

# Multiculturalism: The Means to a Harmonious Society

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KOLEHIYO NG AGHAM PANLIPUNAN AT PILOSOPHIYA  
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# Learning Objective

- At the end of the lecture, participants will have a clear and correct understanding of the concept of multiculturalism and the importance of ensuring a harmonious interaction of different cultures in society.

# Multiculturalism defined

- The presence of, or the support for the presence of, several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society.
- In Sociology, multiculturalism is the view that cultural differences should be respected or even encouraged.

# Culture

- That complex whole which includes knowledge, art, law, morals, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.

- E.B. Tylor, 1871



# Racial diversity

- In biology, race refers to a subpopulation or variety of a species that differs somewhat from other varieties of the species.
- In humans, race refer to an ethnic group assumed to have a biological basis
- Races in the Philippines: Mongoloid and Negritoid



# Linguistic diversity

- 169 living languages, 3 extinct languages
- Of the 169 living languages, 166 are indigenous languages while 3 are foreign languages, namely: English, Castilian Spanish, and Minnan Chinese
- Of the 166 indigenous languages, 164 belong to the Western Malayo-Polynesian subfamily of the Austronesian family of languages, 1 Creole language (Chavacano), and 1 visual language (Filipino Sign Language)
- Several dialects for each language



# Ethnic diversity

- An ethnic group refers to any group of people who set themselves apart and/or are set apart by others with whom they interact or coexist on the basis of their perceptions of cultural differentiation and/or common descent (Jones 1997).
- At least 106 ethnic groups in the Philippines (Fox and Troy, in Jocano 1998)
- Indigenous peoples – no agreement on number, from 92 groups to 140 groups



# Bases for ethnic identity in the Philippines

- Language
- Domicile
- Phenotypic characteristics
- Religion
- Culture traits
- Ancestry or migration history



# Indigenous Peoples: Anthropological definition

- The original inhabitants of particular territories.
- Often descendants of tribespeople who live on as culturally distinct colonized peoples, many of whom aspire to autonomy.

- Kottak (2000)

# Indigenous Peoples

## As defined by Republic Act 8371

- A group of people or homogenous societies, identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have continuously lived as organized community on communally bounded and defined territory.
- Have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories.
- Sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits.

