East Asia Summit](/wiki/East_Asia_Summit). It also hosts the headquarters of the [Asian Development Bank](/wiki/Asian_Development_Bank).[[9]](#cite_note-9) The Philippines is considered to be an [emerging market](/wiki/Emerging_market) and a [newly industrialized country](/wiki/Newly_industrialized_country),[[10]](#cite_note-10) which has an economy transitioning from being one based on agriculture to one based more on services and manufacturing.<ref name=CIAfactbookPhilEcon>[CIA World Factbook, Philippines](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html#Econ), Retrieved May 15, 2009.</ref>

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Pantoja_de_la_Cruz_Copia_de_Antonio_Moro.jpg)[King Philip II of Spain](/wiki/King_Philip_II_of_Spain).

The Philippines was named in honor of [King Philip II of Spain](/wiki/Philip_II_of_Spain). Spanish explorer [Ruy López de Villalobos](/wiki/Ruy_López_de_Villalobos) during his expedition in 1542 named the islands of [Leyte](/wiki/Leyte) and [Samar](/wiki/Samar) *Felipinas* after the then [Prince of Asturias](/wiki/Prince_of_Asturias). Eventually the name *Las Islas Filipinas* would be used to cover all the islands of the archipelago. Before that became commonplace, other names such as *Islas del Poniente* (Islands of the West) and Magellan's name for the islands *San Lázaro* were also used by the Spanish to refer to the islands.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

The official name of the Philippines has changed several times in the course of its history. During the [Philippine Revolution](/wiki/Philippine_Revolution), the [Malolos Congress](/wiki/Malolos_Congress) proclaimed the establishment of the *República Filipina* or the [*Philippine Republic*](/wiki/First_Philippine_Republic). From the period of the [Spanish–American War](/wiki/Spanish–American_War) (1898) and the [Philippine–American War](/wiki/Philippine–American_War) (1899–1902) until the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_the_Philippines) period (1935–46), American colonial authorities referred to the country as the *Philippine Islands*, a translation of the Spanish name.<ref name=Constantino1975>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> From the [1898 Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1898)), the name *Philippines* began to appear and it has since become the country's common name. Since the end of [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), the official name of the country has been the *Republic of the Philippines*.<ref name =PhilIs>[Quezon, Manuel, III](/wiki/Manuel_Quezon_III). (March 28, 2005). ["The Philippines *are* or *is*?"](http://www.quezon.ph/2005/03/28/323/). *Manuel L. Quezon III: The Daily Dose*. Retrieved December 20, 2009.</ref>

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) The [metatarsal](/wiki/Metatarsal) of the [Callao Man](/wiki/Callao_Man), reliably dated by [uranium-series dating](/wiki/Uranium-thorium_dating) to 67,000 years ago is the oldest human remnant found in the archipelago to date.[[11]](#cite_note-11) This distinction previously belonged to the [Tabon Man](/wiki/Tabon_Man) of [Palawan](/wiki/Palawan), carbon-dated to around 26,500 years ago.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) [Negritos](/wiki/Negrito) were also among the archipelago's earliest inhabitants, but their first settlement in the Philippines has not been reliably dated.<ref name=Scott1A>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

There are several opposing theories regarding the origins of ancient Filipinos. F. Landa Jocano theorizes that the ancestors of the Filipinos [evolved locally](/wiki/Prehistory_of_the_Philippines#Jocano's_Local_Origins_Theory). [Wilhelm Solheim's](/wiki/Wilhelm_Solheim) [Island Origin Theory](/wiki/Nusantao_Maritime_Trading_and_Communication_Network)[[12]](#cite_note-12) postulates that the peopling of the archipelago transpired via trade networks originating in the [Sundaland](/wiki/Sundaland) area around 48,000 to 5000 BC rather than by wide-scale migration. The [Austronesian Expansion Theory](/wiki/Austronesian_peoples) postulates that [Malayo-Polynesians](/wiki/Malayo-Polynesian_languages) coming from [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan) began migrating to the Philippines around 4000 BC, displacing earlier arrivals.<ref name=mijares2006>Mijares, Armand Salvador B. (2006). [The Early Austronesian Migration To Luzon: Perspectives From The Peñablanca Cave Sites](http://web.archive.org/web/20140707050814/http://ejournal.anu.edu.au/index.php/bippa/article/viewFile/10/9). *Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association* **26**: 72–78. (archived from [the original](http://ejournal.anu.edu.au/index.php/bippa/article/viewFile/10/9) on 2014-07-07)</ref>

The most widely accepted theory, based on linguistic and archeological evidence, is the ["Out-of-Taiwan" model](/wiki/Out-of-Taiwan_hypothesis), which hypothesizes that [Austronesians](/wiki/Austronesian_peoples) from [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan), who were themselves descended from the neolithic civilizations of the Yangtze river such as the [Liangzhu culture](/wiki/Liangzhu_culture),[[13]](#cite_note-13) began migrating to the Philippines around 4000 BC, displacing earlier arrivals.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) During the neolithic period, a "jade culture" is said to have existed as evidenced by tens of thousands of exquisitely crafted jade artifacts found in the Philippines dated to 2000 BC.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15) The jade is said to have originated nearby in Taiwan and is also found in many other areas in insular and mainland Southeast Asia. These artifacts are said to be evidence of long range communication between prehistoric Southeast Asian societies.[[16]](#cite_note-16) By 1000 BC the inhabitants of the archipelago had developed into four kinds of social groups: hunter-gatherer tribes, warrior societies, highland [plutocracies](/wiki/Plutocracy), and port principalities.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

### Precolonial epoch[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|upright=0.70|left|The fine lines and complex design of the Manunggul Jar reflect the artistry of the early Filipinos.](/wiki/File:The_Manunggul_Jar.jpg) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Batanes_castle.jpg) [Batanes castles](/wiki/Batanes_castles), made from limestone and wood, are triagular-shaped fortified hilltop cities on the Batanes Islands in the Philippines. An example of a European Castle – like [fortresses](/wiki/Fortress) found in Southeast Asia – are built by the [Ivatan people](/wiki/Ivatan_people) to protect themselves during times of war. They built their so-called *idjangs* on hills and elevated areas.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Banaue_Rice_Terraces_by_Nonoyborbun.jpg)[Ifugao/Igorot](/wiki/Igorot) used terrace farming in the steep mountainous regions of northern Philippines over 2000 years ago: [Banaue Rice Terraces](/wiki/Banaue_Rice_Terraces) [thumb|A pencil sketch depicting a](/wiki/File:Maharlika_couple.jpg) [Maharlika couple](/wiki/Maharlika). [thumb|upright=1.5||Ancient kingdoms in the Philippines influenced by](/wiki/File:Pre_1521_Philippines_map.jpg) [Indic](/wiki/Greater_India), [Malay](/wiki/Malay_world), [Sinified](/wiki/Sinic_world) and [Islamic](/wiki/Muslim_world) cultures. Some of the societies scattered in the islands of what would later become the Philippines remained isolated but many evolved into states that developed substantial trade and contacts with the peoples of eastern, southern and southeastern Asia; including those from [Brunei](/wiki/Brunei), [China](/wiki/China), [India](/wiki/India), [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) and [Japan](/wiki/Japan) as well as other Austronesian islands.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

The first millennium saw the rise of the port principalities and their growth into [maritime states](/wiki/Maritime_nation) composed of autonomous [barangays](/wiki/Barangay_(pre-colonial)) independent of or allied with larger nations which were either [Malay](/wiki/Malay_race) [thalassocracies](/wiki/Thalassocracy) led by [Datus](/wiki/Datu), tributary states to China ruled by Huangs or [Indianized kingdoms](/wiki/Greater_India) governed by Rajahs.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The [Kedatuan of Madja-as](/wiki/Kedatuan_of_Madja-as) was founded following a civil war in collapsing [Srivijaya](/wiki/Srivijaya), wherein loyalists of the Malay [datus](/wiki/Datu) of Srivijaya defied the invading [Chola Dynasty](/wiki/Chola_Dynasty) and its puppet-Rajah, called Makatunao, and set up a guerrilla-state in the islands of the [Visayas](/wiki/Visayas). Its founding datu, Puti, had purchased land for his new realms from the aboriginal [Ati](/wiki/Ati_people) hero, Marikudo.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Madja-as was founded on [Panay](/wiki/Panay) island (named after the destroyed state of [Pannai](/wiki/Pannai) allied under Srivijaya which was located in [Sumatra](/wiki/Sumatra)). Afterwards, the people of Madja-as often raided the port cities of southern China and warred with the Chinese navy.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The [Rajahnate of Cebu](/wiki/Rajahnate_of_Cebu)[[22]](#cite_note-22) was a neighbor of Madja-as in the Visayas led by Rajamuda [Sri](/wiki/Sri) Lumay, a monarch with partial [Tamil](/wiki/Tamil_people) descent. This state grew wealthy by making use of the inter-island shipping routes within the archipelago.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Meanwhile, the [Rajahnate of Butuan](/wiki/Rajahnate_of_Butuan) in northeastern Mindanao attained prominence under the rule of Rajah Sri Bata Shaja,[[24]](#cite_note-24) who was from a Buddhist ruling-class governing a Hindu nation. This state became powerful due to the local goldsmith industry and also maintained commercial ties and a diplomatic rivalry with the [Champa](/wiki/Champa) civilization. Both the Rajahnates of Butuan and Cebu maintained contact and traded with [Kutai](/wiki/Kutai), a Hindu country<ref name=Coedes>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> in south [Borneo](/wiki/Borneo) established by Indian traders.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The Huangdom of [Ma-i](/wiki/Ma-i) centered in Mindoro, ruled by Huang Gat-sa-Lihan, was noted for its trust-worthiness in trade.[[26]](#cite_note-26) In northern [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon), the [Huangdom of Pangasinan](/wiki/Huangdom_of_Pangasinan) under Huang Taymey, exported horses and silver to China, the [Kingdom of Ryukyu](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ryukyu) and [Japan](/wiki/Japan).[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) In central Luzon, the [Kingdom of Tondo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Tondo) was ruled over by the [Lakandula](/wiki/Lakandula) dynasty and the kingdom grew wealthy via the exclusive trading-rights of Chinese goods which they marketed in southeast Asia. This was granted to them by the Ming Dynasty.<ref name=Ring>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=Zaide2>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

The 1300s saw the arrival and eventual spread of [Islam](/wiki/Islam) in the Philippine archipelago. In 1380, [Karim ul' Makdum](/wiki/Makhdum_Karim) and Shari'ful Hashem Syed Abu Bakr, an [Arab](/wiki/Arab) trader born in Johore, arrived in [Sulu](/wiki/Sulu_Island) from [Malacca](/wiki/Malacca) and established the [Sultanate of Sulu](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Sulu) by converting Sulu's rajah, [Rajah Baguinda](/wiki/Rajah_Baguinda) Ali and marrying his daughter.[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30) At the end of the 15th century, [Shariff Mohammed Kabungsuwan](/wiki/Mohammed_Kabungsuwan) of [Johor](/wiki/Johor) introduced Islam in the island of Mindanao and established the [Sultanate of Maguindanao](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Maguindanao). The sultanate form of government extended further [into Lanao](/wiki/Confederation_of_sultanates_in_Lanao).[[31]](#cite_note-31) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Around this time, the people of Luzon were collectively called [Lucoes](/wiki/Lucoes) and they rose to prominence by participating in trading ventures and military campaigns in [Myanmar](/wiki/Taungoo_Dynasty), [Malacca](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Malacca) and [East Timor](/wiki/East_Timor)[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) where they were employed as traders and mercenaries.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37][37]](#cite_note-37) Islam then started to spread out of [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao) in the south and went into [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon) in the north. [Manila](/wiki/Manila) in Luzon was Islamized during the reign of Sultan [Bolkiah](/wiki/Bolkiah) in 1485 to 1521. This was accomplished because the [Bruneian Empire](/wiki/Bruneian_Empire) subjugated the Kingdom of [Tondo](/wiki/Ancient_Tondo) by defeating Datu Gambang and installing the Muslim Rajah, [Rajah Sulaiman I](/wiki/Rajah_Sulaiman_I) to the throne and by establishing the Bruneian puppet-state of the [Kingdom of Maynila](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Maynila).[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40) Sultan Bolkiah also married Laila Mecana, the daughter of Sulu Sultan Amir Ul-Ombra to expand [Brunei's](/wiki/Brunei) influence in both [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon) and [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao).[[41]](#cite_note-41) Nevertheless, states like the [animist Igorot](/wiki/Igorot_Society), Malay [Madja-as](/wiki/Confederation_of_Madja-as), Sinified [Ma-i](/wiki/Ma-i), and Indianized [Butuan](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Butuan) still maintained their cultures. The rivalries between the [datus](/wiki/Datus), [rajahs](/wiki/Raja), [huangs](/wiki/Wikt:王), [sultans](/wiki/Sultans), and [lakans](/wiki/Lakan) eventually eased Spanish [colonization](/wiki/Colonization). Furthermore, the islands were [sparsely populated](/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Philippines#Population_history)[[42]](#cite_note-42) due to consistent natural disasters[[43]](#cite_note-43) and inter-kingdom conflicts. Therefore, colonization was made easy and the small states of the archipelago quickly became incorporated into the Spanish Empire and were [Hispanicized](/wiki/Hispanization) and Christianized.<ref name=Agoncillo>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

### Colonial era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [upright=1.00|thumb|A mural painting depicting the](/wiki/File:MactanShrinePainting2.jpg) [Battle of Mactan](/wiki/Battle_of_Mactan) [upright=1.00|thumb|](/wiki/File:Fort_Santiago_Gate.jpg)[Fort Santiago](/wiki/Fort_Santiago) in [Manila](/wiki/Manila), built by [Miguel López de Legazpi](/wiki/Miguel_López_de_Legazpi) in 1590.

