



THE PHILIPPINES



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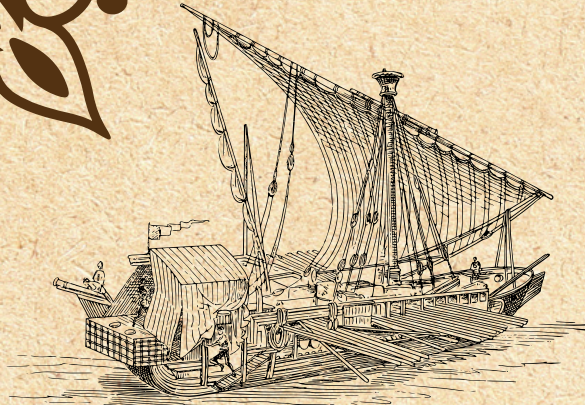




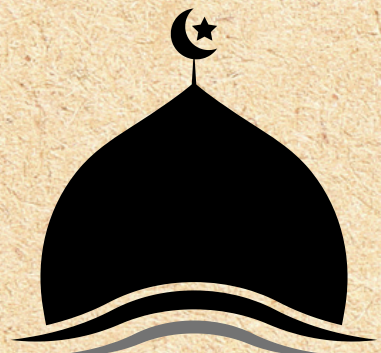
BRIEF HISTORY



PRE-COLONIAL



- The most common coastal boat was the balanghain which is the origin of the barangay
- Barangays were the central social and political units ruled by rajahs and datos
- Religions were diverse and polytheistic
- Islam spread out through Mindanao and Sulu, later divided into sultanates based on similar but rival ethnic groups and reached Manila before the Spanish



PRE-COLONIAL

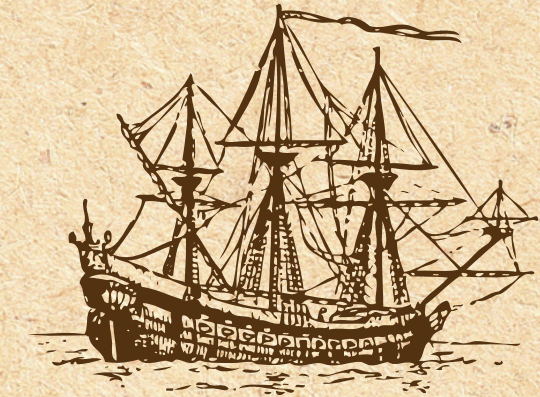


- People mostly practice shifting cultivation
- Extensive trades with China
- Antonio Pigafetta noted practices such as cockfighting and tattooing
- Excellence in boat building and navigation
- Literacy, particularly women, in local scripts derived from kawi, the old Javanese script, such as the Tagalog Baybayin





SPANISH PERIOD



- Ferdinand Magellan arrived in Homonhon Eastern Samar on March 17, 1521 and made blood compact with Rajah Kolambu
- Magellan and several of his comrade were killed in a battle with Lapu-Lapu's forces
- Conquest of the islands begin with the expedition of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi
- A centralized government was established in Manila in 1571 and introduced Christianity



SPANISH PERIOD

- Ecomiendas were given to soldier or those who took part in the conquest and doctrinas were given to friars
- Galleon trade led to the rise of the principalia
- In 1896, Filipinos launched Asia's first nationalistic revolution
- Emilio Aguinaldo declared Philippine Independence and established the first republic on June 12, 1898
- Spain ceded control of the Philippines to the US through the Treaty of Paris



AMERICAN PERIOD



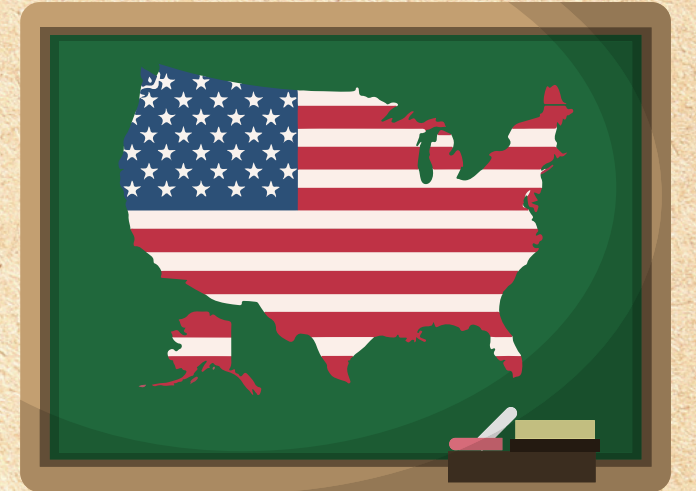
- Expansionism was the stronger force at a time when America's wealth and population were growing apace
- Admiral Dewey's victory over a Spanish fleet off Cavite in Manila Bay piqued US interest over the Philippines
- A staged battle took place to save the Spanish honour
- Malolos Constitution was ignored by the Americans
- Aguinaldo was captured in Isabela province





