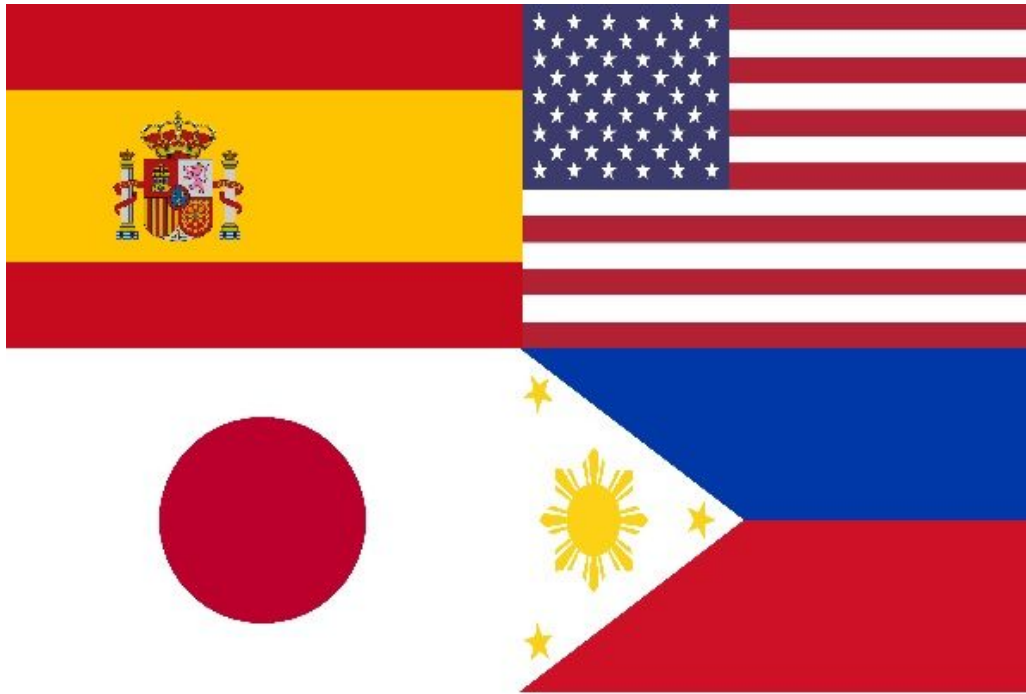


How Was the Philippines Affected by Foreign Influences?

By: John Bautista



Many people wonder: How has the history of the Philippines shaped its modern culture? I chose to answer this question by researching online. Important areas of my research have been on the three main countries that have influence on the Philippines; Spain, Japan, and the U.S.A. I have also focused on finding

The U.S. colonization was very contradicting, as their slogan was “education for self rule”; but their imperialist actions of occupying the Philippines with their military implied that the Philippines was unfit to govern themselves. The Filipino way of life was shown as inferior in contrast to the

information about pre-spanish Filipino culture to find out how much of it survived to this day.

The first country that has had a major influence on the Philippines is Spain. The Spanish brought many different changes to the Filipino life. One change was learning horticultural farming instead of the slash and burn technique used before and how to grow different crops such as maize, avocado, and tomatoes. Spanish friars also taught the natives the basics of reading and writing as well as useful trades such as painting, baking and locksmithing. Spain played a major role in shaping Filipino culture by converting most of the residents to Catholicism. This developed the only predominantly Roman Catholic country in Asia (Britannica). When Spain colonized the Philippines in 1565, the Spanish clergy planned to make it an arsenal of

American counterpart through text books showing the U.S. way of life superior and using English language as the default option for instruction (Pomeroy 7).

The last major influence of the Philippines is Japan. Japan occupied the Philippines in 1941 during WWII and was an enemy of the U.S. and the Philippines. Japan tore down and replaced American influences with Japanese culture. Instead of following Japan's influence, the Philippines focused on it's own culture and preserving it's way of life. Families would teach their children customs, and history about the Philippines at their home. Without the constant U.S influence, Filipino culture boosted. Japan treated the locals harshly and left the country with no resources which led to a culture of corruption within the post-war Philippines (Aluit). The loss of resources led to citizens stealing to support their

faith (Bauzon). You can see many churches scattered all over the Philippines as landmarks to the Spanish goal. Introducing a new religion onto the natives has left an impact on the old polytheistic beliefs. It was shoved out of the way and replaced by a new religion that would have influence over around 86% of the Philippine population today.

After the Filipino-American war from 1899-1902, the Philippines was bought from the Spanish for \$20,000,000 by the U.S.A. The Americans brought the modern education system along with a lot of teachers to accompany it. Modern Filipinos value education highly, and appreciate the gift from the U.S. But the historian William J. Pomeroy, states another side of the U.S influence on schooling. On page 169, Pomeroy states, "In general however, Philippine culture was smothered, untaught in

families which led to a heightened crime rate.

The Philippines indigenous culture may have been suppressed by many other nations, but it still survives to this day. Fifty thousand years ago, the first Filipinos arrived in the archipelago known as the Philippines, from modern day Malaysia, and Indonesia. Then many years later, explorers for the kingdom of Spain discovered the Philippines. The Spanish took over for 333 years, and established its culture onto the Philippines through force. Despite being occupied by three different countries, native Filipino culture was preserved by oral tradition. They would tell stories, songs, riddles, and proverbs to their children to keep the traditions alive. Loving and creating music has been alive before the Spanish came (Bandal). As Bandal has stated in their blog post "Ancient Filipinos possessed

schools.” This observation shows how Filipinos were not being taught their own history, and culture, in their own country. American influence was a step forward because the Philippines created a strong central government (at least until Ferdinand Marcos’s rule from 1972-1981), with a constitution and system of government all similar to the United States.

great wealth of lyric poetry. There were many songs of great variety in lyrics and music as well as meter.” The importance of music was not only alive with ancient Filipinos, but with modern Filipinos as well. Music is what sticks Filipinos together, whether if it's a family gathering, a rough patch, or courting a loved one, music has been very important through Filipino history.