In 1521, [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people) explorer [Ferdinand Magellan](/wiki/Ferdinand_Magellan) arrived in the Philippines, claimed the islands for Spain and was then killed at the [Battle of Mactan](/wiki/Battle_of_Mactan).[[44]](#cite_note-44) Colonization began when Spanish explorer [Miguel López de Legazpi](/wiki/Miguel_López_de_Legazpi) arrived from Mexico in 1565 and formed the first Hispanic settlements in Cebu. After relocating to [Panay](/wiki/Panay) island and consolidating a coalition of native [Visayan](/wiki/Visayan) allies and Hispanic soldiers, the Spaniards then [captured Islamic Manila](/wiki/Miguel_López_de_Legazpi#Luzon_and_the_capture_of_Kota_Seludong), therein they put down the [Tondo Conspiracy](/wiki/Tondo_Conspiracy) and exiled the conspirators to [Guam](/wiki/Guam) and [Guerrero](/wiki/Guerrero).[[45]](#cite_note-45) Under Spanish rule, they established Manila as the capital of the [Spanish East Indies](/wiki/Spanish_East_Indies) (1571).[[46]](#cite_note-46) They also defeated the Chinese-warlord [Limahong](/wiki/Limahong).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) In response to the Islamic invasion of the Philippines, the [Castilian War](/wiki/Castilian_War) was waged against the [Sultanate of Brunei](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Brunei)[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) and war was also waged against the [Sultanate of Ternate](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Ternate) and [Tidore](/wiki/Tidore) (in response to Ternatan slaving and piracy against the [Butuan](/wiki/Butuan) Rajahnate and [Bohol](/wiki/Bohol)).[[47]](#cite_note-47) Fortifications were also set up in [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan) and the [Maluku islands](/wiki/Maluku_islands). These were abandoned and the soldiers withdrew back to the Philippines in order to re-concentrate their military forces because of a threatened invasion by the Japan-born [Ming](/wiki/Ming)-dynasty loyalist, [Koxinga](/wiki/Koxinga), ruler of the stronghold of [Tungning](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Tungning).[[48]](#cite_note-48) However, the invasion was aborted. Meanwhile, settlers were sent to the Pacific islands of [Palau](/wiki/Palau) and the [Marianas](/wiki/Mariana_Islands).[[49]](#cite_note-49) Spanish rule eventually contributed significantly to bringing political unity to the fragmented states of the archipelago. From 1565 to 1821, the Philippines was governed as a territory of the [Viceroyalty of New Spain](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Spain) and then was administered directly from [Madrid](/wiki/Madrid) after the [Mexican War of Independence](/wiki/Mexican_War_of_Independence). The [Manila galleons](/wiki/Manila_galleons), the largest wooden ships ever built, were constructed in [Bicol](/wiki/Bicol_Region) and [Cavite](/wiki/Cavite).[[50]](#cite_note-50) The Manila galleons were accompanied with a large naval escort as it traveled to and fro Manila and [Acapulco](/wiki/Acapulco).[[51]](#cite_note-51) The galleons sailed once or twice a year, between the 16th and 19th centuries.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Trade introduced foodstuff such as [maize](/wiki/Maize), [tomatoes](/wiki/Tomato), [potatoes](/wiki/Potato), [chili peppers](/wiki/Chili_pepper), [chocolate](/wiki/Chocolate) and [pineapples](/wiki/Pineapple) from [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico) and [Peru](/wiki/Peru). Within the Philippines, the [Marquisate of Buglas](/wiki/Negros_(island)) was established and rule of it was awarded to [Sebastian Elcano](/wiki/Sebastian_Elcano) and his crew, the survivors of the first circumnavigation of the world, as well as his descendants. New towns were also created[[53]](#cite_note-53) and [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) missionaries converted most of the lowland inhabitants to [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity).[[54]](#cite_note-54) They also founded schools, a university, hospitals and churches which were built along the [Earthquake Baroque](/wiki/Earthquake_Baroque) architectural style.[[55]](#cite_note-55) The Spanish also decreed the introduction of free public schooling in 1863.[[56]](#cite_note-56) As a result of these policies the Philippine population increased exponentially.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

During its rule, the Spanish quelled [various indigenous revolts](/wiki/Philippine_revolts_against_Spain). There were several external military challenges from Chinese and Japanese pirates, the Dutch, the English and the Portuguese. Those challengers were fought-off despite the hostile forces having encircled the Philippine archipelago in a crescent formed from Japan to Indonesia. [British forces occupied Manila](/wiki/British_occupation_of_the_Philippines) from 1762 to 1764 in an extension of the fighting of the [Seven Years' War](/wiki/Seven_Years'_War). Spanish rule was restored following the [1763 Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1763)).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) The [Spanish–Moro conflict](/wiki/Spanish–Moro_conflict) lasted for several hundred years. In the last quarter of the 19th century Spain conquered portions of [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao) and [Moro](/wiki/Moro_people) Muslims in the [Sulu Sultanate](/wiki/Sulu_Sultanate) on [Sulu](/wiki/Sulu_Archipelago) formally recognised Spanish sovereignty.

In the 19th century, Philippine ports opened to world trade and shifts started occurring within Philippine society. Many Spaniards born in the Philippines ([*criollos*](/wiki/Criollo_people)) and those of mixed ancestry ([*mestizos*](/wiki/Mestizos)) became wealthy and an influx of [Latin American](/wiki/Latin_American_Asian) settlers[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58) opened up government positions traditionally held by Spaniards born in the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) ([*peninsulares*](/wiki/Peninsulares)). The ideals of revolution also began to spread through the islands. *Criollo* dissatisfaction resulted in the 1872 [Cavite Mutiny](/wiki/Cavite_Mutiny) that was a precursor to the Philippine Revolution.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

Revolutionary sentiments were stoked in 1872 after three priests—[Mariano Gómez](/wiki/Mariano_Gómez), [José Burgos](/wiki/José_Burgos), and [Jacinto Zamora](/wiki/Jacinto_Zamora) (collectively known as [Gomburza](/wiki/Gomburza))—were accused of sedition by colonial authorities and executed.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) This would inspire a [propaganda movement](/wiki/Propaganda_movement) in Spain, organized by [Marcelo H. del Pilar](/wiki/Marcelo_H._del_Pilar), [José Rizal](/wiki/José_Rizal), and [Mariano Ponce](/wiki/Mariano_Ponce), lobbying for political reforms in the Philippines. Rizal was eventually executed on December 30, 1896, on charges of rebellion.[[59]](#cite_note-59) As attempts at reform met with resistance, [Andrés Bonifacio](/wiki/Andrés_Bonifacio) in 1892 established the secret society called the [Katipunan](/wiki/Katipunan), who sought independence from Spain through armed revolt.<ref name=RichardsonBonifacio/>

Bonifacio and the Katipunan started the Philippine Revolution in 1896. A faction of the Katipunan, the [Magdalo](/wiki/Magdalo_(Katipunan_faction)) of [Cavite](/wiki/Cavite) province, eventually came to challenge Bonifacio's position as the leader of the revolution and [Emilio Aguinaldo](/wiki/Emilio_Aguinaldo) took over. In 1898, the [Spanish–American War](/wiki/Spanish–American_War) began in [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) and reached the Philippines. Aguinaldo [declared Philippine independence](/wiki/Philippine_Declaration_of_Independence) from Spain in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898, and the [First Philippine Republic](/wiki/First_Philippine_Republic) was established in the [Barasoain Church](/wiki/Barasoain_Church) in the following year.<ref name=Agoncillo/> [upright=1.30|thumb|](/wiki/File:AguinaldoShrinejf1036_09.JPG)[Aguinaldo Shrine](/wiki/Aguinaldo_Shrine) where the first flag of the short-lived [independent republic](/wiki/First_Philippine_Republic) was raised in 1898. The islands were ceded by Spain to the United States as a result of the latter's victory in the [Spanish–American War](/wiki/Spanish–American_War).[[60]](#cite_note-60) A compensation of 20 million US dollars was paid to Spain according to the terms of the [1898 Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1898)).[[61]](#cite_note-61) As it became increasingly clear the United States would not recognize the nascent First Philippine Republic, the [Philippine–American War](/wiki/Philippine–American_War) broke out, the First Republic was defeated, and the archipelago was administered under an [Insular Government](/wiki/Insular_Government).<ref name=Gates>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The war resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of combatants as well as a couple of hundred thousand civilians, mostly from a cholera epidemic.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

[upright=1.00|thumb|President](/wiki/File:Manuel_L._Quezon_(November_1942).jpg) [Manuel L. Quezon](/wiki/Manuel_L._Quezon) (November 1942). [upright=1.00|thumb|US General](/wiki/File:Douglas_MacArthur_lands_Leyte1.jpg) [Douglas MacArthur](/wiki/Douglas_MacArthur) and President [Sergio Osmeña](/wiki/Sergio_Osmeña) land at [Palo, Leyte](/wiki/Palo,_Leyte), October 1944.

The Americans then suppressed other rebellious sub-states: mainly, the waning [Sultanate of Sulu](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Sulu), as well as the insurgent [Tagalog Republic](/wiki/Tagalog_Republic), the Cantonal [Republic of Negros](/wiki/Republic_of_Negros) in the Visayas, and the [Republic of Zamboanga](/wiki/Republic_of_Zamboanga) in Mindanao.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) During this era, a renaissance in Philippine culture occurred, with the expansion of [Philippine cinema](/wiki/Cinema_of_the_Philippines) and [literature](/wiki/Philippine_literature).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) In 1935, the Philippines was granted [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_the_Philippines) status with [Manuel Quezon](/wiki/Manuel_Quezon) as president. He designated a national language and introduced women's suffrage and land reform.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) Plans for independence over the next decade were interrupted by World War II when the [Japanese Empire](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) invaded and the [Second Philippine Republic](/wiki/Second_Philippine_Republic) of [José P. Laurel](/wiki/José_P._Laurel) was established as a collaborator state.

Many atrocities and [war crimes were committed during the war](/wiki/Japanese_war_crimes) such as the [Bataan Death March](/wiki/Bataan_Death_March) and the [Manila massacre](/wiki/Manila_massacre) that culminated during the [Battle of Manila](/wiki/Battle_of_Manila_(1945)).[[62]](#cite_note-62) In 1944, Quezon died in exile in the United States and [Sergio Osmeña](/wiki/Sergio_Osmeña) succeeded him. The [Allied Forces](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) then employed a strategy of [island hopping](/wiki/Leapfrogging_(strategy)) towards the Philippine [Archipelago](/wiki/Archipelago), in the process, retaking territory conquered by Imperial Japan.

From mid-1942 through mid-1944, the [Filipino guerrilla resistance](/wiki/Japanese_occupation_of_the_Philippines#Resistance)[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[64]](#cite_note-64) had been supplied and encouraged by U.S. Navy submarines and a few parachute drops, so that the guerrillas could harass the Japanese Army and take control of the rural jungle and mountainous areas – amounting to about half of the Philippine archipelago. While remaining loyal to the United States, many Filipinos hoped and believed that liberation from the Japanese would bring them freedom and their already-promised independence.

Eventually, the largest naval battle in history, according to gross tonnage, the [Battle of Leyte Gulf](/wiki/Battle_of_Leyte_Gulf), occurred when the [Allied Forces](/wiki/Allied_Forces) started the liberation of the Philippines from the [Japanese Empire](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) Allied troops [defeated the Japanese](/wiki/Philippines_Campaign_(1944–45)) in 1945. By the end of the war it is estimated that over a million Filipinos had died.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

### Postcolonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Marcos_Clark_Air_Base_cropped.jpg)[Ferdinand](/wiki/Ferdinand_Marcos) and [Imelda Marcos](/wiki/Imelda_Marcos), 1979. On October 24, 1945,[[65]](#cite_note-65) the Philippines became one of the [founding members](/wiki/Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) and the following year, on July 4, 1946, it became recognized by the [United States](/wiki/United_States) as independent, during the presidency of [Manuel Roxas](/wiki/Manuel_Roxas).[[66]](#cite_note-66) Disgruntled remnants of the communist [Hukbalahap](/wiki/Hukbalahap)[[67]](#cite_note-67) continued to roam the countryside but were put down by President [Elpidio Quirino's](/wiki/Elpidio_Quirino) successor [Ramon Magsaysay](/wiki/Ramon_Magsaysay).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) Magsaysay's successor, [Carlos P. Garcia](/wiki/Carlos_P._Garcia) initiated the [Filipino First Policy](/wiki/Filipino_First_policy),[[68]](#cite_note-68) which was continued by [Diosdado Macapagal](/wiki/Diosdado_Macapagal), with celebration of Independence Day moved from July 4 to June 12, the date of [Emilio Aguinaldo's](/wiki/Emilio_Aguinaldo) [declaration](/wiki/Philippine_Declaration_of_Independence),[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) while furthering the [claim](/wiki/North_Borneo_dispute) on the eastern part of [North Borneo](/wiki/North_Borneo).[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70) In 1965, Macapagal lost the presidential election to [Ferdinand Marcos](/wiki/Ferdinand_Marcos). Early in his presidency he initiated numerous infrastructure projects but was accused of massive corruption and embezzling billions of dollars in public funds.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Nearing the end of his term, Marcos declared [Martial Law](/wiki/Martial_law_in_the_Philippines) on September 21, 1972.[[72]](#cite_note-72) This period of his rule was characterized by political repression, censorship, and human rights violations but the US were steadfast in their support.[[73]](#cite_note-73) His wife [Imelda](/wiki/Imelda_Marcos) continued to live a lavish lifestyle as the majority of Filipinos remained in poverty.<ref name=Cambridge4>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

On August 21, 1983, Marcos' chief rival, opposition leader [Benigno Aquino, Jr.](/wiki/Benigno_Aquino,_Jr.), was [assassinated](/wiki/Assassination_of_Benigno_Aquino,_Jr.) on the tarmac at [Manila International Airport](/wiki/Manila_International_Airport). Marcos eventually called snap [presidential elections in 1986](/wiki/Philippine_presidential_election,_1986).[[74]](#cite_note-74) Marcos was proclaimed the winner, but the results were widely regarded as fraudulent, leading to the [People Power Revolution](/wiki/People_Power_Revolution). Marcos and his allies fled to [Hawaii](/wiki/Hawaii) and Aquino's widow, [Corazon Aquino](/wiki/Corazon_Aquino) was recognized as president.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

### Contemporary history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|alt=President](/wiki/File:RAMOS_pentagon_1998.jpg) [Fidel V. Ramos](/wiki/Fidel_V._Ramos) salutes at the Pentagon with Secretary of Defense [William Cohen](/wiki/William_Cohen) and an honor guard during a State visit in 1998.|President [Fidel V. Ramos](/wiki/Fidel_V._Ramos) salutes at the Pentagon with U.S. Secretary of Defense [William Cohen](/wiki/William_Cohen) and an honor guard during a State visit in 1998.

The return of democracy and government reforms beginning in 1986 were hampered by national debt, government corruption, [coup attempts](/wiki/1986–90_Philippine_coup_attempts), [disasters](/wiki/MV_Doña_Paz), a persistent [communist insurgency](/wiki/CPP-NPA-NDF_rebellion),[[75]](#cite_note-75) and a military conflict with [Moro separatists](/wiki/Moro_insurgency_in_the_Philippines).[[76]](#cite_note-76) During [Corazon Aquino's](/wiki/Corazon_Aquino) administration, U.S. forces withdrew from the Philippines, due the rejection of the [U.S. Bases Extension Treaty](/wiki/Presidency_of_Corazon_Aquino#U.S._Bases_Extension_Treaty),[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78) and leading to the official transfer of [Clark Air Base](/wiki/Clark_Air_Base) in November 1991 and [Subic Bay](/wiki/Subic_Bay) to the government in December 1992.[[79]](#cite_note-79)[[80]](#cite_note-80) The administration also faced a series of natural disasters, including the eruption of [Mount Pinatubo](/wiki/Mount_Pinatubo) in June 1991.[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82) After introducing a constitution that limited presidents to a single term, Aquino did not stand for re-election.