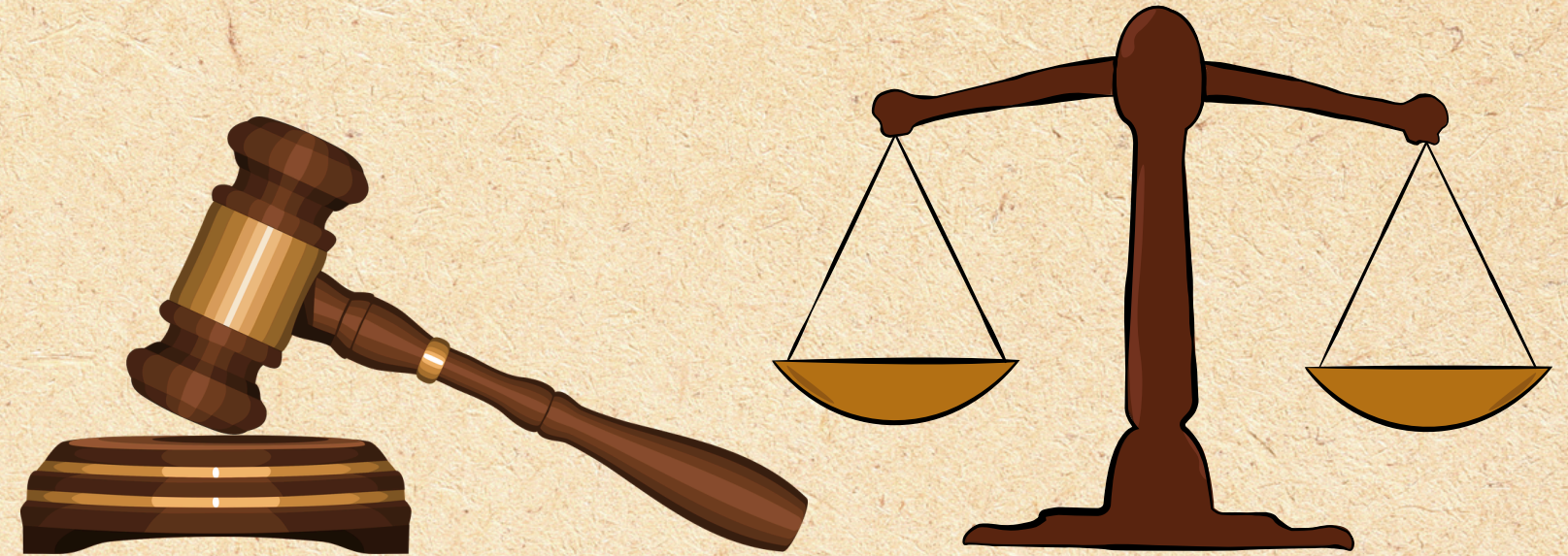
AMERICAN PERIOD

- Continued resistance made US officials aware of the need to show their presence could bring benefits
- Cooperation of the elite
- Free public schools run by the State not the Church
- English language spread easier by the emphasis of literacy
- Death rate fell sharply with an increase in population
- Accustomed to de-centralized government



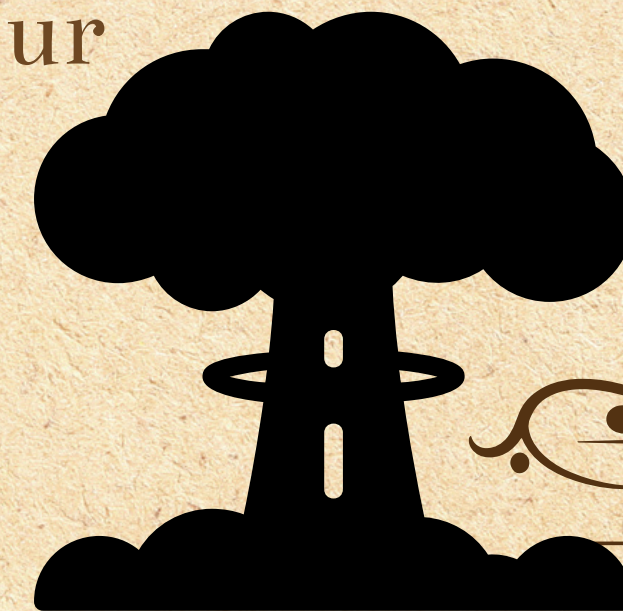
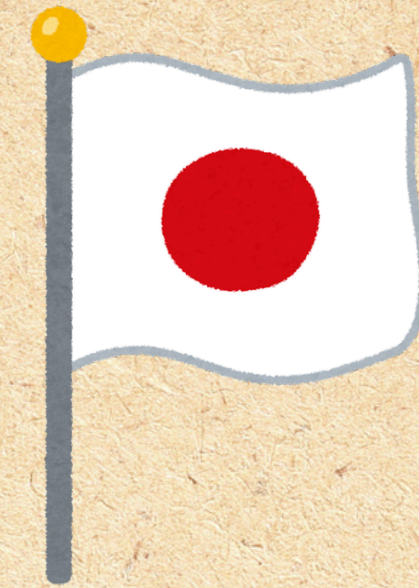
AMERICAN PERIOD

- Philippine Organic Act of 1902
- 1916 Jones Act
- Tydings-Mcduffie Act
- Philippines' foreign trade was linked primarily with the US
- Influx in of Japanese, first as laborers, then as merchants and farmers developed abaca plantations in Mindanao
- Many Muslims resented the newly educated Christian Filipino officials