# Indigenous Peoples

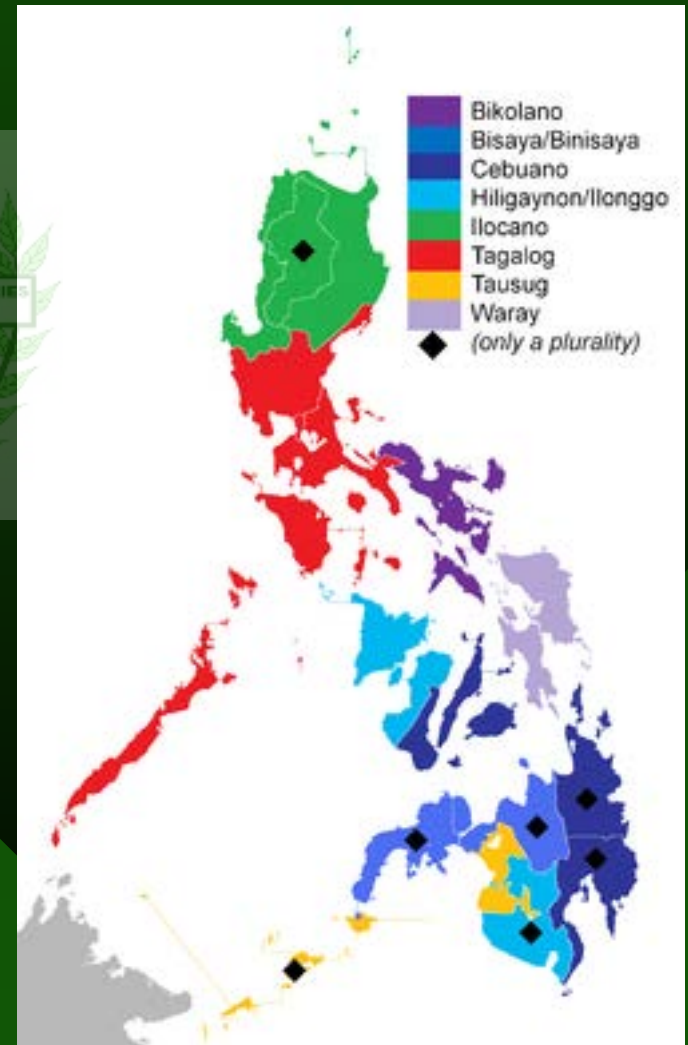
As defined by Republic Act 8371

- Through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos.
- Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), Chapter II, Section 3h.

# Major Ethnolinguistic Groups

## 2000 Census of Population and Housing

- Tagalog (28.16%)
- Cebuano (23.12%)
- Ilocano (9.07%)
- Hiligaynon (7.57%)
- Bikol (6.01%)
- Waray (3.36%)
- Kapampangan (3.03%)
- Pangasinan (1.78%)





# Other Ethnolinguistic Groups

- Bangsa Moro
- Lumadnon
- Cordillera peoples
- Negritos
- Mangyan
- Tsinoy
- Etc.



# Religious diversity

2010 Census of Population and Housing

- 81% Roman Catholic
- 6% Muslim
- 3% Evangelicals
- 2% Iglesia ni Cristo
- 8% others





# Various subcultures, especially among the youth

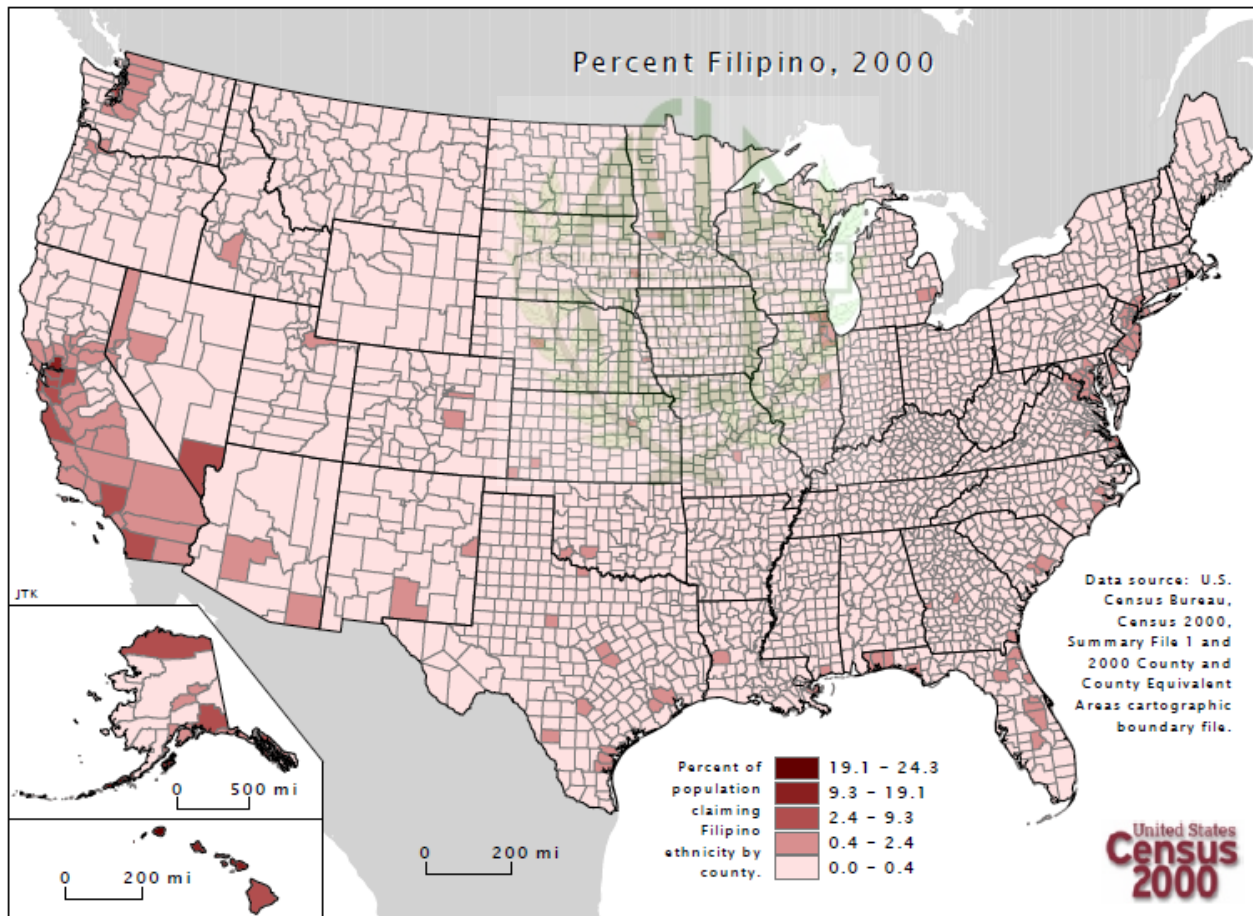
- Rizalistas
- Activists
- Yuppies
- Coños
- Jejemons
- LGBTs
- Duterteards
- Millennials
- Etc.