Aquino was succeeded by [Fidel V. Ramos](/wiki/Fidel_V._Ramos), who won the [Philippine presidential election](/wiki/Philippine_presidential_election,_1992) held in May 1992. During this period, the economy was known as the "Tiger Economy in Asia", with an average of 6% GDP growth rate.[[83]](#cite_note-83) However, the political stability and economic improvements, such as the peace agreement with the [Moro National Liberation Front](/wiki/Moro_National_Liberation_Front) in 1996,[[84]](#cite_note-84) were overshadowed by the onset of the [1997 Asian financial crisis](/wiki/1997_Asian_financial_crisis).<ref name=AFC-NA-13>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=AFC-NA-14>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Ramos' successor, [Joseph Estrada](/wiki/Joseph_Estrada) assumed office in June 1998 and managed to regain the economy from −0.6% growth to 3.4% by 1999 amidst the [1997 Asian financial crisis](/wiki/1997_Asian_financial_crisis).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) The government had announced a war against the [Moro Islamic Liberation Front](/wiki/Moro_Islamic_Liberation_Front) in March 2000 and neutralized the camps including the headquarters of the insurgents.[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86) In the middle of ongoing conflict with the [Abu Sayyaf](/wiki/Abu_Sayyaf),[[87]](#cite_note-87) accusations of alleged corruption, and a stalled impeachment process, [Estrada's](/wiki/Joseph_Estrada) administration was overthrown by the [2001 EDSA Revolution](/wiki/2001_EDSA_Revolution) and succeeded by his [Vice President](/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_Philippines), [Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo](/wiki/Gloria_Macapagal-Arroyo) on January 20, 2001.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In [Arroyo's](/wiki/Gloria_Macapagal-Arroyo) 9-year administration, The economy experienced GDP growth from 4% in 2002 to 7% growth in 2007 with the completion of infrastructure projects like the [LRT Line 2](/wiki/Manila_Light_Rail_Transit_System_Line_2) in 2004[[89]](#cite_note-89) and managed to avoid the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession).[[90]](#cite_note-90) Nevertheless, it was tied with graft and political scandals like the [Hello Garci scandal](/wiki/Hello_Garci_scandal) pertaining to the alleged manipulation of votes in the [2004 presidential elections](/wiki/Philippine_presidential_election,_2004).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) On November 23, 2009, the [Maguindanao massacre](/wiki/Maguindanao_massacre) led to the murder of 34 journalists.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

[Benigno Aquino III](/wiki/Benigno_Aquino_III) won the [2010 national elections](/wiki/Philippine_presidential_election,_2010) and served as the [15th](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_Philippines) [President of the Philippines](/wiki/President_of_the_Philippines). He was the third youngest person to be elected president and the first to be a [bachelor](/wiki/Bachelor).[[91]](#cite_note-91)During the previous years, The [Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro](/wiki/Framework_Agreement_on_the_Bangsamoro) was signed on October 15, 2012, as the first step of the creation of an autonomous political entity named [Bangsamoro](/wiki/Bangsamoro_(political_entity)).[[92]](#cite_note-92) However, territorial disputes in eastern [Sabah](/wiki/North_Borneo_dispute) and the [South China Sea](/wiki/Territorial_disputes_in_the_South_China_Sea) have escalated.[[93]](#cite_note-93)[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95)The economy performed well at 7.2% GDP growth, the second fastest in Asia.[[96]](#cite_note-96) [Davao City](/wiki/Davao_City) mayor [Rodrigo Duterte](/wiki/Rodrigo_Duterte) of [PDP–Laban](/wiki/PDP–Laban) won the [2016 presidential election](/wiki/Philippine_presidential_election,_2016) becoming the first president from [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao).[[97]](#cite_note-97) [Camarines Sur](/wiki/Camarines_Sur) representative [Leni Robredo](/wiki/Leni_Robredo) won the vice presidency.[[97]](#cite_note-97)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Malacanang_palace_view.jpg)[Malacañan Palace](/wiki/Malacañang_Palace), is the [President of the Philippines'](/wiki/President_of_the_Philippines) official residence. The Philippines has a democratic government in the form of a constitutional republic with a [presidential system](/wiki/Presidential_system).[[98]](#cite_note-98) It is governed as a [unitary state](/wiki/Unitary_state) with the exception of the [Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao](/wiki/Autonomous_Region_in_Muslim_Mindanao) (ARMM) which is largely free from the national government. There have been attempts to change the government to a [federal](/wiki/Federal_government), [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral), or [parliamentary government](/wiki/Parliamentary_government) since the Ramos administration.[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) The [President](/wiki/President_of_the_Philippines) functions as both [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government) and is the [commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the [armed forces](/wiki/Armed_Forces_of_the_Philippines). The president is elected by popular vote for a single six-year term, during which he or she appoints and presides over the [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_(government)).[[101]](#cite_note-101) The [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameral) [Congress](/wiki/Congress_of_the_Philippines) is composed of the [Senate](/wiki/Senate_of_the_Philippines), serving as the [upper house](/wiki/Upper_house), with members elected to a six-year term, and the [House of Representatives](/wiki/House_of_Representatives_of_the_Philippines), serving as the [lower house](/wiki/Lower_house), with members elected to a three-year term.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Senators are elected at large while the representatives are elected from both [legislative districts](/wiki/Legislative_districts_of_the_Philippines) and through sectoral representation.[[101]](#cite_note-101) The [judicial](/wiki/Judiciary) power is vested in the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_Philippines), composed of a [Chief Justice](/wiki/Chief_Justice_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_the_Philippines) as its presiding officer and fourteen [associate justices](/wiki/Associate_Justice_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_the_Philippines), all of whom are appointed by the President from nominations submitted by the [Judicial and Bar Council](/wiki/Judicial_and_Bar_Council).[[101]](#cite_note-101)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|President of the Philippines,](/wiki/File:Truman_Quirino.jpg) [Elpidio Quirino](/wiki/Elpidio_Quirino) with U.S. [President Truman](/wiki/Harry_S._Truman) at the White House, 1951. The US and the Philippines have had a [close relationship](/wiki/Philippines–United_States_relations) for over 100 years.

The Philippines' international relations are based on trade with other nations and the well-being of the 11 million [overseas Filipinos](/wiki/Overseas_Filipino) living outside the country.[[102]](#cite_note-102) As a founding and active member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), the Philippines has been elected several times into the [Security Council](/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council). [Carlos P. Romulo](/wiki/Carlos_P._Romulo) was a former President of the [United Nations General Assembly](/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly). The country is an active participant in the [Human Rights Council](/wiki/Human_Rights_Council) as well as in [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping) missions, particularly in [East Timor](/wiki/United_Nations_Transitional_Administration_in_East_Timor).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

In addition to membership in the United Nations, the Philippines is also a founding and active member of [ASEAN](/wiki/ASEAN) (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), an organization designed to strengthen relations and promote economic and cultural growth among states in the Southeast Asian region.[[103]](#cite_note-103) It has hosted several [summits](/wiki/ASEAN_summit) and is an active contributor to the direction and policies of the bloc.<ref name=summit>[Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)[Template:Cbignore](/wiki/Template:Cbignore). (1999). *3*[*Template:Smallsup*](/wiki/Template:Smallsup) *ASEAN Informal Summit*. Archived from [the original](http://www.summit99.ops.gov.ph/asean_structure.htm) on December 17, 2007. Retrieved December 13, 2009.</ref>

The Philippines values its relations with the United States.[[102]](#cite_note-102) It supported the United States during the Cold War and the War on Terror and is a [major non-NATO ally](/wiki/Major_non-NATO_ally). Despite this history of goodwill, controversies related to the presence of the now former [U.S. military bases](/wiki/United_States_military_bases) in [Subic Bay](/wiki/Subic_Bay) and [Clark](/wiki/Clark_Air_Base) and the current [Visiting Forces Agreement](/wiki/RP-US_Visiting_Forces_Agreement) have flared up from time to time.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Japan, the biggest contributor of [official development assistance](/wiki/Official_development_assistance) to the country,[[104]](#cite_note-104) is thought of as a friend. Although historical tensions still exist on issues such as the plight of [comfort women](/wiki/Comfort_women), much of the animosity inspired by memories of World War II has faded.<ref name=neighbors>Dolan, Ronald E. (Ed.). (1991). ["Relations with Asian Neighbors"](http://countrystudies.us/philippines/93.htm). [*Philippines: A Country Study*](http://countrystudies.us/philippines/). Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress. Retrieved January 5, 2010 from [Country Studies US Website](http://countrystudies.us/).</ref>

Relations with other nations are generally positive. Shared democratic values ease relations with Western and European countries while similar economic concerns help in relations with other developing countries. Historical ties and cultural similarities also serve as a bridge in relations with [Spain](/wiki/Spain).[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[106]](#cite_note-106)[[107]](#cite_note-107) Despite issues such as [domestic abuse](/wiki/Domestic_abuse) and war affecting overseas Filipino workers,[[108]](#cite_note-108)[[109]](#cite_note-109) relations with [Middle Eastern](/wiki/Middle_East) countries are friendly as seen in the continuous employment of more than two million overseas Filipinos living there.[[110]](#cite_note-110) With communism no longer the threat it once was, once hostile relations in the 1950s between the Philippines and [China](/wiki/China) have improved greatly. Issues involving Taiwan, the Spratly Islands, and concerns of expanding Chinese influence, however, still encourage a degree of caution.<ref name=neighbors/> Recent foreign policy has been mostly about economic relations with its Southeast Asian and Asia-Pacific neighbors.[[102]](#cite_note-102) The Philippines is an active member of the [East Asia Summit](/wiki/East_Asia_Summit) (EAS), the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation](/wiki/Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation) (APEC), the [Latin Union](/wiki/Latin_Union), the [Group of 24](/wiki/Group_of_24), and the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement).[[101]](#cite_note-101) It is also seeking to strengthen relations with Islamic countries by campaigning for observer status in the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation).[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[112]](#cite_note-112)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are responsible for national security and consist of three branches: the [Philippine Air Force](/wiki/Philippine_Air_Force), the [Philippine Army](/wiki/Philippine_Army), and the [Philippine Navy](/wiki/Philippine_Navy) (includes the [Marine Corps](/wiki/Philippine_Marine_Corps)).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) The Armed Forces of the Philippines are a [volunteer force](/wiki/Volunteer_military).[[113]](#cite_note-113) Civilian security is handled by the [Philippine National Police](/wiki/Philippine_National_Police) under the [Department of the Interior and Local Government](/wiki/Department_of_the_Interior_and_Local_Government) (DILG).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the largest separatist organization, the [Moro National Liberation Front](/wiki/Moro_National_Liberation_Front), is now engaging the government politically. Other more militant groups like the [Moro Islamic Liberation Front](/wiki/Moro_Islamic_Liberation_Front), the communist [New People's Army](/wiki/New_People's_Army), and the [Abu Sayyaf](/wiki/Abu_Sayyaf) have previously kidnapped foreigners for ransom, particularly on the southern island of [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) Their presence has decreased in recent years due to successful security provided by the Philippine government.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) At 1.1 percent of GDP, the Philippines spent less on its military forces than the regional average. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) Malaysia and Thailand were estimated to spend 1.5%, China 2.1%, Vietnam 2.2% and South Korea 2.6%.[[114]](#cite_note-114)[[115]](#cite_note-115) The Philippines has been an [ally of the United States](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) since World War II. A [mutual defense treaty between the two countries](/wiki/Mutual_Defense_Treaty_(U.S.–Philippines)) was signed in 1951. The Philippines supported American policies during the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) and participated in the [Korean](/wiki/Korean_War) and [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam_War) wars. It was a member of the now dissolved [SEATO](/wiki/Southeast_Asian_Treaty_Organization), a group that was intended to serve a role similar to [NATO](/wiki/NATO) and that included Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.[[116]](#cite_note-116) After the start of the [War on Terror](/wiki/War_on_Terror), the Philippines was part of the coalition that gave support to the United States in Iraq.<ref name=cow>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The Philippines are divided into three island groups: [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon), [Visayas](/wiki/Visayas), and [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao). These are divided into 18 [regions](/wiki/Regions_of_the_Philippines), 81 [provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_the_Philippines), 145 [cities](/wiki/Cities_of_the_Philippines), 1,489 [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities_of_the_Philippines), and 42,029 [barangays](/wiki/Barangays).[[117]](#cite_note-117) In addition, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 5446 asserts that the definition of the territorial sea around the Philippine archipelago does not affect the claim over the eastern part of [Sabah](/wiki/Sabah).<ref name=baselines>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[118]](#cite_note-118) [Template:Administrative divisions of the Philippines list](/wiki/Template:Administrative_divisions_of_the_Philippines_list)

[Template:Provinces of the Philippines image map](/wiki/Template:Provinces_of_the_Philippines_image_map)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [[File:Relief Map Of The Philippines.png|thumb|