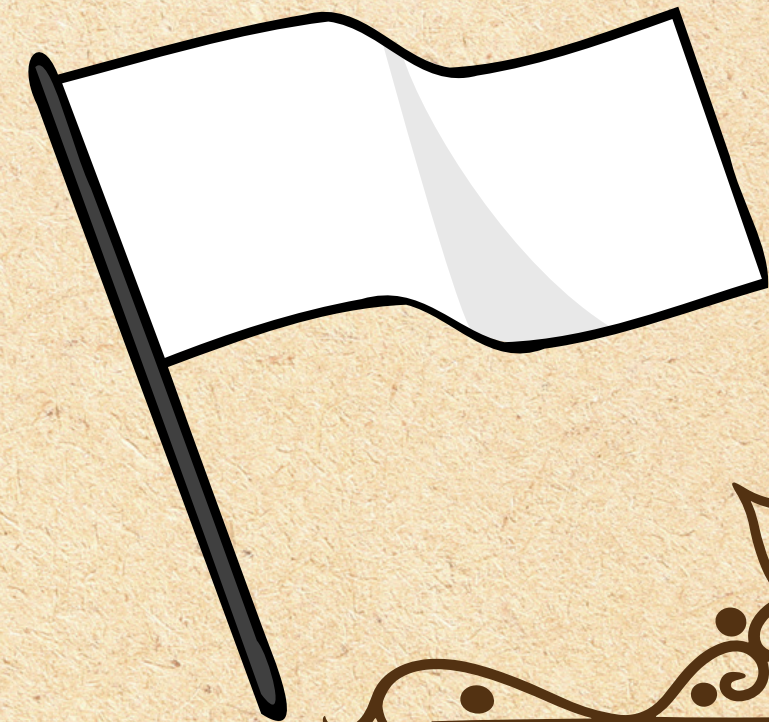
JAPANESE PERIOD

- Raised the reputation of US among Filipinos
- Ended the efforts of Quezon to centralize power
- The longer the war in China lasted, the more Japan needed resources
- US insisted Japan's withdrawal from China
- MacArthur was slow to respond to the Japanese assault on the Philippines after the bombing of Pearl Harbour
- "Asia for Asians"



JAPANESE PERIOD

- The Bataan Death March created a bond between Filipinos and Americans due to shared suffering
- The Japanese's claim to be Asian "liberators" was less persuasive
- Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon was one of the most significant groups who resisted
- Japanese surrendered in August 1945
- Philippine independence occurred on July 4, 1946



MARTIAL LAW PERIOD

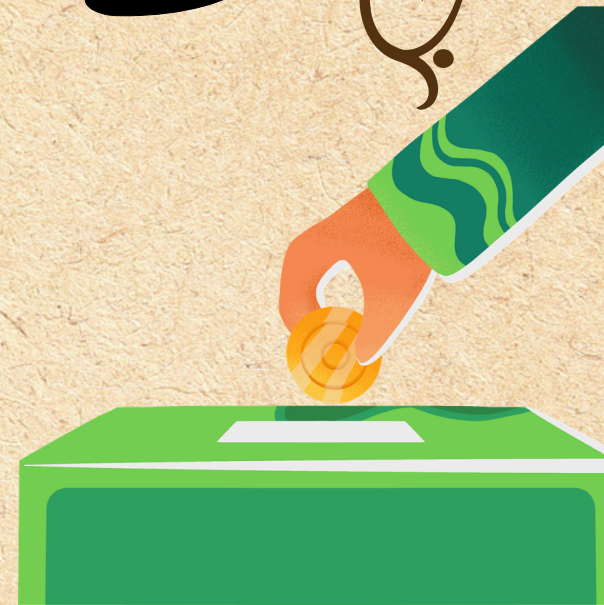


- On September 23, 1972, Ferdinand Marcos Sr. declared a state of emergency to deal with an alleged plot
- Political repression and economic deterioration
- Marcos kept the support of the technocrats who had given his government an impression of professional competence
- Politically, most of the country was quiet during the first years
- Conflicts from the NPA and the demand for a separate Moro state were exacerbated



MARTIAL LAW PERIOD




- Economic failure was the fundamental cause of the eventual collapse of the regime
- The killing of Benigno Aquino Jr. changed attitudes to the regime
- Marcos called for a snap election
- RAM attempted a coup and Church called for people to gather in EDSA Avenue
- Marcos was exiled to Hawaii via a US helicopter






POST MARTIAL LAW PERIOD

- President Corazon Aquino delivered promises of freedom of speech and set up a constitutional commission
- Renewed commitment to great decentralization as stipulated in the Local Government Code or RA 7160 and Article 2, Section 25 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution
- Restoration of Philippine democracy
- A constitution in response of the Martial Law





GEOGRAPHY AND GEOPOLITICS



GEOGRAPHY

- Archipelago of 7,641 islands in Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean
- It is separated into three major island groups: **Luzon, Visayas** and **Mindanao**

Encircled by Large quantities of water:

- Philippine Sea (East), West Philippine Sea (West) and Celebes Sea

Has a tropical climate with hot, muggy and wet seasons.

Abundant in minerals, marine life and forest,

Natural Disaster prone

- Typhoons
- Seismic activity and Volcano eruptions, due to its location at the Pacific Ring of Fire



