

READING IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

HANJIN HAZIR DE JOSE | 1st SEM



LESSON 1

I: THE MEANING OF HISTORY

- **What is History?**

History comes from the Greek word “historia”, meaning: inquiry, research, or systematic investigation of an event.
History = People + Past + Patterns

- **Traditional View of History**

“No Document, No History”

The Positivist School (**19th century**) believed that history should rely on written and verified documents. This approach could exclude people/events that did not leave written records.

- 3 Problems with the Traditional View **Remember: C-E-C**

C — **Colonial Bias**- History in the Philippines was often written by Spanish colonial authorities.

This can make history reflect the perspective of those in power.

E — **Erasure of Local Voices**- Oral traditions, indigenous groups, tribes, and local movements may be ignored.

C — **Class Bias**- The rich, literate, and powerful were more likely to leave written records.

- **Is History a Science?**

YES — in its METHOD.

Historians use a scientific method:

Data → Hypothesis → Test → Review

Dynamic When new evidence is discovered, historians may update their interpretations.

New evidence → New interpretation

History vs. Historiography

History = Past (WHAT happened?)

Historiography = Writing about the past (HOW was it written?)

- Holocaust Denial vs. Historical Truth

Some groups have claimed that the Nazi genocide of millions of Jews during WWII was fabricated or exaggerated.

II: HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- **Primary sources**

first-hand evidence from the era

Diaries and letters

Official document

News report

Memoirs

The **Laguna Copperplate Inscription (900 AD)**

The Artifact: A thin, engraved copperplate found in Lumban, Laguna, in 1989.

- **Oral History as a Primary Source**

Information passed down by word of mouth through generations, or spoken interviews with living eyewitnesses

- **Secondary sources**

Analytical works written after the historical period under study, interpreting and synthesizing primary evidence

Temporal Distance

Broad Scope

Peer Reviewed

- **Tertiary Sources**

Materials that compile, index, and organize information from primary and secondary sources.

III: EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL CRITICISM OF PRIMARY RESOURCES

HISTORICAL CRITICISM

scientific methodology of source evaluation detect forgeries, lies, and biases.

EXTERNAL CRITICISM: Authenticity

Physical form, material nature, and authenticity

Internal Criticism: Credibility

The content reliability, and truthfulness

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LESSON 2

THE "CLEAN SLATE" FALLACY The belief promoted by some Spanish colonizers that early Filipinos had no civilization, history, literacy, or culture before 1521

II. SUBALTERN AGENCY

Subaltern Agency is the ability of marginalized, colonized, or dominated people to:

- Act independently
- Make decisions
- Negotiate
- Resist
- Trade
- Form alliances
- Assert their own interests and narratives

Early Filipino Agency

Active participants, not simply passive recipients of foreign influence.

PART I — LAGUNA COPPERPLATE INSCRIPTION (LCI)

III. DISCOVERY OF THE LCI

Year: **1989**

Location: **Lumbang River, Laguna**

Found accidentally by a crane operator
The plate was initially mistaken for worthless metal.

It was almost **sold to a junk dealer**.

An antique dealer recognized its value.

It was eventually **sold to the National Museum** of the Philippines.

IV. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The LCI is:

A thin, rectangular copper plate

Approximately 20 × 30 cm

Contains 10 lines

The writing was engraved directly onto the metal.

Why is this important?

Engraving on copper required considerable skill because mistakes were difficult to erase.

This proves the existence of specialized writing and literacy in the pre-colonial Philippines.

V. DECIPHERMENT OF THE LCI

Who deciphered it? Dr. Antoon Postma

He was:

A Dutch anthropologist

A scholar who lived among the Mangyans

The person who recognized the script as Early Kawi Script

Language of the LCI

LCI = Early Kawi Script + multilingual text

DATE OF THE LCI **April 21, 900 AD**

The inscription begins with a date based on the Saka calendar.

The LCI pushed written Philippine history back more than 600 years before Magellan's arrival in 1521

LEGAL NATURE OF THE LCI

The LCI was NOT:

- A religious chant
- A magical text
- A mythological story

It was an official debt acquittal document.

VIII. WHO WAS NAMWARAN?

- A noble man
- Had accumulated a large unpaid debt.
- His debt was eventually cleared by the Chief of Tondo because of his loyalty and services.
- His debt: 1 kati = 768 grams of gold, 8 suwarna = 38.4 grams of gold
Total: 806.4 grams of gold

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE LCI

The LCI mentions several settlements:

LCI NAME	Modern Identification
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Tundun	Tondo, Manila
Paila	Paila, Norzagaray, Bulacan
Puliran	Pulilan, Bulacan
Binwangan	Binwangan, Obando, Bulacan
Dewata	Diwata, near Butuan

Tondo as a Regional Power

The inscription mentions Jayadewa, a representative of the Chief of Tondo. authority to recognize and clear debts across several territories.