Topography of the Philippines

]] [Template:Double image](/wiki/Template:Double_image) The Philippines is an [archipelago](/wiki/Archipelago) composed of about 7,500 islands[[119]](#cite_note-119) with a total land area, including inland bodies of water, of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[120]](#cite_note-120) Its [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of coastline makes it the country with the 5th [longest coastline](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_length_of_coastline) in the world.[[101]](#cite_note-101)<ref name=CIAfields>Central Intelligence Agency. (2009). ["Field Listing :: Coastline"](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2060.html). Washington, D.C.: Author. Retrieved 2009-11-07.</ref> It is located between 116° 40', and 126° 34' E longitude and 4° 40' and 21° 10' N latitude and is bordered by the [Philippine Sea](/wiki/Philippine_Sea)[[121]](#cite_note-121) to the east, the [South China Sea](/wiki/South_China_Sea)[[122]](#cite_note-122) to the west, and the [Celebes Sea](/wiki/Celebes_Sea)[[123]](#cite_note-123) to the south. The island of [Borneo](/wiki/Borneo)[[124]](#cite_note-124) is located a few hundred kilometers southwest and Taiwan is located directly to the north. The [Moluccas](/wiki/Maluku_Islands) and [Sulawesi](/wiki/Sulawesi) are located to the south-southwest and [Palau](/wiki/Palau) is located to the east of the islands.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Most of the mountainous islands are covered in [tropical rainforest](/wiki/Tropical_rainforest) and volcanic in origin. The highest mountain is [Mount Apo](/wiki/Mount_Apo). It measures up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level and is located on the island of Mindanao.[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[126]](#cite_note-126) The Galathea Depth in the [Philippine Trench](/wiki/Philippine_Trench) is the deepest point in the country and the [third deepest in the world](/wiki/List_of_submarine_topographical_features#List_of_oceanic_trenches). The trench is located in the Philippine Sea.[[127]](#cite_note-127) The longest river is the [Cagayan River](/wiki/Cagayan_River) in northern Luzon.[[128]](#cite_note-128) [Manila Bay](/wiki/Manila_Bay), upon the shore of which the capital city of Manila lies, is connected to [Laguna de Bay](/wiki/Laguna_de_Bay), the largest lake in the Philippines, by the [Pasig River](/wiki/Pasig_River). [Subic Bay](/wiki/Subic_Bay), the [Davao Gulf](/wiki/Davao_Gulf), and the [Moro Gulf](/wiki/Moro_Gulf) are other important bays. The [San Juanico Strait](/wiki/San_Juanico_Strait) separates the islands of Samar and Leyte but it is traversed by the [San Juanico Bridge](/wiki/San_Juanico_Bridge).[[129]](#cite_note-129) Situated on the western fringes of the Pacific [Ring of Fire](/wiki/Ring_of_Fire), the Philippines experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity. The [Benham Plateau](/wiki/Benham_Plateau) to the east in the Philippine Sea is an undersea region active in [tectonic](/wiki/Plate_tectonics) [subduction](/wiki/Subduction).[[130]](#cite_note-130) Around 20 [earthquakes](/wiki/Earthquake) are registered daily, though most are too weak to be felt. The last major earthquake was the [1990 Luzon earthquake](/wiki/1990_Luzon_earthquake).[[131]](#cite_note-131) There are [many active volcanoes](/wiki/List_of_active_volcanoes_in_the_Philippines) such as the [Mayon Volcano](/wiki/Mayon_Volcano), [Mount Pinatubo](/wiki/Mount_Pinatubo), and [Taal Volcano](/wiki/Taal_Volcano). The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June 1991 produced the second largest terrestrial eruption of the 20th century.<ref name = Pinatubo1991> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Not all notable geographic features are so violent or destructive. A more serene legacy of the geological disturbances is the [Puerto Princesa Subterranean River](/wiki/Puerto_Princesa_Subterranean_River), the area represents a habitat for [biodiversity conservation](/wiki/Conservation_biology), the site also contains a full mountain-to-the-sea ecosystem and has some of the most important forests in Asia.[[132]](#cite_note-132) Due to the [volcanic](/wiki/Volcanic) nature of the islands, mineral deposits are abundant. The country is estimated to have the second-largest gold deposits after South Africa and one of the largest copper deposits in the world.[[133]](#cite_note-133) It is also rich in nickel, chromite, and zinc. Despite this, poor management, high population density, and environmental consciousness have resulted in these mineral resources remaining largely untapped.[[133]](#cite_note-133) [Geothermal energy](/wiki/Geothermal_energy) is a product of volcanic activity that the Philippines has harnessed more successfully. The Philippines is the world's second-biggest geothermal producer behind the United States, with 18% of the country's electricity needs being met by geothermal power.[[134]](#cite_note-134)

### Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Underwater_Moalboal_3.jpg)[Moalboal](/wiki/Moalboal) Reef in [Cebu](/wiki/Cebu)

The Philippines' rainforests and its extensive coastlines make it home to a diverse range of birds, plants, animals, and sea creatures.[[135]](#cite_note-135) It is one of the ten most biologically [megadiverse countries](/wiki/Megadiverse_countries).<ref name=Chanco>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news) Retrieved February 15, 2010 from gbgm-umc.org.</ref>[[136]](#cite_note-136)[[137]](#cite_note-137) Around 1,100 land vertebrate species can be found in the Philippines including over 100 mammal species and 170 bird species not thought to exist elsewhere.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The Philippines has among the highest rates of discovery in the world with sixteen new species of [mammals](/wiki/Mammals) discovered in the last ten years. Because of this, the rate of endemism for the Philippines has risen and likely will continue to rise.[[139]](#cite_note-139) The Philippines lacks large predators, with the exception of [snakes](/wiki/Snakes), such as [pythons](/wiki/Pythonidae) and [cobras](/wiki/Cobra), [saltwater crocodiles](/wiki/Saltwater_crocodiles) and [birds of prey](/wiki/Birds_of_prey), such as the [national bird](/wiki/National_bird), known as the [Philippine eagle](/wiki/Philippine_eagle), which scientists suggest as the largest eagle in the world.[[140]](#cite_note-140)[[141]](#cite_note-141) The largest crocodile in captivity, known locally as [Lolong](/wiki/Lolong), was captured in the southern island of Mindanao.[[142]](#cite_note-142)[[143]](#cite_note-143) Other native animals include the [palm civet cat](/wiki/Asian_palm_civet), the [dugong](/wiki/Dugong), the [cloud rat](/wiki/Cloud_rat) and the [Philippine tarsier](/wiki/Philippine_tarsier) associated with [Bohol](/wiki/Bohol). With an estimated 13,500 plant species in the country, 3,200 of which are unique to the islands,[[138]](#cite_note-138) Philippine [rainforests](/wiki/Rainforests) boast an array of flora, including many rare types of [orchids](/wiki/List_of_the_orchids_of_the_Philippines) and [rafflesia](/wiki/Rafflesia).[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[145]](#cite_note-145) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Bohol_Tarsier.jpg)[Philippine tarsier](/wiki/Philippine_tarsier) (*Tarsius syrichta*), one of the smallest primates

Philippine [maritime waters](/wiki/Territorial_waters) encompass as much as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) producing unique and diverse marine life, an important part of the [Coral Triangle](/wiki/Coral_Triangle).<ref name=baselines/> The total number of corals and marine fish species was estimated at 500 and 2,400 respectively.[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[138]](#cite_note-138) New records[[146]](#cite_note-146)[[147]](#cite_note-147) and species discoveries[[148]](#cite_note-148)[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[150]](#cite_note-150) continuously increase these numbers underlining the uniqueness of the marine resources in the Philippines. The [Tubbataha Reef](/wiki/Tubbataha_Reef) in the Sulu Sea was declared a [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in 1993. Philippine waters also sustain the cultivation of pearls, crabs, and seaweeds.[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[151]](#cite_note-151) [Deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation), often the result of illegal logging, is [an acute problem in the Philippines](/wiki/Deforestation_in_the_Philippines). Forest cover declined from 70% of the Philippines's total land area in 1900 to about 18.3% in 1999.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Many species are endangered and scientists say that [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia), which the Philippines is part of, faces a catastrophic extinction rate of 20% by the end of the 21st century.[[153]](#cite_note-153) According to [Conservation International](/wiki/Conservation_International), "the country is one of the few nations that is, in its entirety, both a hotspot and a megadiversity country, placing it among the top priority hotspots for global conservation."[[144]](#cite_note-144)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Haiyan_Nov_7_2013_1345Z.png)[Typhoon Haiyan](/wiki/Typhoon_Haiyan) (locally known as *Yolanda*) at peak intensity.

The Philippines has a tropical maritime [climate](/wiki/Climate) that is usually hot and humid. There are three seasons: *tag-init* or *tag-araw*, the hot dry season or summer from March to May; *tag-ulan*, the rainy season from June to November; and *tag-lamig*, the cool dry season from December to February. The southwest [monsoon](/wiki/Monsoon) (from May to October) is known as the Habagat, and the dry winds of the northeast monsoon (from November to April), the Amihan.<ref name=climate/> Temperatures usually range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) although it can get cooler or hotter depending on the season. The coolest month is January; the warmest is May.[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[154]](#cite_note-154) The average yearly temperature is around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=climate>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In considering temperature, location in terms of latitude and longitude is not a significant factor. Whether in the extreme north, south, east, or west of the country, temperatures at sea level tend to be in the same range. Altitude usually has more of an impact. The average annual temperature of [Baguio](/wiki/Baguio) at an elevation of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), making it a popular destination during hot summers.<ref name=climate/>

Sitting astride the [typhoon belt](/wiki/Typhoons_in_the_Philippines), most of the islands experience annual torrential rains and thunderstorms from July to October,<ref name=cp>[Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) – [Federal Research Division](/wiki/Federal_Research_Division). (March 2006). [*Country Profile: Philippines*](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Philippines.pdf). Retrieved December 17, 2009.</ref> with around nineteen typhoons entering the Philippine area of responsibility in a typical year and eight or nine making landfall.[[155]](#cite_note-155)<ref name=PagasaWMO>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref><ref name=digitaltyphoon>[*Monthly Typhoon Tracking Charts*](http://agora.ex.nii.ac.jp/digital-typhoon/reference/monthly/). (2010). Retrieved April 24, 2010 from the [National Institute of Informatics](/wiki/National_Institute_of_Informatics), Kitamoto Laboratory, Digital Typhoon Website.</ref> Annual rainfall measures as much as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the mountainous east coast section but less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in some of the sheltered valleys.<ref name=cp/> The wettest known tropical cyclone to impact the [archipelago](/wiki/Archipelago) was the July 1911 [cyclone](/wiki/Cyclone), which dropped over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of rainfall within a 24-hour period in Baguio.[[156]](#cite_note-156) *Bagyo* is the local term for a [tropical cyclone](/wiki/Tropical_cyclone) in the Philippines.[[156]](#cite_note-156) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|350px|alt=Philippine Export Treemap in 2012.|A proportional representation of the Philippines' exports, 2012.](/wiki/File:Philippines_Export_Treemap.png) The Philippine economy is the [39th largest in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)), with an estimated 2016 [gross domestic product](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) (nominal) of $369.188 billion.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Primary exports include [semiconductors](/wiki/Semiconductors) and electronic products, transport equipment, garments, [copper](/wiki/Copper) products, [petroleum](/wiki/Petroleum) products, [coconut oil](/wiki/Coconut_oil), and fruits.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Major trading partners include the United States, Japan, China, Singapore, South Korea, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Germany, Taiwan, and Thailand.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Its unit of [currency](/wiki/Currency) is the [Philippine peso](/wiki/Philippine_peso) (₱ or PHP).[[158]](#cite_note-158) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Dole_Pineapple_Harvesting.jpg)[Agriculture employs 30% of the Filipino workforce](/wiki/Agriculture_in_the_Philippines) as of 2014.[[159]](#cite_note-159) A [newly industrialized country](/wiki/Newly_industrialized_country), the Philippine economy has been transitioning from one based upon agriculture to an economy with more emphasis upon services and manufacturing. Of the country's total labor force of around 40.813 Million,[[66]](#cite_note-66) the [agricultural sector employs 30% of the labor force](/wiki/Agriculture_in_the_Philippines), and accounts for 14% of GDP. The industrial sector employs around 14% of the workforce and accounts for 30% of GDP. Meanwhile, the 47% of workers involved in the services sector are responsible for 56% of GDP.[[160]](#cite_note-160)[[161]](#cite_note-161) The [unemployment rate](/wiki/Unemployment_rate) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), stands at 6.0%.[[162]](#cite_note-162)[[163]](#cite_note-163) Meanwhile, due to lower charges in basic necessities, the inflation rate eases to 3.7% in November.[[164]](#cite_note-164) Gross international reserves as of October 2013 are $83.201 billion.[[165]](#cite_note-165) The [Debt-to-GDP ratio](/wiki/Debt-to-GDP_ratio) continues to decline to 38.1% as of March 2014[[166]](#cite_note-166)[[167]](#cite_note-167) from a record high of 78% in 2004.[[168]](#cite_note-168) The country is a net importer[[161]](#cite_note-161) but it is also a creditor nation.[[169]](#cite_note-169) After World War II, the Philippines was for a time regarded as the second wealthiest in East Asia, next only to Japan.[[102]](#cite_note-102)[[170]](#cite_note-170)<ref name=ure>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> In the 1960s its economic performance started being overtaken. The economy stagnated under the dictatorship of President [Ferdinand Marcos](/wiki/Ferdinand_Marcos) as the regime spawned economic mismanagement and political volatility.[[102]](#cite_note-102)<ref name=ure/> The country suffered from slow economic growth and bouts of economic [recession](/wiki/Recession). Only in the 1990s with a program of [economic liberalization](/wiki/Economic_liberalization) did the economy begin to recover.[[102]](#cite_note-102)<ref name=ure/>

The [1997 Asian Financial Crisis](/wiki/1997_Asian_Financial_Crisis) affected the economy, resulting in a lingering decline of the value of the [peso](/wiki/Philippine_peso) and falls in the stock market. The extent it was affected initially was not as severe as that of some of its Asian neighbors. This was largely due to the [fiscal conservatism](/wiki/Fiscal_conservatism) of the government, partly as a result of decades of monitoring and fiscal supervision from the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) (IMF), in comparison to the massive spending of its neighbors on the rapid acceleration of economic growth.[[84]](#cite_note-84) There have been signs of progress since. In 2004, the economy experienced 6.4% GDP growth and 7.1% in 2007, its fastest pace of growth in three decades.<ref name=IMF2012>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=fastestGDP>Felix, Rocel. (January 25, 2008). [2007 GDP seen growing at fastest rate in 30 years](https://web.archive.org/web/20150222050937/http://business.inquirer.net/money/breakingnews/view/20080125-114787/2007-GDP-seen-growing-at-fastest-rate-in-30-years). *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*. Retrieved May 29, 2010. (archived from [the original](https://wayback.archive.org/web/20080127233313/http://business.inquirer.net/money/breakingnews/view/20080125-114787/2007-GDP-seen-growing-at-fastest-rate-in-30-years) on 2015-02-22)</ref> Average annual GDP growth per capita for the period 1966–2007 still stands at 1.45% in comparison to an average of 5.96% for the East Asia and the Pacific region as a whole. The daily income for 45% of the population of the Philippines remains less than $2.[[171]](#cite_note-171)<ref name=Reddel>Reddel, Paul (May 27, 2009). [*Infrastructure & Public-Private Partnerships in East Asia and the Philippines*](http://www.ppiaf.org/feature-story/infrastructure-and-ppps-philippines) [PowerPoint slides]. Presentation in Manila to the American Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines. Retrieved February 13, 2010 from the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) Website.</ref>[[172]](#cite_note-172) The economy is heavily reliant upon [remittances](/wiki/Remittance) from [overseas filipinos](/wiki/Overseas_Filipino), which surpass [foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) as a source of foreign currency. [Remittances](/wiki/Remittance) peaked in 2010 at 10.4% of the national GDP, and were 8.6% in 2012 and in 2014, Philippines total worth of foreign exchange remittances was US$28 billion.[[173]](#cite_note-173)[[174]](#cite_note-174) Regional development is uneven, with Luzon – Metro Manila in particular – gaining most of the new economic growth at the expense of the other regions,[[175]](#cite_note-175)[[176]](#cite_note-176) although the government has taken steps to distribute economic growth by promoting investment in other areas of the country. Despite constraints, service industries such as [tourism](/wiki/Tourism) and [business process outsourcing](/wiki/Business_process_outsourcing) have been identified as areas with some of the best opportunities for growth for the country.[[161]](#cite_note-161)[[177]](#cite_note-177) [Goldman Sachs](/wiki/Goldman_Sachs) includes the country in its list of the "[Next Eleven](/wiki/Next_Eleven)" economies[[178]](#cite_note-178)[[179]](#cite_note-179) but China and India have emerged as major economic competitors.[[180]](#cite_note-180) [Goldman Sachs](/wiki/Goldman_Sachs) estimates that by the year 2050, it will be the 20th largest economy in the world.[[181]](#cite_note-181) [HSBC](/wiki/HSBC) also projects the Philippine economy to become the 16th largest economy in the world, 5th largest economy in Asia and the largest economy in the [South East Asian](/wiki/Southeast_Asia) region by 2050.[[182]](#cite_note-182)[[183]](#cite_note-183)[[184]](#cite_note-184) The Philippines is a member of the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank), the International Monetary Fund, the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) (WTO), the [Asian Development Bank](/wiki/Asian_Development_Bank) which is headquartered in [Mandaluyong](/wiki/Mandaluyong), the [Colombo Plan](/wiki/Colombo_Plan), the [G-77](/wiki/Group_of_77) and the [G-24](/wiki/Group_of_24) among other groups and institutions.[[66]](#cite_note-66)