GEOPOLITICS

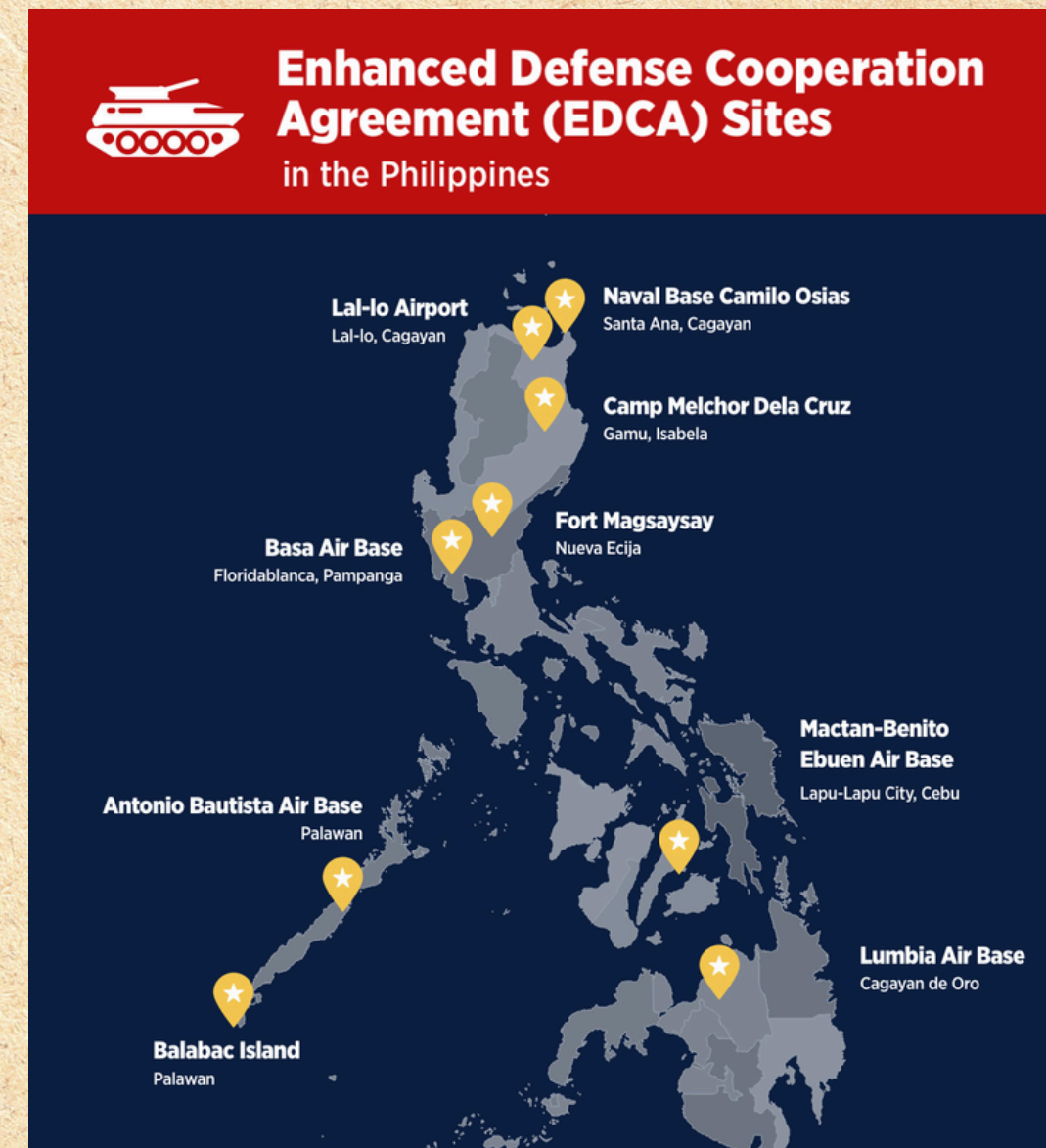
- Southeast Asia's *strategic location* is crucial for **trade** and **security routes**

South China Sea Dispute

- West Philippine Sea: Asserts claims against China's aggression
- China occupies several reef and artificial island within the Philippines EEZ, through militarize outpost, despite the 2016 arbitral ruling

Alliances & Security Ties

- The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), signed in 2014, enables U.S. rotational troop access and facility use at nine Philippine military sites , supplementing the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement.
- "The Philippines' geopolitical location affects its international relations and security, while its geography shapes its economy, culture, and risks.



GEOPOLITICS

Economic Dependency & Trade

- China, the US, and Japan are important trading partners.
- Exports include semiconductors, electronics, BPO services, and remittances.
- Fuel, equipment, and food items are imported.

Remittances & Labor Migration

- Millions of Filipinos employed abroad (**OFWs**)
- One important economic pillar is remittances.
- Global economic connections (Middle East, North America, Europe, Asia)

Security of Energy

- excessive reliance on gas and oil imports
- Investigating disputed waters for offshore energy resources
- To lessen reliance, move toward renewable energy

ASEAN Role

- Active member of Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- Promotes regional economic cooperation and stability
- Balances regional tensions, especially in maritime disputes



**POLITICAL SYSTEM,
STRUCTURE AND
CULTURE**



POLITICAL SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND CULTURE



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

- THE PHILIPPINES IS A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WHERE **POWER ULTIMATELY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE. LEADERS ARE ELECTED THROUGH FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS,** AND SOVEREIGNTY IS EXERCISED BY THE CITIZENS THROUGH THEIR CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVES. THIS ENSURES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS **ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE.**

PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

- THE PHILIPPINES FOLLOWS A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WHERE THE **PRESIDENT SERVES AS BOTH HEAD OF STATE AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.** THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS **SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT** FROM THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, ENSURING A CLEAR **SEPARATION OF POWERS.** THE PRESIDENT IS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR **EXECUTING AND ENFORCING LAWS** WHILE MAINTAINING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.



POLITICAL SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND CULTURE



THE PHILIPPINES WAS FOUNDED AS A DEMOCRATIC **PRESIDENTIAL REPUBLIC** UNDER THE **1987 CONSTITUTION**. **ARTICLE VII** – EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE - AS HEAD OF STATE AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, THE PRESIDENT IS IN CHARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE.