# Filipinos in diaspora

- More than 8 million Filipinos are living outside the Philippines.
- 3.6 million Filipinos working abroad as contractual workers (as of 2004)
- Majority of them are working in the Middle East
- These workers come back to the Philippines bringing with them the culture of the country where they came from

# Filipino-Americans



# Problems triggered by the absence of Multiculturalism

- Chauvinism
- Cultural appropriation
- Discrimination
- Ethnic conflict/warfare
- Government neglect
- Misrepresentation
- National oppression
- Racism
- Stereotyping
- Armed separatism
- Isolationism
- Reverse discrimination
- Secessionism
- Terrorism

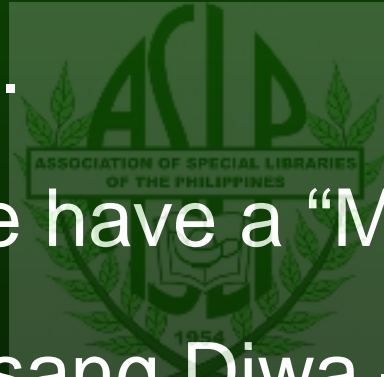


# Multicultural society vs. Multiculturalism

- The Philippines is definitely a multicultural society.
- However, the Philippine State has not yet embraced multiculturalism as its framework in dealing with diverse cultures.

# Myths about Philippine Society

- The Philippines is the ONLY Christian country in Asia.
- (This is why we have a “Muslim problem”.)
- Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa – Martial law slogan
- Isang Bansa, Isang Lahi – title of a textbook in Sibika at Kultura.



# National symbols that reinforce the concept of monoculture

- Pambansang damit:  
Barong Tagalog
- Pambansang bahay:  
Bahay kubo
- Pambansang hayop:  
Kalabaw
- Pambansang  
sayaw: Cariñosa





# Stereotype representation of Indigenous Peoples

- Always drawn wearing their 'native costumes', e.g. g-strings.
- Their houses, places of worship, and other material culture are always portrayed in their traditional forms.
- As if their culture has not changed through the years.

# Agta house



Palanan, Isabela

Maconacon, Isabela



# Incorrect portrayal of the ethnic landscape

- Filipino is the language, all the rest (e.g. Ilocano, Cebuano, Kapampangan, Hiligaynon, etc.) are dialects.
- ‘Muslim’ as an ethnic group.
- Difference of ethnic minorities from the rest attributed to “foreign influences” (esp. in the case of “Muslim groups”).