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|alt=](/wiki/File:Skyway_SLEX_PNR.jpg)[South Luzon Expressway](/wiki/South_Luzon_Expressway) with [PNR](/wiki/Philippine_National_Railways) tracks and [Metro Manila Skyway](/wiki/Metro_Manila_Skyway)|The [South Luzon Expressway](/wiki/South_Luzon_Expressway) with [PNR](/wiki/Philippine_National_Railways) tracks and [Metro Manila Skyway](/wiki/Metro_Manila_Skyway).

The transportation infrastructure in the Philippines is relatively underdeveloped. This is partly due to the mountainous terrain and the scattered geography of the islands, but also the result of consistently low investment in infrastructure by successive governments. In 2013, about 3% of national GDP went towards infrastructure development - much lower than many of its neighbors.[[185]](#cite_note-185)[[186]](#cite_note-186) There are [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of roads in the Philippines, with only 25.56% of roads paved.<ref name=WBtransport>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The current administration under President [Benigno Aquino III](/wiki/Benigno_Aquino_III) has been pushing to improve the country's infrastructure and transportation systems through various projects.[[187]](#cite_note-187) Buses, [jeepneys](/wiki/Jeepneys), taxis, and motorized tricycles are commonly available in major cities and towns. In 2007, there were about 5.53 million registered motor vehicles with registrations increasing at an average annual rate of 4.55%.[[188]](#cite_note-188) The [Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines](/wiki/Civil_Aviation_Authority_of_the_Philippines) manages airports and implementation of policies regarding safe air travel[[189]](#cite_note-189)[[190]](#cite_note-190) with 85 public airports currently operational.[[191]](#cite_note-191) [Ninoy Aquino International Airport](/wiki/Ninoy_Aquino_International_Airport) (NAIA) serves the [Greater Manila Area](/wiki/Greater_Manila_Area) together with [Clark International Airport](/wiki/Clark_International_Airport). [Philippine Airlines](/wiki/Philippine_Airlines), Asia's oldest commercial airline still operating under its original name, and [Cebu Pacific](/wiki/Cebu_Pacific), the leading low-cost airline, are the major airlines serving most domestic and international destinations.<ref name=PAL>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=HAviation>State of Hawaii. Department of Transportation. Airports Division. [c. 2005]. "[Philippine Air Lines](https://wayback.archive.org/web/20110517040251/http://hawaii.gov/hawaiiaviation/hawaii-commercial-aviation/philippine-air-lines/)". *Hawaii Aviation*. Retrieved January 9, 2010.</ref><ref name=OxfordBG>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

[thumb|A](/wiki/File:_MRT-2_Araneta_Center-Cubao_Station.jpg) [LRT-2](/wiki/LRT-2) train at [Araneta Center](/wiki/Araneta_Center). Expressways and highways are mostly located on the island of Luzon including the [Pan-Philippine Highway](/wiki/Pan-Philippine_Highway), connecting the islands of [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon), [Samar](/wiki/Samar), [Leyte](/wiki/Leyte), and [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao),[[192]](#cite_note-192)[[193]](#cite_note-193) the [North Luzon Expressway](/wiki/North_Luzon_Expressway), [South Luzon Expressway](/wiki/South_Luzon_Expressway), and the [Subic–Clark–Tarlac Expressway](/wiki/Subic–Clark–Tarlac_Expressway).[[194]](#cite_note-194)[[195]](#cite_note-195)[[196]](#cite_note-196)[[197]](#cite_note-197)[[198]](#cite_note-198)[[199]](#cite_note-199) Rail transport in the Philippines only plays a role in transporting passengers within Metro Manila. This area is served by three rapid transit lines: [LRT-1](/wiki/LRT-1), and [LRT-2](/wiki/LRT-2) and [MRT-3](/wiki/MRT-3).[[200]](#cite_note-200)<ref name=provision>[United Nations Centre for Human Settlements](/wiki/United_Nations_Centre_for_Human_Settlements). (1993). [*Provision of Travelway Space for Urban Public Transport in Developing Countries*](https://books.google.com/books?id=lkH5Twa-OakC&printsec=frontcover). UN–HABITAT. pp. 15, 26–70, 160–179. ISBN 92-1-131220-5.</ref>[[201]](#cite_note-201) In the past, railways served major parts of Luzon, and railroad services were available on the islands of Cebu and Negros. Railways were also used for agricultural purposes, especially in tobacco and sugar cane production. Rail freight transportation is currently almost non-existent. A few transportation systems are currently under development: [DOST](/wiki/Department_of_Science_and_Technology_(Philippines))-MIRDC and [UP](/wiki/University_of_the_Philippines) are implementing pre-feasibility studies on Automated Guideway Transit.[[202]](#cite_note-202)[[203]](#cite_note-203)[[204]](#cite_note-204) A so-called *Hybrid Electric Road Train* which is a long [bi-articulated bus](/wiki/Bi-articulated_bus), was also being tested [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[205]](#cite_note-205)[[206]](#cite_note-206)[[207]](#cite_note-207) [thumb|A passenger ferry off the waters of](/wiki/File:Ship_from_Batangas_Port.JPG) [Batangas International Port](/wiki/Batangas_International_Port). As an archipelago, inter-island travel using watercraft is often necessary.[[208]](#cite_note-208) The busiest seaports are [Manila](/wiki/Port_of_Manila), [Batangas](/wiki/Batangas_International_Port), [Subic](/wiki/Port_of_Subic), [Cebu](/wiki/Port_of_Cebu), [Iloilo](/wiki/Port_of_Iloilo), [Davao](/wiki/Port_of_Davao), Cagayan de Oro, and [Zamboanga](/wiki/Port_of_Zamboanga).[[209]](#cite_note-209) [2GO Travel](/wiki/2GO_Travel) and [Sulpicio Lines](/wiki/Sulpicio_Lines) serve Manila, with links to various cities and towns through passenger vessels. The [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Strong Republic Nautical Highway](/wiki/Strong_Republic_Nautical_Highway) (SRNH), an integrated set of highway segments and ferry routes covering 17 cities was established in 2003.[[210]](#cite_note-210) The [Pasig River Ferry Service](/wiki/Pasig_River_Ferry_Service) serves the major rivers in Metro Manila, including the [Pasig River](/wiki/Pasig_River) and [Marikina River](/wiki/Marikina_River) having numerous stops in Manila, Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina.[[211]](#cite_note-211)[[212]](#cite_note-212)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|180px|alt=An](/wiki/File:Rice_in_the_Lab.jpg) [IRRI](/wiki/International_Rice_Research_Institute) researcher studying [rice](/wiki/Rice) [DNA](/wiki/DNA) under [ultraviolet light](/wiki/Ultraviolet_light).|An [IRRI](/wiki/International_Rice_Research_Institute) researcher studying [rice](/wiki/Rice) [DNA](/wiki/DNA) under [ultraviolet light](/wiki/Ultraviolet_light).

The Philippines has pursued efforts to improve the field of science and technology. The [Department of Science and Technology](/wiki/Department_of_Science_and_Technology_(Philippines)) is the governing agency responsible for the development of coordination of science- and technology-related projects in the Philippines.[[213]](#cite_note-213) The [National Scientist of the Philippines](/wiki/National_Scientist_of_the_Philippines) award is given to individuals that have contributed to different field of science in the country. Notable Filipino scientists include [Maria Orosa](/wiki/Maria_Orosa), a food technologist famous for her formulated food products like calamansi nip, soyalac and the [banana ketchup](/wiki/Banana_ketchup),[[214]](#cite_note-214) [Fe del Mundo](/wiki/Fe_del_Mundo), a pediatrician whose pioneering work in pediatrics as an active medical practice spanned 8 decades,[[215]](#cite_note-215) [Paulo Campos](/wiki/Paulo_Campos), a physician who was dubbed as "*The Father of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines*" for his contributions in the field of [nuclear medicine](/wiki/Nuclear_medicine),<ref name=mb>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Ramon Barba](/wiki/Ramon_Barba), an inventor and horticulturist known for his method to induce more flowers in mango trees.[[216]](#cite_note-216) Research organizations include the [International Rice Research Institute](/wiki/International_Rice_Research_Institute), an international independent research and training organization established in 1960 with headquarters in [Los Baños, Laguna](/wiki/Los_Baños,_Laguna),[[217]](#cite_note-217)[[218]](#cite_note-218) focusing on the development of new rice varieties and rice crop management techniques to help farmers in the country improve their lives.[[219]](#cite_note-219) The Philippines bought it's first satellite in 1996.[[220]](#cite_note-220) In 2016, [the Philippines first micro-satellite](/wiki/Space_program_of_the_Philippines), [Diwata-1](/wiki/Diwata-1) was launched aboard the US [Cygnus](/wiki/Cygnus_(spacecraft)) spacecraft.[[221]](#cite_note-221)

### Communications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|alt=Communication towers in](/wiki/File:Zamboanga_City_Satellite_Towers.JPG) [Zamboanga City](/wiki/Zamboanga_City).|Communication towers in [Zamboanga City](/wiki/Zamboanga_City).

The Philippines has a sophisticated cellular phone industry and a high concentration of users. [Text messaging](/wiki/Text_messaging) is a popular form of communication and, in 2007, the nation sent an average of one billion [SMS](/wiki/Short_message_service) messages per day. Over five million mobile phone users also use their phones as virtual wallets, making it a leader among developing nations in providing financial transactions over cellular networks.[[222]](#cite_note-222)[[223]](#cite_note-223)[[224]](#cite_note-224) The [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company](/wiki/Philippine_Long_Distance_Telephone_Company) commonly known as PLDT is the leading telecommunications provider. It is also the largest company in the country.[[222]](#cite_note-222)[[225]](#cite_note-225) The [National Telecommunications Commission](/wiki/National_Telecommunications_Commission_(Philippines)) is the agency responsible for the supervision, adjudication and control over all telecommunications services throughout the country.[[226]](#cite_note-226) There are approximately 383 AM and 659 FM radio stations and 297 television and 873 cable television stations.[[227]](#cite_note-227) On March 29, 1994, the country went live on the Internet via a 64 kbit/s connection from a router serviced by [PLDT](/wiki/Philippine_Long_Distance_Telephone_Company) to a Sprint router in California.[[228]](#cite_note-228) Estimates for [Internet](/wiki/Internet_in_the_Philippines) penetration in the Philippines vary widely ranging from a low of 2.5 million to a high of 24 million people.[[229]](#cite_note-229)[[230]](#cite_note-230) [Social networking](/wiki/Social_networking_in_the_Philippines) and watching videos are among the most frequent Internet activities.<ref name=Capital>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|alt=View of white sand beaches of](/wiki/File:Boracay_perfect_day.jpg) [Boracay](/wiki/Boracay).|View of the white sand beaches of [Boracay](/wiki/Boracay). The travel and tourism sector is a major contributor to the economy, contributing 7.1% to the Philippine GDP in 2013 [[231]](#cite_note-231) and providing 1,226,500 jobs or 3.2 percent of total employment.[[232]](#cite_note-232) 2,433,428 international visitors arrived from January to June 2014 up by 2.22% in the same period in 2013. South Korea, China, and Japan accounted for 58.78% while Americas accounted for 19.28% and Europe 10.64%.[[233]](#cite_note-233) The [Department of Tourism](/wiki/Department_of_Tourism_(Philippines)) has responsibility for the management and promotion of the tourism sector.

The country's rich biodiversity is one of the main tourist attractions with its beaches, mountains, rainforests, islands and diving spots among the most popular tourist destinations. As an archipelago consisting of about 7,500 islands, the Philippines has numerous beaches, caves and other rock formations. [Boracay](/wiki/Boracay) has glaring white sand beaches and was named as the best island in the world by [Travel + Leisure](/wiki/Travel_+_Leisure) in 2012.[[234]](#cite_note-234) The [Banaue Rice Terraces](/wiki/Banaue_Rice_Terraces) in Ifugao, the historic town of [Vigan](/wiki/Vigan), the [Chocolate Hills](/wiki/Chocolate_Hills) in Bohol, [Magellan's Cross](/wiki/Magellan's_Cross) in [Cebu](/wiki/Cebu) and the [Tubbataha Reef](/wiki/Tubbataha_Reef) in Visayas are other highlights.