- NUMBER: **ONE (1) PRESIDENT**
- TERM: **6 YEARS**
- TERM LIMIT: NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION
- ELECTION: CHOSEN BY DIRECT VOTE OF THE PEOPLE (NATIONWIDE)
- ROLE: SERVES AS HEAD OF STATE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, WITH OVERALL AUTHORITY IN EXECUTING LAWS AND DIRECTING NATIONAL POLICY
- IN ADDITION TO HAVING COMMAND OVER EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AUTHORITY, AND INFLUENCE OVER NATIONAL POLICY, THE PRESIDENT PICKS CABINET MEMBERS. INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH OVERSEES INTERNATIONAL TIES AND NATIONAL INTERESTS, ARE ALSO PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.
- PRESIDENT, CABINET, VICE PRESIDENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (BARANGAY - MUNICIPALITY - CITY - PROVINCE)



POLITICAL SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND CULTURE



ARTICLE VI – LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LEGISLATIVE - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING LAWS; IT IS BICAMERAL, CONSISTING OF THE SENATE AND THE **SENATE**

- COMPOSED OF 24 SENATORS ELECTED NATIONWIDE
- EACH SERVES A **6-YEAR TERM**
- LIMITED TO **2 CONSECUTIVE TERMS**
- ELECTION SYSTEM: AT-LARGE VOTING (**NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY**)
- ELECTION CYCLE: HALF OF THE SENATE (12 MEMBERS) IS ELECTED EVERY 3 YEARS,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- COMPOSED OF 316 MEMBERS (DISTRICT AND PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES)
- EACH SERVES A 3-YEAR TERM
- LIMITED TO **3 CONSECUTIVE TERMS**



POLITICAL SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND CULTURE



ARTICLE VIII– JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

JUDICIAL POWER IS VESTED IN ONE SUPREME COURT AND IN SUCH LOWER COURTS AS MAY BE ESTABLISH BY LAW

COMPOSITION

- SUPREME COURT: 1 CHIEF JUSTICE
- 14 ASSOCIATE JUSTICES
- THE ONLY COURT CREATED DIRECTLY BY THE CONSTITUTION, BUT IT IS NOT THE ONLY RECOGNIZED COURT.

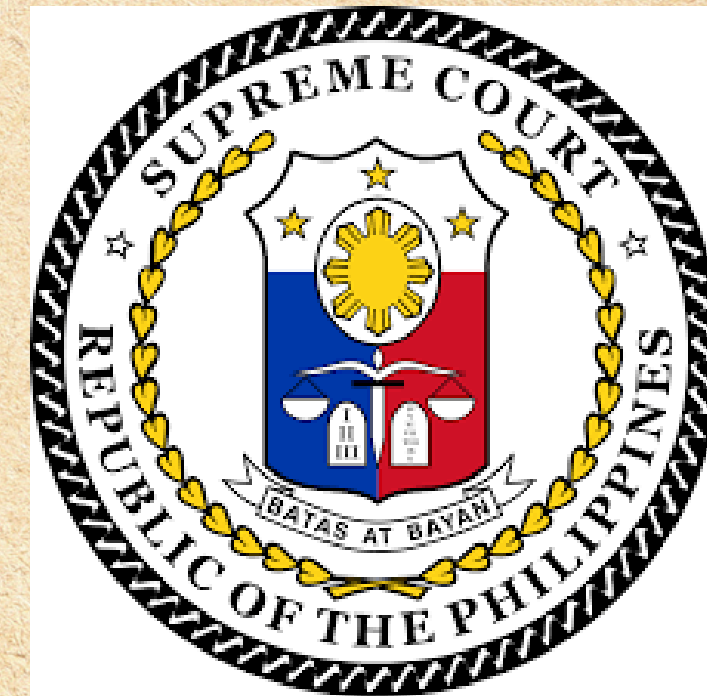
LOWER COURTS:COURT OF APPEALS

- SANDIGANBAYAN
- COURT OF TAX APPEALS
- REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS AND OTHER LOWER COURTS CREATED BY LAW

LOWER COURTS ARE:

CREATED, MODIFIED, OR ABOLISHED BY ACTS OF CONGRESS

STRUCTURED AND ORGANIZED THROUGH LEGISLATION



POLITICAL SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND CULTURE

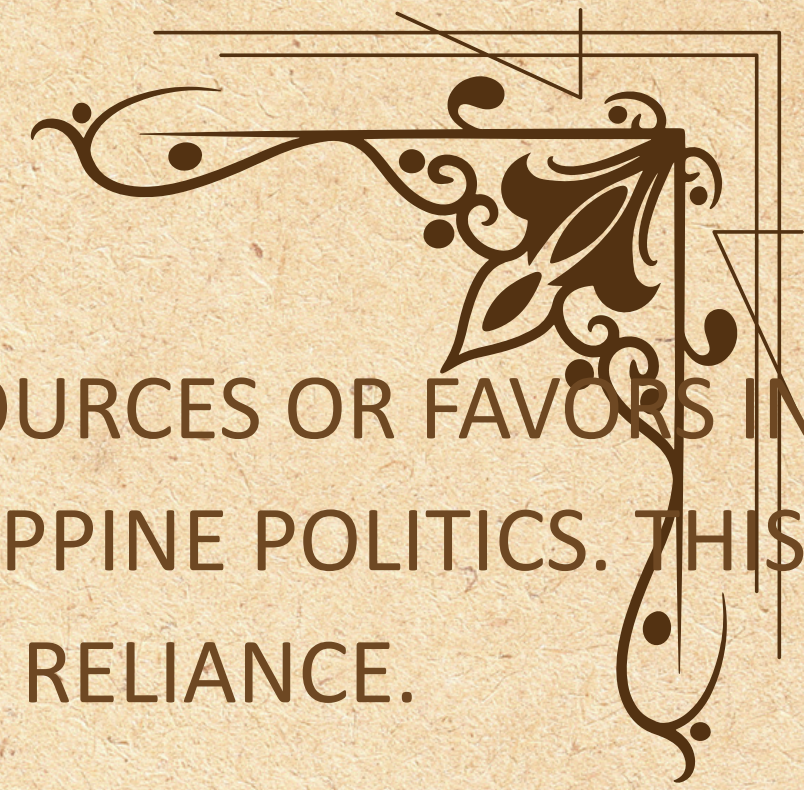
RELATIONS BETWEEN PATRONS AND CLIENTS (**PATRONAGE POLITICS**)