This suggests that pre-colonial societies were not isolated primitive communities They had:

- Political relationships
- Legal authority
- Regional connections
- Economic networks

PRE-COLONIAL LEGAL SYSTEM

Inherited Debt

If a person died without paying a debt, their children, Grandchildren could become oripun, or debt-bonded persons.

Importance of the LCI

By clearing Namwaran's debt, the document protected his descendants from losing their social freedom.

PRE-COLONIAL LITERACY

The LCI proves that writing was used for:

- Legal documents
- Administration
- Economic transactions
- Contracts

THE BUTUAN CONNECTION

The LCI mentions Dewata, associated with Diwata near Butuan. This suggests connections between Luzon and Mindanao.

PART II — CHAU JU-KUA'S CHU FAN CHI

WHO WAS CHAU JU-KUA?

- A Chinese government official
- Associated with foreign trade
- Based in Quanzhou during the Song Dynasty

He did not personally travel to the Philippines, Instead, he interviewed:

- Chinese merchants
- Sea captains
- Foreign sailors

He used their accounts to write about foreign lands.

“Records of Foreign Nations” or “Description of the Barbaric Peoples.”

WHAT IS MA-I?

The lesson identifies Ma-i primarily with Mindoro, although the name may have been used more broadly for parts of the central Philippines.

It served as:

- A trading center
- A port of call
- A deep-water harbor
- A location visited by Chinese merchants

OTHER PLACES IN CHU FAN CHI

San-hsu Means “**Three Islands.**”

Associated with:

- Calamian Islands
- Palawan
- Busuanga

Pi-she-ya Refers to the Visayan islands, known for being skilled and sometimes feared seafarers and raiders.

PRODUCTS EXPORTED BY EARLY FILIPINOS

Early Filipinos exported valuable natural products such as:	In exchange, they obtained
Yellow beeswax	Porcelain
Cotton/Kapok	Silk

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Pearls	Umbrellas
Tortoise shells	Copper pots
Jute	Iron napedles
Betel nluts	Colored glass beads

TRADING PROTOCOL OF MA-I

When Chinese ships arrived:

1. Arrival - Chinese ships entered the harbor and dropped anchor.

2. Signal - They used large brass gongs to announce their arrival.

3. Local Response - Local datus and traders sailed out to meet them.

4. Trading - Local traders boarded the ships and exchanged goods.

5. Credit - Trade could occur through a credit-based system.

Local traders could take foreign goods and return later with payment.

EARLY FILIPINO BUSINESS ETHICS

According to Chau Ju-kua's account, local traders were considered honest and trustworthy.

DATUS AS ECONOMIC REGULATORS

political + economic authority

They:

- Regulated foreign trade
- Collected tribute or taxes
- Protected merchants
- Maintained order
- Helped ensure safe commerce

PRE-COLONIAL FILIPINOS AS GLOBALIZED PEOPLE

The Philippines was already part of a larger Southeast Asian and international trading network before Spanish colonization

PART III — ANTONIO PIGAFETTA'S FIRST VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD

AGE OF EXPLORATION

Treaty of Tordesillas 1494, Pope Alexander VI helped establish a division of overseas

Ferdinand Magellan's Goal, a Portuguese navigator sailing under the Spanish flag, wanted to find a western route to the Spice Islands/Moluccas.

WHO WAS ANTONIO PIGAFETTA?

- An Italian nobleman
- Chronicler of Magellan's expedition
- Knight of the Order of Saint John
- Imperial bias

Around 270 men began the expedition. Only about 18 survivors returned to Spain in 1522, including Pigafetta.

PIGAFETTA AS A PRIMARY SOURCE

Pigafetta's account is important because he was an eyewitness.

MAGELLAN'S ARRIVAL, March 16, 1521

Magellan's expedition reached the Philippine archipelago. They sighted the mountains of Samar.

March 17, 1521, They landed on Homonhon to:

- Rest sick crew members
- Obtain fresh water
- Avoid immediate conflict

FIRST CONTACT, March 18, 1521

Nine local men from Suluan approached Homonhon.

They brought:

- Fish
- Palm wine/tuba
- Bananas
- Coconuts

HOSPITALITY AS DIPLOMACY

Filipinos welcomed Spaniards because they thought they were gods. Hospitality could be strategic, not simply submission.

LIMASAWA AND RAJAH COLAMBU - The expedition later traveled to Limasawa.

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Rajah Colambu

Ruler of Limasawa

Met Magellan's expedition

Helped guide them toward Cebu

Enrique of Malacca

Magellan's enslaved Malay interpreter was able to communicate with locals in Malay.