# Tsart ng Iba't-ibang Pangkat-Etniko sa Mindanao

(Ang Pilipinas Noon at Ngayon, 1994)



Lugar	Pangkat ayon sa Pananalita o Kultura
Zamboanga	Sebuano
Basilan	Sebuano
Lungsod ng Iligan	Sari-saring Kristyano
Lungsod ng Cotabato	Sari-saring Kristyano

# Mga makasaysayang pook

Pilipinas: Ang Lupang Hinirang, 1999

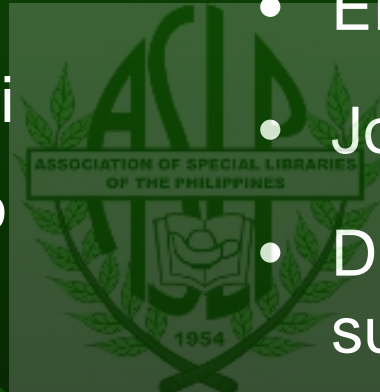
- Rizal Park
- Calamba, Laguna
- Simbahan ng Barasoain
- Pulo ng Mactan
- Camp Crame at Camp Aguinaldo sa EDSA
- Kawit, Cavite
- Corregidor
- Cebu City
- Fort Santiago



# Mga bayani natin

Pilipinas: Ang Lupang Hinirang, 1999

- Dr. Jose Rizal
- Apolinario Mabini
- Andres Bonifacio
- Lapu-lapu
- Melchora Aquino
- GOMBURZA
- Gregorio del Pilar
- Emilio Aguinaldo
- Josefa Llanes Escoda
- Di-kilalang mga sundalo





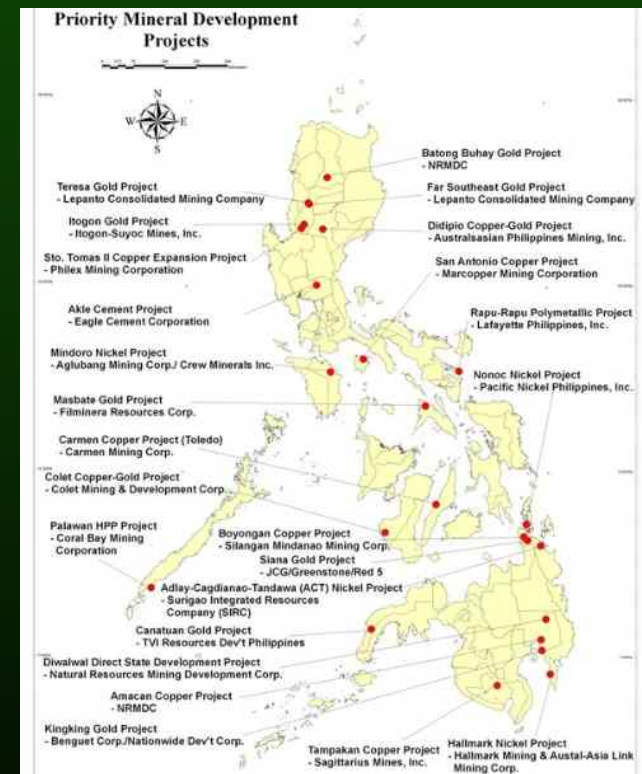
# Ethnocentric perspectives

- “Ang pinakamalaking impluwensiyang Kastila sa kulturang Pilipino ay ang Kristiyanismo... Ano ang naging epekto ng bagong relihiyon sa mga Pilipino? Naragdagan ang kabaitan ng mga tao. Nawala nang paunti-unti ang karahasan at matinding pag-aalitan na pinagmumulan ng mga pag-aaway.” (Ang Pilipinas Noon at Ngayon, 1994)



# Common problems of indigenous peoples

- Commercialization of their cultures because of tourism.
- Displacement from their ancestral lands due to the establishment of development projects, such as hydro-electric dams, mining, and logging concessions.
- Their indigenous languages are threatened with extinction.
- Marginalization of their cultures due to acculturation and assimilation.