- **PATRON-CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS**, IN WHICH POLITICIANS OFFER RESOURCES OR FAVORS IN RETURN FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT, ARE A DEFINING FEATURE OF PHILIPPINE POLITICS. THIS SYSTEM ERODES INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND STRENGTHENS RELIANCE.

"BOSSISM" AND **DYNASTIES IN POLITICS**

- ACCORDING TO RESEARCH, "**BOSSISM**" OCCURS *WHEN LOCAL LEADERS*, PARTICULARLY AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL, USE MONEY, COERCION, AND OCCASIONALLY CRIMINAL NETWORKS TO HOLD ONTO POWER. MANY AREAS ARE DOMINATED BY POLITICAL

DYNASTIES, WHICH *HELPS TO MAINTAIN ELITE POWER*.



POLITICAL SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND CULTURE

PERSONALISTIC LEADERSHIP

- RATHER THAN POLITICAL PARTIES OR IDEOLOGY, PERSONS ARE FREQUENTLY AT THE CORE OF POLITICS.

AUTHORITARIAN LEGACY

- THE EXPERIENCE OF FERDINAND MARCOS' DICTATORSHIP SHAPED POLITICAL CULTURE, RESULTING IN TENDENCIES TOWARD STRONGMAN LEADERSHIP AND LIMITED PARTICIPATION.

WEAK POLITICAL PARTIES

- POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE OFTEN FLUID, PERSONALITY-BASED, AND LACK IDEOLOGICAL CONSISTENCY. PARTY-SWITCHING (**POLITICAL TURNCOATISM**) IS COMMON

POPULISM AND ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR

- ELECTIONS ARE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE BUT INFLUENCED BY MEDIA, NAME RECALL, AND POPULARITY RATHER THAN POLICY-BASED VOTING

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PEOPLE POWER

DESPITE STRUCTURAL WEAKNESSES, THE PHILIPPINES HAS A STRONG TRADITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM, DEMONSTRATED BY EVENTS LIKE THE 1986 PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION, WHICH RESTORED DEMOCRACY



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POLITICAL CULTURE
AND
COMMUNICATION





LATEST NEWS

- Patronage system
 1. Patterned from Colonial Period
 2. Aligned with Warlordism, Mafia and Feudal system
 3. Politicians give out public benefits in exchange for political support
- Family Dynasty - families have multiple members holding positions across different or the same elections, leading to concentration of power
- Political Communication - increase trust in new forms of media







SPECIAL

REPORT



**ELECTORAL
SYSTEMS AND
PARTICIPATION**



• COMELEC - Commission on Elections

• Direct elections (SMC)

1.) President and Vice President - elected every 6 years

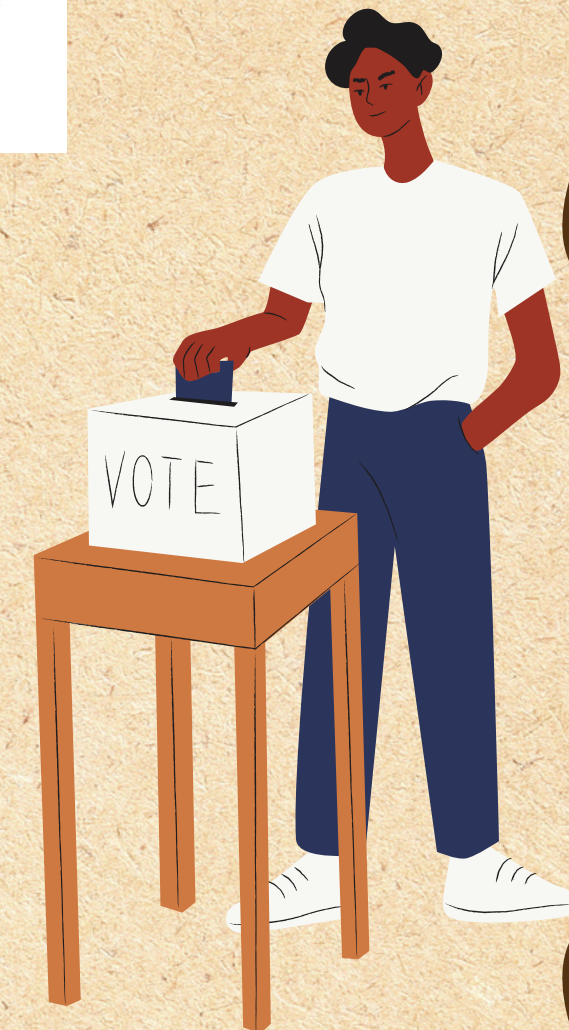
2.) 24 Senators - 12 Senators every 3 years