### Hydrology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Ambuklao_Dam_captured_by_Mitchell_Yumul.jpeg)[Ambuklao Dam](/wiki/Ambuklao_Dam) in [Bokod](/wiki/Bokod,_Benguet), [Benguet](/wiki/Benguet). Among the achievements of the government in the Philippines are a high access to an [improved water source](/wiki/Improved_water_source) of 92% in 2010; the creation of financially sustainable water service providers ("Water Districts") in small and medium towns with the continuous long-term support of a national agency (the "Local Water Utilities Administration" LWUA); and the improvement of access, service quality and efficiency in Manila through two high-profle water concessions awarded in 1997.[[235]](#cite_note-235) The challenges include limited access to sanitation services, high pollution of water resources, often poor drinking water quality and poor service quality, a fragmentation of executive functions at the national level among numerous agencies, and a fragmentation of service provision at the local level into many small service providers.[[235]](#cite_note-235) In 2015 it was reported by the [Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation](/wiki/Joint_Monitoring_Programme_for_Water_Supply_and_Sanitation) by WHO and UNICEF that 74% of the population had access to [improved sanitation](/wiki/Improved_sanitation) and that "good progress" had been made.[[236]](#cite_note-236) The access to improved sanitation was reported to be similar for the urban and rural population.[[236]](#cite_note-236)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright=1.3|Population density per province](/wiki/File:Philippines_Population_Density_Map.svg) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) per square kilometer.

The population of the Philippines increased from 1990 to 2008 by approximately 28 million, a 45% growth in that time frame.<ref name=IEApop2011>[CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion](http://www.iea.org/co2highlights/co2Highlights.XLS) Population 1971–2008 ([pdf](http://iea.org/co2highlights/co2highlights.pdf) page 86); page 86 of the pdf, IEA (OECD/ World Bank) (original population ref OECD/ World Bank e.g. in IEA Key World Energy Statistics 2010 page 57)</ref> The first [official census](/wiki/Philippines_census) in the Philippines was carried out in 1877 and recorded a population of 5,567,685.[[237]](#cite_note-237) It is estimated that half of the population resides on the island of Luzon. The 3.21% population growth rate between 1995 and 2000 decreased to an estimated 1.95% for the 2005–2010 period, but remains a [contentious issue](/wiki/Reproductive_Health_Bill_(Philippines)).<ref name=Officialpop>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=gma>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The population's median age is 22.7 years with 60.9% aged from 15 to 64 years old.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Life expectancy at birth is 71.94 years, 75.03 years for females and 68.99 years for males.[[238]](#cite_note-238) Since the liberalization of United States immigration laws in 1965, the number of people in the United States having [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_American) ancestry has grown substantially. In 2007 there were an estimated[[239]](#cite_note-239)[[240]](#cite_note-240) 12 million [Filipinos living overseas](/wiki/Overseas_Filipino).[[241]](#cite_note-241) According to the official count the population of the Philippines hit 100 million at the time of midnight on July 27, 2014, making it the 12th country to reach this number.[[5]](#cite_note-5)

### Cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Metro Manila](/wiki/Metro_Manila) is the most populous of the [12 defined metropolitan areas](/wiki/Cities_of_the_Philippines#Metropolitan_areas) in the Philippines and the [11th most populous](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_by_population) in the world. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), census data showed it had a population of 11,553,427, comprising 13% of the national population.[[242]](#cite_note-242) Including suburbs in the adjacent provinces ([Bulacan](/wiki/Bulacan), [Cavite](/wiki/Cavite), [Laguna](/wiki/Laguna_(province)), and [Rizal](/wiki/Rizal)) of [Greater Manila](/wiki/Greater_Manila_Area), the population is around 21 million.[[242]](#cite_note-242)[[243]](#cite_note-243) Metro Manila's [gross regional product](/wiki/Gross_regional_product) was estimated [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) to be [₱](/wiki/Philippine_peso)468.4 billion (at constant 1985 prices) and accounts for 33% of the nation's GDP.<ref name=NSCB>Republic of the Philippines. National Statistical Coordination Board. (July 2009). [*2008 Gross Regional Domestic Product – Levels of GRDP*](http://www.nscb.gov.ph/grdp/2008/2008conlev.asp). Retrieved April 4, 2010.</ref> In 2011 Manila ranked as the [28th wealthiest urban agglomeration](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_GDP) in the world and the 2nd in [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia).[[244]](#cite_note-244)[Template:Largest cities of the Philippines](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_the_Philippines)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|350px|Dominant ethnic groups by province.](/wiki/File:Peoples_of_the_Philippines_en.svg)

According to the 2000 census, 28.1% of Filipinos are Tagalog, 13.1% Cebuano, 9% Ilocano, 7.6% Bisaya/Visayans, 7.5% Hiligaynon, 6% Bikol, 3.4% Waray, and 25.3% as "others",[[66]](#cite_note-66)<ref name=PIF2009>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> which can be broken down further to yield more distinct non-tribal groups like the [Moro](/wiki/Moro_people), the [Kapampangan](/wiki/Kapampangan_people), the [Pangasinense](/wiki/Pangasinan_people), the [Ibanag](/wiki/Ibanag_people), and the [Ivatan](/wiki/Ivatan_people).[[245]](#cite_note-245) There are also [indigenous peoples](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Philippines) like the [Igorot](/wiki/Igorot), the [Lumad](/wiki/Lumad), the [Mangyan](/wiki/Mangyan), the [Bajau](/wiki/Bajau), and the [tribes of Palawan](/wiki/Ethnic_Groups_of_Palawan).[[246]](#cite_note-246) Filipinos generally belong to several [Asian](/wiki/Asian_people) ethnic groups classified linguistically as part of the [Austronesian](/wiki/Austronesian_peoples) or [Malayo-Polynesian](/wiki/Malayo-Polynesian_languages) speaking people.[[246]](#cite_note-246) It is believed that thousands of years ago Austronesian-speaking [Taiwanese aborigines](/wiki/Taiwanese_aborigines) migrated to the Philippines from Taiwan, bringing with them knowledge of agriculture and ocean-sailing, eventually displacing the earlier [Negrito](/wiki/Negrito) groups of the islands.<ref name=AJHG>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> [Negritos](/wiki/Negrito), such as the [Aeta](/wiki/Aeta_peoples) and the [Ati](/wiki/Ati_people), are considered among the earliest inhabitants of the islands.<ref name=Negritos>Dolan, Ronald E. (Ed.). (1991). ["Ethnicity, Regionalism, and Language"](http://countrystudies.us/philippines/35.htm). [*Philippines: A Country Study*](http://countrystudies.us/philippines/). Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress. Retrieved April 8, 2010 from [Country Studies US Website](http://countrystudies.us/).</ref>

Being at the crossroads of the West and East, the Philippines is also home to migrants from places as diverse as China, Spain, Mexico, United States, India, South Korea, and Japan. Two important non-indigenous minorities are the [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_Filipino) and the [Spaniards](/wiki/Spanish_Filipino).

The [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_Filipino), mostly descendants of immigrants from [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian), [China](/wiki/China) after 1898, number 2 million, although there are an estimated 18 million Filipinos who have partial Chinese ancestry, stemming from precolonial Chinese migrants.[[247]](#cite_note-247) Intermarriage between the groups is evident in the major cities and urban areas.[[248]](#cite_note-248) At least one-third of the population of [Luzon](/wiki/Luzon) as well as a few old settlements in the [Visayas](/wiki/Visayas) and [Zamboanga City](/wiki/Zamboanga_City) at Mindanao, have partial Hispanic ancestry (from varying points of origin and ranging from [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America) to Spain).[[249]](#cite_note-249) Recent genetic studies confirm this partial European and Latino ancestry.[[250]](#cite_note-250) Other important non-indigenous minorities include [Indians](/wiki/Indian_people), [Anglo-Americans](/wiki/English_Americans), [Britons](/wiki/Britons), and [Japanese people](/wiki/Japanese_people). Descendants of mixed couples are known as [mestizos](/wiki/Filipino_mestizo).[[251]](#cite_note-251)[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

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[*Ethnologue*](/wiki/Ethnologue) lists 186 individual languages in the Philippines, 182 of which are living languages, while 4 no longer have any known speakers. Most native languages are part of the [Philippine](/wiki/Philippine_languages) branch of the [Malayo-Polynesian languages](/wiki/Malayo-Polynesian_languages), which is itself a branch of the [Austronesian language family](/wiki/Austronesian_languages).[[246]](#cite_note-246) The only language not classified as an Austronesian language is [Chavacano](/wiki/Chavacano) which is a [creole language](/wiki/Creole_language) of [Mexican Spanish](/wiki/Mexican_Spanish) and is classified as a [Romance language](/wiki/Romance_language).[[252]](#cite_note-252) [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_language) and [English](/wiki/English_language) are the official languages of the country.<ref name=OfficialLang/> Filipino is a standardized version of [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language), spoken mainly in Metro Manila and other urban regions. Both Filipino and English are used in government, education, print, broadcast media, and business. However, most people outside cities do not speak much English. In most towns, the local indigenous language is spoken. The Philippine constitution provides for the promotion of [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language_in_the_Philippines) and [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) on a voluntary and optional basis, although neither are used on as wide a scale as in the past.<ref name=OfficialLang>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Spanish, which was widely used as a lingua franca in the late nineteenth century, has since declined greatly in use, but is experiencing revival due to government promotions, while Arabic is mainly used in Islamic schools in Mindanao.[[253]](#cite_note-253) However, Spanish loanwords are still present today in many of the indigenous Philippine languages.[[254]](#cite_note-254) Nineteen regional languages act as auxiliary official languages used as mediums of instruction: [Aklanon](/wiki/Aklan_language), [Bikol](/wiki/Central_Bikol_language), [Cebuano](/wiki/Cebuano_language), [Chavacano](/wiki/Chavacano), [Hiligaynon](/wiki/Hiligaynon_language), [Ibanag](/wiki/Ibanag_language), [Ilocano](/wiki/Ilocano_language), [Ivatan](/wiki/Ivatan_language), [Kapampangan](/wiki/Kapampangan_language), [Kinaray-a](/wiki/Kinaray-a_language), [Maguindanao](/wiki/Maguindanao_language), [Maranao](/wiki/Maranao_language), [Pangasinan](/wiki/Pangasinan_language), [Sambal](/wiki/Sambal_language), [Surigaonon](/wiki/Surigaonon_language), Tagalog, [Tausug](/wiki/Tausug_language), [Waray](/wiki/Waray_language), and [Yakan](/wiki/Yakan_language).[[255]](#cite_note-255) Other indigenous languages such as, [Cuyonon](/wiki/Cuyonon_language), [Ifugao](/wiki/Ifugao_language), [Itbayat](/wiki/Itbayat_language), [Kalinga](/wiki/Kalinga_language), [Kamayo](/wiki/Kamayo_language), [Kankanaey](/wiki/Kankanaey_language), [Masbateño](/wiki/Masbateño_language), [Romblomanon](/wiki/Romblomanon_language), [Malay](/wiki/Philippine_Malay), and several [Visayan languages](/wiki/Visayan_languages) are prevalent in their respective provinces.[[256]](#cite_note-256) Languages not indigenous to the islands are also taught in select schools. [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese) is used in Chinese schools catering to the [Chinese Filipino](/wiki/Chinese_Filipino) community. Islamic schools in [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao) teach [Modern Standard Arabic](/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic) in their curriculum.[[257]](#cite_note-257) [French](/wiki/French_language), [German](/wiki/German_language), [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_language), [Korean](/wiki/Korean_language), [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_in_the_Philippines) are taught with the help of foreign linguistic institutions.[[258]](#cite_note-258) The Department of Education began teaching the [Malay languages](/wiki/Malay_language) of [Indonesian](/wiki/Indonesian_language) and [Malaysian](/wiki/Malaysian_language) in 2013.[[259]](#cite_note-259)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

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The Philippines is an officially [secular state](/wiki/Secular_state), although [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity_in_the_Philippines) is the dominant faith.[[260]](#cite_note-260) Catholic Church data from 2015 found that about 82.9% of the population professed [Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_the_Philippines).[[261]](#cite_note-261) Around 37% regularly attend [Mass](/wiki/Catholic_Mass) and 29% identify as very religious.[[262]](#cite_note-262)[[263]](#cite_note-263) [Protestants](/wiki/Protestantism_in_the_Philippines) are 1.8% of the total population.[[264]](#cite_note-264)[[265]](#cite_note-265)[[266]](#cite_note-266) [Iglesia ni Cristo](/wiki/Iglesia_ni_Cristo) is a notable [Restorationist](/wiki/Restorationist) denomination in the country.[[267]](#cite_note-267)<ref name=cia-rp>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Islam](/wiki/Islam_in_the_Philippines) is the second largest religion. The [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) population of the Philippines was reported as about 5% of the total population according to census returns in 2000<ref name=ReligiousFreedom2014>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of),[[268]](#cite_note-268) and as 11% in a 2012 report by the [National Commission on Muslim Filipinos](/wiki/National_Commission_on_Muslim_Filipinos).[[269]](#cite_note-269) The majority of Muslims live in the [Bangsamoro region](/wiki/Bangsamoro_(political_entity)).[[270]](#cite_note-270)[[271]](#cite_note-271)[[272]](#cite_note-272)[[273]](#cite_note-273) Most practice [Sunni Islam](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) under the [Shafi'i school](/wiki/Shafi'i_school).[[274]](#cite_note-274)[[275]](#cite_note-275) An unknown number of Filipinos are [irreligious](/wiki/Irreligion_in_the_Philippines) but may form as much as 10% of the population.[[276]](#cite_note-276)[[277]](#cite_note-277)Catholicism's historic dominance is steadily declining, with about 9% of adherents considering leaving their church.[[278]](#cite_note-278) An estimated 2% of the total population practice [Philippine traditional religions](/wiki/Philippine_mythology), whose practices and folk beliefs are often syncretized with Christianity and Islam.[[279]](#cite_note-279)<ref name=pew>[Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project: Philippines](http://www.globalreligiousfutures.org/countries/philippines/religious_demography). [Pew Research Center](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center). 2010.</ref> [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism_in_the_Philippines) is practiced by around 2% of the population, and is concentrated among Filipinos of Chinese descent.[[279]](#cite_note-279)[[274]](#cite_note-274)[[280]](#cite_note-280) The remaining population is divided between a number of religious groups, including [Hindus](/wiki/Hinduism_in_the_Philippines), [Jews](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_the_Philippines), and [Baha'is](/wiki/Baha'i_Faith_in_the_Philippines).[[281]](#cite_note-281)[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