SANDUGO / BLOOD COMPACT

What is Sandugo? A traditional alliance ritual involving blood. mutual alliance

The leaders made a small cut, and mixed their blood with wine. Drank it together.

RAJAH SIAUI

Pigafetta described Rajah Siaui as a very handsome man. wealth and gold resources of the islands.

He was described as wearing:
Large gold earrings
A gold-handled dagger
Gold decorations on his teeth

PIGAFETTA'S DESCRIPTION OF "NAKEDNESS"

Pigafetta sometimes described Filipinos as "naked."

Clothing appropriate for a tropical climate was different from European clothing.

Historical context:

INDIGENOUS RELIGION

Pigafetta sometimes described indigenous religious practices using words such as "idols" or "devils."

Filipinos practiced traditions involving:

Anito– ancestral spirits

Diwata – nature/spiritual beings

Spiritual ceremonies

Ancestor traditions

Babaylan

A babaylan was a spiritual/religious leader. Women could hold important positions of religious authority.

LESSON 3

Beginning of Spanish Rule

1565 – Miguel López de Legazpi arrived in Cebu. Established the first permanent Spanish settlement Started more than 300 years of Spanish rule.

Spain changed the Philippines':

- Culture
- Religion
- Politics

PART I – Juan de Plasencia

Spanish Franciscan missionary

Arrived in the Philippines in 1578

Studied Filipino languages and customs.

Wrote Customs of the Tagalogs (1589).

Pre-Colonial Barangay

Basic political unit was the barangay.

Usually made up of 30–100 families.

Led by a Datu.

Datu had political and judicial authority.

Social Classes

1. Maharlika

Noble/warrior class

Helped the Datu during war.

Had economic rights.

2. Aliping Namamahay

Commoners/householders

Owned their homes and property.

Served the Datu or Maharlika.

Could not be sold.

3. Aliping Sa Guiguilid

Dependent laborers who lived with their master. Could result from debt, crime, or capture. Could be sold.

Spanish Control of the Barangay

Datu → Cabeza → Tax collector

Spain kept the Datus but changed their role.

Datus became Cabeza de Barangay.

Collected taxes.

Recruited laborers.

Kept some prestige and privileges.

Judicial Customs

Disputes were handled by the Datu and elders.

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Laws were mostly oral.

Under Spanish Rule:
Spanish friars called them witches/brujas,
they were persecuted.

PART II — Antonio de Morga

Sucesos = 1609

Spanish lawyer and colonial official.
Wrote Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas (1609).
A secular historical account.

Morga recognized that Filipinos were:
Skilled in boat-building
Good at agriculture
Skilled in weaving
Advanced in metalworking
Active in trade

Karakoa = Fast native war boat

Baybayin = Pre-colonial Filipino writing

José Rizal and Morga= Prove Filipino
civilization

In 1889, Rizal:
Studied and copied Morga's work.
Added annotations/corrections.
Wanted to prove that Filipinos had a
developed civilization before Spain.

PART III — Francisco de Sande

3rd Spanish Governor-General
Ruled 1575–1580
Wanted to expand Spanish power.

Estevan Rodriguez de Figueroa
Spanish military commander.
Sent to conquer areas in Mindanao and
Sulu.

Spanish Attempt to Conquer Sulu and
Mindanao

Spain wanted:
Tribute
Trade
Spanish political control
To stop the spread of Islam

Moro Wars - Spain vs. Muslim Sultanates
1578–1898

Colonial Control

Reducción= Relocate people for control
Filipinos were moved into centralized
towns.

Bajo de la Campana means living under the
sound of the church bells.

Economic Exploitation
Tributo = Tax
Bandala = Forced selling
Polo = Forced labor

Tributo Tax paid by natives.
Could be paid through money or goods.

Bandala
Forced natives to sell products to the
government at low prices.

Forced labor
Native men were required to work for the
government.
Philippine Revolution

Philippine Revolution (1896–1898)

Fight against Spanish colonial rule.
Started by the Katipunan.

Propaganda Movement

Important propagandists:
José Rizal
Marcelo H. del Pilar
Graciano López Jaena

They wanted:
Reform
Equal rights
Representation

La Liga Filipina (1892)
Founded by José Rizal was arrested and
exiled to Dapitan

Katipunan Founded by Andrés Bonifacio
July 7, 1892 Secret revolutionary society.
Also called KKK.

Cry of Pugad Lawin (1896)

Katipuneros tore their cedula symbolized
open rebellion against Spain.

Execution of Rizal December 30, 1896

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Rizal was executed by the Spanish his death increased Filipino anger against Spain.