3.) 316 of House of Representative (80%) - every 3 years

4.) Local Government Units - every 3 years





• Proportional representation (MMC) - 254 of House of Representatives (20%)

• Voter turnout in the May 12 Midterm Elections was 81.65% or 55,874,700 out of 68,431,965 registered votes





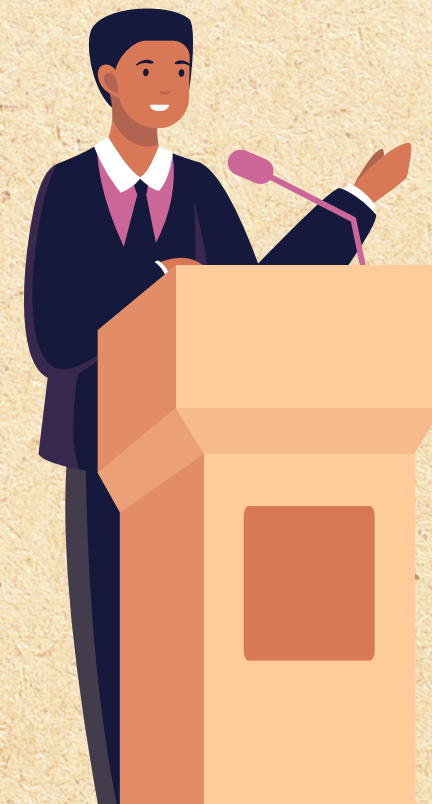
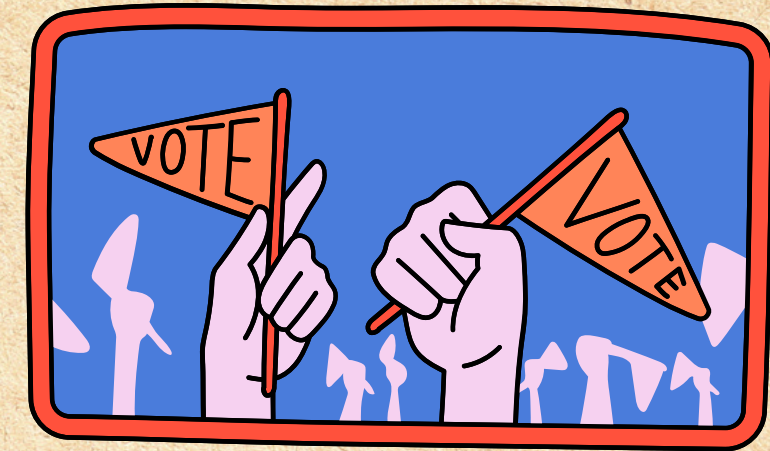
POLITICAL PARTIES,
PARTY SYSTEM AND
INTEREST GROUPS



- Political Parties

- 1.) Lakas-CMD is the dominant majority party
- 2.) Nacionalista is the dominant minority party
- 3.) PDP-Laban (after name won during 2016) - Duterte
- 4.) National Unity Party (NUP) - popular in local alliances, but no strong national figurehead-present in Congress

- Party System: Multiparty system





• Interest Groups

- 1.) RCC - Roman Catholic Church - influential in political realm
- 2.) INC - Iglesia ni Cristo - Known for bloc voting
- 3.) Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) - largest labor federation, advocating for labor rights
- 4.) Anakpawis, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) - left leaning groups focusing on labor and agrarian issues
- 5.) Kabataan party-list - represents youth interests in Congress
- 6.) Student Council and Activists Groups - active universities, often leading protests and advocacy campaigns





**CIVIL SOCIETY AND
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**



- Civil society

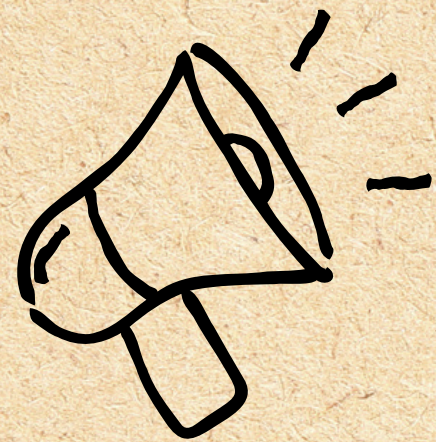
- 1.) Emerged as a significant force in 70s-80s, during the Marcos Sr. regime

- 2.) In Cory's administration, she institutionalized the people's right to participate in any affairs and recognized the state's responsibility to encourage the development of Non-Government Organizations



- Social Movement

- 1.) Youth and Student Movements - prominent in leading protests and advocacies in institutions to tackle issues like education, youth rights, and democracy
- 2.) Progressive and Left-wing Movements
- 3.) Urban poor organizations often work under leftist ideologies to push for more equitable distribution of resources, land reforms, and labor rights (eg. EDSA 1 and 2)



EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS



EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

1. ON PAPER: SEPARATION OF POWERS

FORMALLY:

PRESIDENT = EXECUTIVE

CONGRESS = *INDEPENDENT LEGISLATURE*

BUT IN REALITY, THE PHILIPPINES OPERATES CLOSER TO:

“PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WITH PARLIAMENTARY-STYLE COALITION POLITICS.”

2. THE REAL SYSTEM: PRESIDENTIAL DOMINANCE

A. CONGRESS IS USUALLY PRO-PRESIDENT

MOST LEGISLATORS:

- **SWITCH PARTIES TO ALIGN WITH THE SITTING PRESIDENT**
- **JOIN THE “ADMINISTRATION COALITION”**

WHY?