# Some attempts towards Multiculturalism

- Enactment of RA 8371 (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997)
- Implementation of the Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTBMLE)

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# Will Federalism contribute to Multiculturalism?

- Not necessarily.
- The US has a federal setup but it espouses the concept of a “melting pot,” which is the exact opposite of multiculturalism.
- Somalia is another federal country but it is rife with ethnic conflicts, civil war, terrorism, and is one of the poorest countries in the world.

# Issues

- There is a tendency to represent Philippine culture as something that is homogenous.
- Philippine culture has always been diverse from the start.
- The heterogeneity of Philippine culture has further been exacerbated by globalization as there are more sources of Philippine culture other than sources that are internal to the Philippines.

# Some problems

- Stronger regional loyalties vs. sense of national identity
- Problem of promoting Filipino as national language
- National development goals are hampered by regional prioritization
- Voting along ethnic lines
- Threat of ethnic-based armed movements

# Challenges

- How to foster national solidarity in a multicultural setting?
- How to respect cultural diversity while instilling common national goals?
- There is a need to study lessons from different country models in implementing development goals within multicultural contexts.
- However, we should not blindly copy these foreign models and should take into consideration our specific situation.

# Cultural Competence

- An ongoing process by which individuals and systems respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, languages, classes, races, sexes, ethnic backgrounds, religions, sexual orientations, abilities, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families, and communities, and protects and preserves the dignity of each.

- NASW 2001



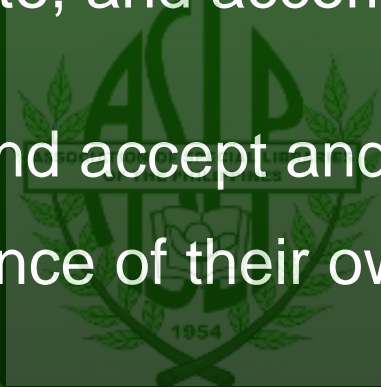
# Operationalization of cultural competence

- Culturally competent organizations and individuals are able to integrate and transform knowledge about diverse groups of people into specific standard, policies, practices, and attributes used in appropriate cultural settings to increase the quality of services, thereby producing better outcomes.

- Davis and Donald 1997

# Basic Cultural Competence

- Accept, appreciate, and accommodate cultural differences.
- Value diversity and accept and respect differences.
- Accept the influence of their own culture in relation to other cultures.
- Understand and manage the dynamics of difference when cultures intersect.
- Are willing to examine components of cross-cultural interactions (communication, problem solving, etc.).

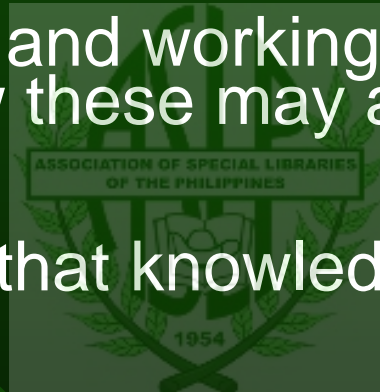


# Advanced Cultural Competence

- Move beyond accepting, appreciating, and accommodating cultural difference and begin actively to educate less informed individuals about cultural differences.
- Seek out knowledge about diverse cultures, develop skills to interact in diverse environments, and become allies with and feel comfortable interacting with others in multicultural settings.

# Cultural Competence Skills

- Being aware of one's own culture, values, and biases.
- Being aware of and working at controlling own biases and how these may affect interactions with others.
- Understanding that knowledge is always culture-specific.
- Knowledge of institutional barriers that prevent some populations from accessing resources.
- Ability to build strong cross-cultural relationships and to be at ease with difference.



# Cultural Competence Skills

- Flexibility and ability to adapt to diverse environments.
- Ability and willingness to be an ally to individuals who are different from oneself.
- Effective communication skills across differences.
- Able to mediate cross-cultural conflicts.

- Anand 2000

Thank you very much.

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