There are an increasing number of private health providers and, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 67.1% of healthcare came from private expenditures while 32.9% was from government. In 2013, total expenditures on the health sector was 3.8% of GDP, below the [WHO](/wiki/WHO) target of 5%.[[282]](#cite_note-282) Health expenditure represented about 6.1% of total government spending. Per capita total expenditure at average exchange rate was USD52.<ref name=WHOStats2009>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The budget allocation for Healthcare in 2010 was ₱28 billion (about USD597 million) or ₱310 ($7) per person[[283]](#cite_note-283) but had an increase in budget in 2014 with a record high in the collection of taxes from the House Bill 5727 (commonly known as [Sin tax](/wiki/Sin_tax) Bill).[[284]](#cite_note-284)[thumb|The façade of the](/wiki/File:St_Lukes_Medical_Center_BGC.JPG) [Bonifacio Global City](/wiki/Bonifacio_Global_City) branch of [St. Luke's Medical Center](/wiki/St._Luke's_Medical_Center) There are an estimated 90,370 physicians or 1 per every 833 people, 480,910 nurses, 43,220 dentists, and 1 hospital bed per every 769 people.<ref name=WHOStats2009/> Retention of skilled practitioners is a problem. 70% of nursing graduates go overseas to work. The Philippines is the biggest supplier of nurses for export.[[285]](#cite_note-285) In 2001 there were about 1,700 [hospitals](/wiki/Hospital), of which about 40% were government-run and 60% private. [Cardiovascular diseases](/wiki/Cardiovascular_diseases) account for more than 25% of all deaths. According to official estimates, 1,965 cases of [human immunodeficiency virus](/wiki/Human_immunodeficiency_virus) (HIV) were reported in 2003, of which 636 had developed [acquired immune deficiency syndrome](/wiki/Acquired_immune_deficiency_syndrome) (AIDS). Despite the increase of HIV/AIDS cases from 12,000 in 2005<ref name=usaidhealth>[United States Agency for International Development](/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development). (May 2008). [*USAID Country Health Statistical Report – Philippines*](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADM408.pdf). Retrieved April 8, 2010.</ref> to 17,450 as of April 2014 with 5,965 people that were under anti-retroviral therapy,[[286]](#cite_note-286) the country is still a low-HIV-prevalence country with less than 0.1% of the adult population estimated to be HIV-positive.[[287]](#cite_note-287)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

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The Philippines has a simple [literacy rate](/wiki/Literacy_rate) of 95.6%, with 95.1% for males and 96.1% for females. The Philippines has a [functional literacy](/wiki/Functional_literacy) rate of 86.45%, with 84.2% for males and 88.7% for females in 2008.[[288]](#cite_note-288)[[289]](#cite_note-289) Literacy in females is greater than in males.[[288]](#cite_note-288) Education spending accounts for 16.11% in the proposed 2015 national budget.[[290]](#cite_note-290)[[291]](#cite_note-291)[thumb|The](/wiki/File:400_Year_old_Beauty.jpg) [University of Santo Tomas](/wiki/University_of_Santo_Tomas), established in 1611, has the oldest [extant](/wiki/Extant_literature) university charter in Asia. The [Commission on Higher Education](/wiki/Commission_on_Higher_Education_(Philippines)) (CHED) lists 2,180 higher education institutions, 607 of which are public and 1,573 private.<ref name=CHED>Republic of the Philippines. Commission on Higher Education. (August 2010). [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback). *Official Website of the Commission on Higher Education*. Retrieved April 17, 2011.</ref> Classes start in June and end in March. The majority of colleges and universities follow a semester calendar from June to October and November to March. There are a number of foreign schools with study programs.[[101]](#cite_note-101) A 6-year elementary and 4-year high school education is mandatory[[292]](#cite_note-292) with an additional two years being added in 2013.[[293]](#cite_note-293)[[294]](#cite_note-294) Several government agencies are involved with education. The Department of Education covers elementary, secondary, and nonformal education. The [Technical Education and Skills Development Authority](/wiki/Technical_Education_and_Skills_Development_Authority) (TESDA) administers the post-secondary middle-level education training and development. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) supervises the college and graduate academic programs and degrees as well as regulate standards in higher education.[[295]](#cite_note-295) In 2004, [madaris](/wiki/Madrasa) were mainstreamed in 16 regions nationwide, mainly in Muslim areas in Mindanao under the auspices and program of the Department of Education.[[296]](#cite_note-296) Public universities are all non-sectarian entities, and are further classified as [State Universities and Colleges](/wiki/State_Universities_and_Colleges_(Philippines)) (SUC) or [Local Colleges and Universities](/wiki/Local_college_and_university_(Philippines)) (LCU).<ref name=CHED/> The [University of the Philippines](/wiki/University_of_the_Philippines) is the [national university](/wiki/National_university) of the Philippines.[[297]](#cite_note-297)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Philippine culture is a combination of [Eastern](/wiki/Eastern_culture) and [Western cultures](/wiki/Western_culture). The Philippines exhibits aspects found in other Asian countries with a [Malay](/wiki/Malay_people)[[298]](#cite_note-298) heritage, yet its culture also displays a significant number of [Spanish](/wiki/Culture_of_Spain) and [American](/wiki/Culture_of_the_United_States) influences.

Traditional festivities known as *barrio fiestas* (district festivals) to commemorate the feast days of patron saints are common. These community celebrations are times for feasting, music, and dancing and the [Moriones](/wiki/Moriones_Festival) and [Sinulog](/wiki/Sinulog) festivals are a couple of the most well-known.

Some traditions, however, are changing or gradually being forgotten due to modernization. The [Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company](/wiki/Bayanihan_Philippine_National_Folk_Dance_Company) has been lauded for preserving many of the various traditional folk dances found throughout the Philippines. They are famed for their iconic performances of Philippine dances such as the [*tinikling*](/wiki/Tinikling) and [*singkil*](/wiki/Singkil) that both feature clashing bamboo poles.[[299]](#cite_note-299)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|Percussion instruments that make up the Philippine](/wiki/File:Kulintang_03.jpg) [kulintang](/wiki/Kulintang) ensemble, an example of pre-Hispanic musical tradition [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Philippine music has evolved rapidly due to the different influences stemming from colonialism under other countries. Before the Spanish conquest of the islands, most music was reminiscent of, or heavily influenced by, nature. Some examples of this tribal music is *Koyu No Tebulul* of the [T'boli](/wiki/T'boli) and Ambo Hato of the [Ifugao](/wiki/Ifugao). This genre is often accompanied by gong music and one well known instrument is the [Kulintang](/wiki/Kulintang).

During the Spanish era [Rondalya](/wiki/Rondalya) music, where traditional string orchestra [mandolin](/wiki/Mandolin) type instruments were used, was widespread. In the Philippines, *Rondalya* refers to any group of stringed instruments that are played using a plectrum or pick. Filipino instruments are made from indigenous Philippine wood; plectrums, or picks, are made from tortoise-shell. Other stringed instruments composing the standard Filipino rondalla are the 14-string bandurria found only in the Philippines, the laúd, the octavina, the Twelve-string guitar, the Ukulele, the bajo de uñas or double bass, the Guitarrón mexicano, and other Filipino-made instruments modeled and developed after the guitar. Harana and Kundiman are prevalent during this time wherein these songs are often used in courtship rituals.[[300]](#cite_note-300) Marcelo Adonay (organist), Simplicio Solis (organist), Diego C. Perez (pianist), Jose Conseco (pianist) and [Doña Dolores Paterno](/wiki/Dolores_Paterno) (composer) were some of the recognized musicians in this era.[[301]](#cite_note-301) Nowadays, American pop culture has a heavy hold on the Filipinos that evolved from the Spanish times when the American occupation happened. Along with Korean pop, these two are dominating the recent music scene in media.[[302]](#cite_note-302)[[303]](#cite_note-303) However, the revival of Spanish-influence folk music has been done due to the different choir groups in and out of the country like the [Philippine Madrigal Singers](/wiki/Philippine_Madrigal_Singers).[[304]](#cite_note-304)

### Cosmopolitanism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Vigan](/wiki/Vigan) in Ilocos Sur is also known for the many Hispanic-style houses and buildings preserved there.[[305]](#cite_note-305) One of the most visible Hispanic legacies is the prevalence of [Spanish names and surnames](/wiki/Catálogo_Alfabético_de_Apellidos) among Filipinos; a Spanish name and surname, however, does not necessarily denote Spanish ancestry. This peculiarity, unique among the people of Asia, came as a result of a colonial edict by Governor-General [Narciso Clavería y Zaldua](/wiki/Narciso_Clavería_y_Zaldúa,_1st_Count_of_Manila), which ordered the systematic distribution of family names and implementation of [Hispanic nomenclature](/wiki/Spanish_naming_customs) on the population.<ref name=Dumont>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The names of many streets, towns, and provinces are also in Spanish. [Spanish architecture](/wiki/Spanish_architecture) has left an imprint in the Philippines in the way many towns were designed around a central square or *plaza mayor*, but many of the buildings bearing its influence were demolished during World War II.<ref name=Ring/> Some examples remain, mainly among the country's churches, government buildings, and universities. Four Philippine [baroque](/wiki/Baroque) churches are included in the list of [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Sites): the [San Agustín Church](/wiki/San_Agustin_Church,_Manila) in Manila, the Paoay Church in Ilocos Norte, the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Santa María) Church in Ilocos Sur, and the Santo Tomás de Villanueva Church in Iloilo.<ref name=Unesco>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In [Iloilo](/wiki/Iloilo), a lot of the colonial edifices constructed during the American occupation in the country can still be seen. Commercial buildings, houses and churches in that era are abundant in the city and especially in Calle Real.[[306]](#cite_note-306) However, certain areas of the country like [Batanes](/wiki/Batanes) have slight differences as both Spanish and Filipino ways of life assimilated differently due to the climate there and limestone and coral were used as building materials.[[307]](#cite_note-307) Idjangs or [Ivatan](/wiki/Ivatan_people) castles were the primary shelter of the people prior to the Spanish conquest of the whole Philippines.[[308]](#cite_note-308) The common use of the English language is an example of the American impact on Philippine society. It has contributed to the ready acceptance and influence of American pop cultural trends. This affinity is seen in Filipinos' love of [fast food](/wiki/Fast_food) and American film and music. Fast food outlets are found on many street corners. American global fast food chain stalwarts have entered the market, but local fast food chains like [Goldilocks](/wiki/Goldilocks_Bakeshop) and most notably [Jollibee](/wiki/Jollibee), the leading fast food chain in the country, have emerged and compete successfully against their foreign rivals.<ref name=Jollibee>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Jollibee2>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

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### Visual art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Emilio Jacinto Monument in Quezon City, Metro Manila.](/wiki/File:Emilio_Jacinto_Monument_in_Quezon_City,_Metro_Manila..jpg) Pottery and weaving are among the very first art forms showcasing Filipino artistic design and are evident from cave dwellings all over the country. Among these are mostly anthropomorphic earthenware jars dating from c. 5 BC to 225 AD. Weaving was mostly done by women, using fibers from abaca, pineapple, cotton, and bark to make clothes, rugs and hats. Baskets were mostly utilized to carry grain and other foods.[[309]](#cite_note-309)[[310]](#cite_note-310) Early Philippine sculpture is characterized by frontal nudity. One of the earliest forms are the *bulols* by the Ifugao peoples which serve as an assurance for bountiful harvests. The original function of these sculptures are related to the ceremonies and beliefs of the tribes who created them. Arab and Russian missionaries also brought beveled type of carvings in the form of *Okkil*. The beginnings of this sculpture type started with the Islamization of Sulu. The Spanish colonization of the country did not hinder Filipinos creating sculptures for objects of adoration. During this time, sculptures of deities and saints were used to teach Filipinos Christian doctrines. During the American colonialism, worshippers of faith were not discouraged to sculpt in order to adorn churches.

Filipinos' first exposure to painting happened when Spain conquered the Philippines and these were used as religious propaganda often displayed in churches. However, as education progressed and wealth increased, more and more artists started to shift from the traditional religious motifs to a more secular pattern of imagery.[[311][311]](#cite_note-311) Paintings of early [modernist](/wiki/Modern_art) painters such as [Damián Domingo](/wiki/Damián_Domingo) often still had a religious association but the art of [Juan Luna](/wiki/Juan_Luna) and [Félix Hidalgo](/wiki/Félix_Resurrección_Hidalgo) showed a trend towards political statement. The first Philippine national artist [Fernando Amorsolo](/wiki/Fernando_Amorsolo) used post-modernism to produce paintings that illustrated aspects of Philippine culture, while other artists such as [Fernando Zóbel](/wiki/Fernando_Zóbel_de_Ayala_y_Montojo) used both realistic and [abstract](/wiki/Abstract_art) techniques.

In the modern period, the integration of architecture in the Art Deco style happened. Many of these examples can be seen in statues all over the country especially in public parks and spaces.[[312]](#cite_note-312)

### Values[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) As a general description, the distinct [value system](/wiki/Value_system) of Filipinos is rooted primarily in personal alliance systems, especially those based in kinship, obligation, friendship, religion (particularly [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity)), and commercial relationships.<ref name=CAPH>[*Social Values and Organization*](http://countrystudies.us/philippines/41.htm), Philippines, country studies.us</ref>

Filipino values are, for the most part, centered around maintaining social harmony, motivated primarily by the desire to be accepted within a group.[[313]](#cite_note-313) The main sanction against diverging from these values are the concepts of "*Hiya*", roughly translated as 'a sense of shame', and "*Amor propio*" or 'self-esteem'.[[313]](#cite_note-313) Social approval, acceptance by a group, and belonging to a group are major concerns. Caring about what others will think, say or do, are strong influences on social behavior among Filipinos.<ref name=Didache>Hallig, Jason V. [*Communicating Holiness to the Filipinos: Challenges and Needs*](http://didache.nts.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=277&Itemid), The Path to a Filipino Theology of Holiness, on pages 2 and 10, http://didache.nts.edu.</ref>

Other elements of the Filipino value system are optimism about the future, pessimism about present situations and events, concern and care for other people, the existence of friendship and friendliness, the habit of being hospitable, religious nature, respectfulness to self and others, respect for the female members of society, the fear of God, and abhorrence of acts of cheating and thievery.<ref name=CRVP2>Talisayon, Serafin. [*Filipino Values*](http://www.crvp.org/book/Series03/III-7/chapter_xiii.htm), Chapeter XIII, Teaching Values in the Natural and Physical Sciences in the Philippines, crvp.orgp</ref>

While in most of the world the popularity of formal female beauty contests has diminished, they remain both popular and widespread in the Philippines. [Binibining Pilipinas](/wiki/Binibining_Pilipinas) is a closely followed event throughout the country along with other major national pageants such as [Miss Philippines Earth](/wiki/Miss_Philippines_Earth) and [Miss World Philippines](/wiki/Miss_World_Philippines). Filipinas have garnered one [*Miss World*](/wiki/Miss_World), three [*Miss Universe*](/wiki/Miss_Universe), five [*Miss International*](/wiki/Miss_International), three [*Miss Earth*](/wiki/Miss_Earth), and one *Miss Supranational* titles.