Tejeros Convention March 1897

Magdiwang → supported Bonifacio
Magdalo → supported Aguinaldo

Emilio Aguinaldo was elected president.
Bonifacio later faced a trial and was executed in May 1897

Pact of Biak-na-Bato - Aguinaldo → Hong Kong
December 1897

Aguinaldo agreed to go into exile in Hong Kong.
Spain promised reforms and financial compensation.

Philippine Independence May 1898
United States defeated Spain at Manila Bay
Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines (June 12, 1898)

Emilio Aguinaldo declared Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite.

TERM	DEFINITION
1565	Legazpi arrives in Cebu
Plasencia	Customs of the Tagalogs
Datu	Barangay leader
Maharlika	Noble/warrior
Namamahay	Commoner
Guiguilid	Dependent laborer
Catalonan	Spiritual leader
Bathala	Supreme deity
Anito	Spirits
Morga	Sucesos, 1609
Karakoa	Fast war boat

Baybayin	Writing system
Rizal	Annotated Morga
Tributo	Tax
Bandala	Forced selling
Polo y Servicios	Forced labor
Reducción	Centralized towns
Bonifacio	Katipunan
1896	Revolution begins
1897	Tejeros + Biak-na-Bato

June 12, 1898	Independence declared
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1892 → Katipunan
1896 → Revolution
1897 → Biak-na-Bato
1898 → Independence

LESSON 4

American Period & Japanese Occupation

1. American Rule

Spain sold the Philippines to the United States for 20 million.
Philippine-American War (1899–1902) → ended the First Philippine Republic.
Benevolent Assimilation → U.S. claimed it would educate, civilize, and prepare Filipinos for self-government

2. General Leonard Wood

Governor-General from 1921–1927
Wanted stronger control for the American Governor-General.
Conflict with Filipino leaders over **executive vs. legislative power

Quezon & Osmeña Wanted Filipinos to have more political power and self-rule.

3. Conley Cabinet Crisis (1923)



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Ray Conley was accused of bribery and corruption.

Filipino officials wanted him suspended and tried.

Governor-General Wood reversed their decision.

Filipino leaders saw this as interference in Filipino affairs.

July 17, 1923

Manuel Quezon, Manuel Roxas, Jose P. Laurel, and other Filipino cabinet members resigned

4. American Land Policies

Land Registration Act of 1902

Introduced the Torrens System.

Created government-guaranteed land titles.

Wealthy and educated landowners benefited more because poor farmers struggled with the legal process.

Public Land Act of 1903

Homestead System

Allowed citizens to acquire up to 16 hectares of public agricultural land.

Required cultivation and continuous residence.

Problem: Poor farmers lacked money and often had to borrow from wealthy landowners.

5. Japanese Occupation (1942–1945)

Japan attacked the Philippines shortly after Pearl Harbor. December 8, 1941

Japanese forces occupied Manila January 2, 1942

Bataan & Corregidor

Filipino and American troops fought against Japan.

April 9, 1942 → Bataan surrendered.

6. Bataan Death March

Prisoners were forced to march about 105 km

They suffered from:

Hunger

Disease

Heat

Violence

7. Puppet Republic

Japan established the Second Philippine Republic in 1943

President: Jose P. Laurel

It was under Japanese control.

8. Japanese Occupation Problems

Japanese-issued money became almost worthless because of hyperinflation.

Kempeitai

Japanese military police.

Known for torture and executions

Filipinos were also subjected to sexual slavery as comfort women.

9. Filipino Resistance

About 260,000 guerrillas fought against Japan.

Hukbalahap = Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon

Led by Luis Taruc

10. Liberation (October 20, 1944)

General Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippines.

Landed in Leyte with President Sergio Osmeña

February 1945 Battle of Manila

Severe destruction and loss of civilian lives.

September 3, 1945 General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered in Baguio.

1942 → Japan occupies

1944 → MacArthur returns

1945 → Japan surrenders

11. Political Caricatures

During the American period:

Political cartoons became a way to criticize and mock Filipinos.

They were used as propaganda

Some portrayed Filipinos as uncivilized or incapable of self-government

They promoted the idea of the “White Man's Burden.”

Juan de la Cruz Common American image of a Filipino.

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Usually shown wearing:
Salakot
Barong/Camisa de chino
Tsinelas

12. Japanese Propaganda

Japan used propaganda to present itself as a liberator of Asians

Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
Main slogan: Asia for the Asians

Japan claimed it would free Asians from Western imperialism but Japan also controlled the Philippines and used propaganda to gain support.

13. Anti-American Propaganda

Japanese posters portrayed Americans as:
Cowards
Exploiters
Racial supremacists

Uncle Sam as a vampire → symbolized America exploiting the Philippine economy.

14. KALIBAPI = Kapisanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas
Japanese organization + surveillance