- **ACCESS TO BUDGET (“PORK BARREL” / PATRONAGE)**
- **POLITICAL SURVIVAL**

THIS PRODUCES A **RUBBER-STAMP TENDENCY**



EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

B. PATRONAGE AND PORK BARREL POLITICS

EVEN AFTER REFORMS, THE LOGIC PERSISTS:

- *LEGISLATORS DEPEND ON EXECUTIVE-CONTROLLED FUNDS AND PROJECTS*

- PRESIDENT CONTROLS:
BUDGET RELEASES, APPOINTMENTS, LOCAL PROJECT APPROVALS
SO: CONGRESS OVERSIGHT EXISTS—BUT IS SELECTIVELY USED.

C. WEAK PARTY SYSTEM

PHILIPPINE PARTIES ARE:

- PERSONALITY-BASED, NOT IDEOLOGICAL
- FLUID (POLITICIANS SWITCH FREQUENTLY)

RESULT:

- NO STABLE OPPOSITION BLOC
- EXECUTIVE CAN EASILY BUILD MAJORITY

D. SENATE VS HOUSE: DIFFERENT BEHAVIOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- HIGHLY CONTROLLED BY THE PRESIDENT
- LEADERSHIP ALIGNED WITH MALACAÑANG

SENATE

- **MORE INDEPENDENT** (NATIONAL ELECTIONS, HIGHER VISIBILITY)

BUT STILL INFLUENCED BY:

- PUBLIC OPINION
- ELITE ALLIANCES

“CLIENTELIST PRESIDENTIALISM”

PHILIPPINE POLITICS IS BEST DESCRIBED AS:

CLIENTELIST PRESIDENTIALISM

- FORMAL DEMOCRACY
- INFORMAL PATRONAGE NETWORKS
- WEAK INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY

THIS EXPLAINS:

WHY FOREIGN POLICY IS EXECUTIVE-DRIVEN

WHY CONGRESS RARELY BLOCKS IT



**STANCE ON THE RUSSIAN
INVASION OF UKRAINE**





RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE



THE PHILIPPINES HAS CONTINUOUSLY RESISTED RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND DEFENDED UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

1. BASELINE:

THE PHILIPPINES FORMALLY ADHERES TO INTERNATIONAL LAW:

- NON-AGGRESSION AND SOVEREIGNTY NORMS
- AND A CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE THAT "RENOUNCES WAR AS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY"

2. THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA DISPUTE WITH CHINA IS THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE PHILIPPINES' STRONG SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE.

A. MIRROR IMAGE OF ITS OWN SECURITY ISSUE (CHINA).

THE BIGGEST DRIVER IS THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA DISPUTE WITH CHINA

- RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE = LARGE POWER VIOLATING SOVEREIGNTY
- CHINA'S ACTIONS IN PHILIPPINE WATERS = SAME PATTERN

SO SUPPORTING UKRAINE IS SELF-INTERESTED SIGNALING:

IF AGGRESSION IS NORMALIZED, THE PHILIPPINES IS NEXT





**STANCE ON THE
ISRAEL-HAMAS
CONFLICT**



STANCE ON THE ISRAEL AND HAMAS CONFLICT

THE PHILIPPINES MAINTAINS A BALANCED BUT PRO-ISRAEL STANCE
WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING A PEACEFUL TWO-STATE SOLUTION.



A. DUAL ALIGNMENT THROUGHOUT HISTORY (PRO-ISRAEL AND PRO-PALESTINE)

HISTORICALLY, THE PHILIPPINES:

- BACKED ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT IN 1947
- ACKNOWLEDGED PALESTINE IN 1989 AND SUPPORTS A TWO-STATE SOLUTION
THEREFORE, ITS POLICY IS NOT NEUTRAL BUT RATHER STRUCTURALLY
BALANCED:
- PRO-ISRAEL (HISTORY, SECURITY, OFWS)
- PRO-PALESTINE (UN STANDARDS, SOLIDARITY WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH)

B. OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) ARE A DOMESTIC POLITICAL RESTRICTION.

THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS ARE EMPLOYED IN:

- ISRAEL, GULF STATE

THIS RESULTS IN A CONSTRAINT THAT IS NOT IDEOLOGICAL: THE GOVERNMENT MUST REFRAIN
FROM OFFENDING EITHER PARTY. **SAFETY AND EVACUATION OF CITIZENS COME FIRST.**

C. HUMANITARIAN VERSUS TERRORIST FRAMING FOLLOWING OCTOBER 7:

- ***THE PHILIPPINES DENOUNCED THE HAMAS ASSAULTS (TERRORISM FRAMING)***
- BUT ALSO FAVORS CEASE-FIRE AND HUMANITARIAN HELP IN SEVERAL UN VOTES, IT EVEN ABSTAINED BECAUSE
- RESOLUTIONS DID NOT DENOUNCE HAMAS.
- THIS CLARIFIES THE SENSE OF "INACTION":
- IN REALITY, IT'S FRAMING-BASED SELECTIVE INVOLVEMENT.

BOTTOM LINE

CONFLICT

PH STANCE

REAL REASON

UKRAINE

STRONGLY PRO-UKRAINE

PROTECT SOVEREIGNTY NORM VS CHINA

RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE =
LARGE POWER VIOLATING
SOVEREIGNTY

**ISRAEL-HAMAS
ENTANGLEMENT**

MIXED / CAUTIOUS

BALANCE ALLIANCES + PROTECT OFWS + AVOID



THANK YOU





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