### Dance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright=1.3|](/wiki/File:Tinikling_Dance.jpg)[Tinikling](/wiki/Tinikling) as performed on stage. Just like the evolution of Philippine music, dance as well has been in constant change. Prior to colonial rule, the Philippines has a wide array of ethnic dances from different tribal groups. This is due mainly to the fact that Philippines is an island thus the different varieties of dance developed. Both Luzon and Visayas, at first, were more akin to tribal movements until the Spanish came. Mindanao represents more of an array of Muslim inspired dances and Spanish influence was minimal in the region of [Zamboanga](/wiki/Zamboanga_City).

Universal dances in the Philippines are found at societal functions such as rituals, mimicry, life cycle and parties. During the Spanish era, most dances are accompanied by Rondalya music usually with 14-string bandurrias that the Filipinos invented or by other type of stringed instruments that locally evolved in to the culture as well.

One famous dance that is well known is called the [Tinikling](/wiki/Tinikling), where a band of Rondalya musicians play along with the percussive beat of the two bamboo poles. It usually starts with men and women acting a scene about "How rural townsfolk mingle". The dancers then graze thru the clashing of the bamboo poles held on opposite sides. The end displays the paired bamboo poles crossing each other. The Muslim version of this where bamboo poles are also used is called the [Singkil](/wiki/Singkil).[[314]](#cite_note-314) Nowadays, in the Modern and Post-Modern time periods, dances vary from the delicate ballet up to the more street-oriented styles of breakdancing to name a few.[[315]](#cite_note-315)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Philippine cuisine has evolved over several centuries from its [Malayo-Polynesian](/wiki/Malayo-Polynesian) origins to become a mixed cuisine with many [Hispanic](/wiki/Hispanic), [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_cuisine), [American](/wiki/Cuisine_of_the_United_States), and other [Asian](/wiki/Asian_cuisine) influences that have been adapted to local ingredients and the Filipino palate to create distinctively Filipino dishes. Dishes range from the very simple, like a meal of fried salted fish and rice, to the elaborate, such as the [*paellas*](/wiki/Paella) and [*cocidos*](/wiki/Cozido) created for fiestas.<ref name=Jollibee2/><ref name=Zialcita/>

Popular dishes include [*lechón*](/wiki/Lechon), [*adobo*](/wiki/Adobo_(Filipino_cuisine)), [*sinigang*](/wiki/Sinigang), [*kare-kare*](/wiki/Kare-kare), [*tapa*](/wiki/Tapa_(Filipino_cuisine)), [crispy *pata*](/wiki/Crispy_pata), [*pancit*](/wiki/Pancit), [*lumpia*](/wiki/Lumpia), and [*halo-halo*](/wiki/Halo-halo). Some common local ingredients used in cooking are [calamondins](/wiki/Calamondin), coconuts, [*saba*](/wiki/Saba_banana) (a kind of short wide [plantain](/wiki/Plantain_(cooking))), [mangoes](/wiki/Mangoes), [milkfish](/wiki/Milkfish), and [fish sauce](/wiki/Fish_sauce). Filipino taste buds tend to favor robust flavors, but the cuisine is not as spicy as those of its neighbors.<ref name=Jollibee2/><ref name=Zialcita> [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Unlike many of their Asian counterparts, Filipinos do not eat with chopsticks; they use Western cutlery. However, possibly due to rice being the primary staple food and the popularity of a large number of stews and main dishes with broth in Philippine cuisine, the main pairing of utensils seen at the Filipino dining table is that of spoon and fork, not knife and fork.[[316]](#cite_note-316) The traditional way of eating with the hands known as *kamayan* (using the washed right hand for bringing food to the mouth[[317]](#cite_note-317)) was previously more often seen in the less urbanized areas.[[318]](#cite_note-318) However, due to the various Filipino restaurants that introduced Filipino food to people of other nationalities as well as to Filipino urbanites, kamayan fast became popular. This recent trend also sometimes incorporates the "Boodle Fight" concept (as popularized and coined by the Philippine Army), wherein banana leaves are used as giant plates on top of which rice portions and Filipino viands are placed all together for a filial, friendly and/or communal *kamayan* feasting.[[319]](#cite_note-319)

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|alt=](/wiki/File:Jose_rizal_01.jpg)[Jose Rizal](/wiki/Jose_Rizal), a pioneer of [Philippine Revolution](/wiki/Philippine_Revolution) through his literary works.|[José Rizal](/wiki/José_Rizal), a pioneer of [Philippine Revolution](/wiki/Philippine_Revolution) through his literary works in [Spanish language](/wiki/Spanish_language)

Philippine mythology has been handed down primarily through the traditional oral folk literature of the Filipino people. While each unique ethnic group has its own stories and myths to tell, Hindu and Spanish influences can nonetheless be detected in many cases. Philippine mythology mostly consists of creation stories or stories about supernatural creatures, such as the [*aswang*](/wiki/Aswang), the [*manananggal*](/wiki/Manananggal), the [*diwata*](/wiki/Diwata)*/*[*engkanto*](/wiki/Engkanto), and nature. Some popular figures from Philippine mythologies are [Maria Makiling](/wiki/Maria_Makiling), [Lam-Ang](/wiki/Biag_ni_Lam-Ang), and the [Sarimanok](/wiki/Sarimanok).<ref name=Lopez>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Philippine literature comprises works usually written in Filipino, Spanish, or English. Some of the most known were created from the 17th to 19th century. [Adarna](/wiki/Ibong_Adarna), for example, is a famous epic about an eponymous magical bird allegedly written by José de la Cruz or "Huseng Sisiw".[[320]](#cite_note-320) [Francisco Balagtas](/wiki/Francisco_Balagtas) the poet and playwright who wrote [*Florante at Laura*](/wiki/Florante_at_Laura) is recognized as a preeminent writer in the Filipino language. [José Rizal](/wiki/José_Rizal) wrote the novels [*Noli Me Tángere*](/wiki/Noli_Me_Tángere_(novel)) (*Touch Me Not*) and [*El Filibusterismo*](/wiki/El_Filibusterismo) (*The Filibustering*, also known as *The Reign of Greed*). He is considered a national hero.[[321]](#cite_note-321) His depiction of the injustices of Spanish rule, and his death by firing squad, inspired other Philippine revolutionaries to seek independence.<ref name=Artists>Republic of the Philippines. National Commission for Culture and the Arts. [The National Artists of the Philippines](http://www.ncca.gov.ph/about-ncca/org-awards/org-awards-national-artist-list.php). Retrieved December 26, 2009 from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Website. [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref> Several Filipino writers were awarded [National Artist of the Philippines](/wiki/National_Artist_of_the_Philippines) such as [N. V. M. Gonzalez](/wiki/N._V._M._Gonzalez), [Amado V. Hernandez](/wiki/Amado_V._Hernandez), [Francisco Arcellana](/wiki/Francisco_Arcellana), [Nick Joaquín](/wiki/Nick_Joaquín), [F. Sionil José](/wiki/F._Sionil_José) and many more.

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Philippine media](/wiki/Media_in_the_Philippines) uses mainly Filipino and English. Other Philippine languages, including various Visayan languages are also used, especially in radio due to its ability to reach remote rural locations that might otherwise not be serviced by other kinds of media. The dominant [television](/wiki/Television_in_the_Philippines) networks [ABS-CBN](/wiki/ABS-CBN), [GMA](/wiki/GMA_Network) and [TV5](/wiki/TV5_(Philippines)) also have extensive radio presence.[[322]](#cite_note-322) The entertainment industry is vibrant and feeds [broadsheets and tabloids](/wiki/Newspapers_in_the_Philippines) with an unending supply of details about [celebrities](/wiki/List_of_Filipino_actors) and sensationalist daily scandals. [Drama](/wiki/Philippine_drama) and [fantasy shows](/wiki/Fantaserye) are anticipated as are Latin [telenovelas](/wiki/Telenovelas), [Asianovelas](/wiki/Asianovela), and [anime](/wiki/Anime). Daytime television is dominated by game shows, variety shows, and talk shows such as [*Eat Bulaga*](/wiki/Eat_Bulaga) and [*It's Showtime*](/wiki/It's_Showtime_(variety_show)).<ref name=Ratings>Santiago, Erwin (April 12, 2010). [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback). Retrieved May 23, 2010 from the Philippine Entertainment Portal Website.</ref> [Philippine cinema](/wiki/Cinema_of_the_Philippines) has a long history and is popular domestically, but has faced increasing competition from [American](/wiki/Cinema_of_the_United_States), [Asian](/wiki/Cinema_of_Asia) and [European films](/wiki/Cinema_of_Europe). Critically acclaimed directors and actors include [Lino Brocka](/wiki/Lino_Brocka) and [Nora Aunor](/wiki/Nora_Aunor) for films like [*Maynila: Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag*](/wiki/Maynila:_Sa_mga_Kuko_ng_Liwanag) (*Manila: In the Claws of Light*) and [*Himala*](/wiki/Himala) (*Miracle*).[[323]](#cite_note-323)[[324]](#cite_note-324)[[325]](#cite_note-325)[[326]](#cite_note-326) In recent years it has become common to see celebrities flitting between television and movies and then moving into politics provoking concerns.<ref name=Celebrity>["The Philippines' celebrity-obsessed elections"](http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9084791). (April 26, 2007). [*The Economist*](/wiki/The_Economist). Retrieved January 15, 2010.</ref>

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|alt=A](/wiki/File:Mall_of_Asia_Arena_Basketball_2012.jpg) [PBA](/wiki/Philippine_Basketball_Association) basketball game at the [Mall of Asia Arena](/wiki/Mall_of_Asia_Arena).|A [PBA](/wiki/Philippine_Basketball_Association) basketball game at the [Mall of Asia Arena](/wiki/Mall_of_Asia_Arena).

Various [sports](/wiki/Sport_in_the_Philippines) and pastimes are popular in the Philippines including [basketball](/wiki/Basketball_in_the_Philippines), [boxing](/wiki/Boxing), [cockfighting](/wiki/Cockfighting), [volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball), [football](/wiki/Association_football) (soccer), [American football](/wiki/American_football), both codes of [Rugby football](/wiki/Rugby_football), [badminton](/wiki/Badminton), [karate](/wiki/Karate), [taekwondo](/wiki/Taekwondo), [billiards](/wiki/Billiards), [ten-pin bowling](/wiki/Ten-pin_bowling), [chess](/wiki/Chess), and [sipa](/wiki/Sipa). [Motocross](/wiki/Motocross), [cycling](/wiki/Cycling), and [mountaineering](/wiki/Mountaineering) are also becoming popular. Basketball is played at both amateur and professional levels and is considered to be the most popular sport in the Philippines.[[327]](#cite_note-327)<ref name=kilala>[Mga Kilalang Pilipino](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/modules_in_Tagalog/mga_kilalang_pilipino.htm) [Known Filipinos]. (n.d.) (in Filipino). *Tagalog at NIU*. Retrieved April 25, 2010 from the Northern Illinois University, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, SEAsite Project.</ref> In 2010, [Manny Pacquiao](/wiki/Manny_Pacquiao) was named ["Fighter of the Decade"](/wiki/Edward_J._Neil_Trophy#2000s) for the 2000s (decade) by the [Boxing Writers Association of America](/wiki/Boxing_Writers_Association_of_America) (BWAA), [World Boxing Council](/wiki/World_Boxing_Council) (WBC), and [World Boxing Organization](/wiki/World_Boxing_Organization) (WBO).[[328]](#cite_note-328) The national [martial art](/wiki/Filipino_martial_arts) and sport of the country is [Arnis](/wiki/Arnis_de_Mano), [Eskrima](/wiki/Eskrima) or [Kali](/wiki/Kali) in some regions[[329]](#cite_note-329) The Philippines has participated in the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) since [1924](/wiki/1924_Summer_Olympics) and was the first country in [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia) to compete and win a medal.<ref name=athletes>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The country had competed in every [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) since then, except when they participated in the [American-led boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics](/wiki/American-led_boycott_of_the_1980_Summer_Olympics).[[330]](#cite_note-330) The Philippines is also the first [tropical nation](/wiki/Tropical_nations_at_the_Winter_Olympics) to compete at the [Winter Olympic Games](/wiki/Winter_Olympic_Games) debuting in the [1972](/wiki/1972_Winter_Olympics) edition.[[331]](#cite_note-331)

### Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Cock_Fight_Arina_Davao.jpg)[Sabong](/wiki/Sabong) or Cock Derby in [Davao City](/wiki/Davao_City). [Traditional Philippine games](/wiki/Traditional_games_in_the_Philippines) such as *luksung baka*, *patintero*, *piko*, and *tumbang preso* are still played primarily as [children's games](/wiki/Children's_games) among the youth.<ref name=Hagonoy>[Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback) [Games One Grows Up With]. Hagonoy.com. (archived from [the original](http://www.hagonoy.com/lbcorpus/halbc010.html) on November 6, 2007)</ref><ref name=Seasite>[Mga Larong Pilipino](https://web.archive.org/web/20140628125706/http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/Filipino_Games/mga_larong_pilipino.htm) [Philippine Games]. (2009). *Tagalog at NIU*. Retrieved December 19, 2009 from the Northern Illinois University, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, SEAsite Project. (archived from [the original](http://www.seasite.niu.edu./Tagalog/Filipino_Games/mga_larong_pilipino.htm) on June 28, 2014)</ref> [*Sungka*](/wiki/Sungka) is a traditional native Philippine board game. [Card games](/wiki/Card_games) are popular during festivities, with some, including *pusoy* and *tong-its*, being used as a form of [illegal gambling](/wiki/Illegal_gambling). [Mahjong](/wiki/Mahjong) is played in some Philippine communities.

[Sabong](/wiki/Sabong) or cockfighting is another popular entertainment especially among Filipino men, and existed prior to the arrival of the Spanish. [Antonio Pigafetta](/wiki/Antonio_Pigafetta), Magellan's chronicler, first documented this pastime in the kingdom of Taytay.[[332]](#cite_note-332)[[333]](#cite_note-333) The [yo-yo](/wiki/Yo-yo), a popular toy in the Philippines, was introduced in its modern form by [Pedro Flores](/wiki/Pedro_Flores_(yo-yo_manufacture)) with its name coming from the [Ilokano language](/wiki/Ilokano_language).<ref name=mw>[Yo-yo](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/yo-yo). (2010). In Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Retrieved January 10, 2010.</ref>

### Other[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

Internationally, Philippines has been well documented for its successes in beauty pageants. [Binibining Pilipinas](/wiki/Binibining_Pilipinas) is a closely followed event throughout the country, and Philippines has received 1 [Miss World](/wiki/Miss_World), 3 [Miss Universe](/wiki/Miss_Universe), 5 [Miss International](/wiki/Miss_International), 3 [Miss Earth](/wiki/Miss_Earth), and 1 Miss Supranational titles making it the first country to complete all five major titles.[[334]](#cite_note-334)