

# Spanish colonization

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Spanish Colonization Early Spanish expeditions Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Philippines in 1521. The Philippine islands first came to the attention of Europeans with the Spanish expedition around the world led by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. Magellan landed on the island of Cebu, claiming the lands for Spain and naming them Islas de San Lazaro. He set up friendly relations with some of the local chieftains and converted some of them to Roman Catholicism. However, Magellan was killed by natives, led by a local chief named Lapu-Lapu, who go up against foreign domination. Over the next several decades, other Spanish expeditions were send off to the islands. In 1543, Ruy LÃ³pez de Villalobos led an expedition to the islands and gave the name Las Islas Filipinas (after Philip II of Spain) to the islands of Samar and Leyte. The name would later be given to the entire archipelago.

Spanish colonization Permanent Spanish settlement was not established until 1565 when an expedition led by the Conquistadores, Miguel LÃ³pez de Legazpi, arrived in Cebu from Mexico (New Spain). Spanish leadership was soon established over many small independent communities that previously had known no central rule. Six years later, following the defeat of the local Muslim ruler, Rajah Solayman, Legazpi established a capital at Manila, a location that offered the excellent harbor of Manila Bay, a large population, and proximity to the ample food supplies of the central Luzon rice lands. Manila became the center of Spanish government, including military, religious, and commercial activities in the islands. Despite the opposition of the Portuguese, who desired to maintain their monopoly on East Indies trade, the Spanish had secured a foothold in the Philippines, which became their outpost as the Spanish East Indies. The Philippines was administered as a

province of New Spain until Mexican independence (1821). Occupation of the islands was accomplished with relatively little bloodshed, partly because most of the population (except the Muslims) offered little armed resistance initially. A significant problem the Spanish faced was the subjugation of the Muslims of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. The Muslims, in response to attacks on them from the Spanish and their native allies, raided areas of Luzon and the Visayas that were under Spanish colonial control. The Spanish conducted intermittent military campaigns against the Muslims, but without conclusive results until the middle of the 19th century. Church and state were inseparably linked in Spanish policy, with the state assuming responsibility for religious establishments. One of Spain's objectives in colonizing the Philippines was the conversion of the local population to Roman Catholicism. The work of conversion was facilitated by the absence of other organized religions, except for Islam, which predominated in the south. The pageantry of the church had a wide appeal, reinforced by the incorporation of Filipino social customs into religious observances. The eventual outcome was a new Roman Catholic majority of the main Austronesian lowland population, from which the Muslims of Mindanao and the upland tribal peoples of Luzon remained detached and alienated (such as the Ifugaos of the Cordillera region and the Mangyans of Mindoro). At the lower levels of administration, the Spanish built on traditional village organization by co-opting local leaders. This system of indirect rule helped create a Filipino upper class, called the *principalia*, who had local wealth, high status, and other privileges. This perpetuated an oligarchic system of local control. Among the most significant changes under Spanish rule was

that the Filipino idea of communal use and ownership of land was replaced with the concept of private ownership and the conferring of titles on members of the principalia. The Philippines was not profitable as a colony, and a long war with the Dutch in the 17th century and intermittent conflict with the Muslims nearly bankrupted the colonial treasury. Colonial income derived mainly from entrep tre trade: The Manila Galleons sailing from Acapulco on the west coast of New Spain brought shipments of silver bullion and minted coin that were exchanged for return cargoes of Chinese goods. There was no direct trade with Spain. The invasion of the Filipinos by Spain did not begin in earnest until 1564, when another expedition from New Spain, commanded by Miguel L pez de Legaspi, arrived.

Permanent Spanish settlement was not established until 1565 when an expedition led by Miguel L pez de Legazpi, the first Governor-General of the Philippines, arrived in Cebu from New Spain. Spanish leadership was soon established over many small independent communities that previously had known no central rule. Six years later, following the defeat of the local Muslim ruler, Legazpi established a capital at Manila, a location that offered the outstanding harbor of Manila Bay, a large population, and closeness to the sufficient food supplies of the central Luzon rice lands. Manila became the center of Spanish civil, military, religious, and commercial activity in the islands. By 1571, when L pez de Legaspi established the Spanish city of Manila on the site of a Moro town he had conquered the year before, the Spanish grip in the Philippines was secure which became their outpost in the East Indies, in spite of the opposition of the Portuguese, who desired to maintain their monopoly on East Asian trade. The Philippines was

administered as a province of New Spain (Mexico) until Mexican independence (1821). Manila revolted the attack of the Chinese pirate Limahong in 1574. For centuries before the Spanish arrived the Chinese had traded with the Filipinos, but evidently none had settled permanently in the islands until after the conquest. Chinese trade and labor were of great importance in the early development of the Spanish colony, but the Chinese came to be feared and hated because of their increasing numbers, and in 1603 the Spanish murdered thousands of them (later, there were lesser massacres of the Chinese). The Spanish governor, made a viceroy in 1589, ruled with the counsel of the powerful royal audiencia. There were frequent uprisings by the Filipinos, who disliked the encomienda system. By the end of the 16th cent. Manila had become a leading commercial center of East Asia, carrying on a prosperous trade with China, India, and the East Indies. The Philippines supplied some wealth (including gold) to Spain, and the richly loaded galleons plying between the islands and New Spain were often attacked by English freebooters. There was also trouble from other quarters, and the period from 1600 to 1663 was marked by continual wars with the Dutch, who were laying the foundations of their rich empire in the East Indies, and with Moro pirates. One of the most difficult problems the Spanish faced was the defeat of the Moros. Irregular campaigns were conducted against them but without conclusive results until the middle of the 19th century. As the power of the Spanish Empire diminished, the Jesuit orders became more influential in the Philippines and obtained great amounts of property. Occupation of the islands was accomplished with relatively little bloodshed, partly because most of the population (except the Muslims)

offered little armed battle initially. A significant problem the Spanish faced was the invasion of the Muslims of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. The Muslims, in response to attacks on them from the Spanish and their native allies, raided areas of Luzon and the Visayas that were under Spanish colonial control. The Spanish conducted intermittent military campaigns against the Muslims, but without conclusive results until the middle of the 19th century. Church and state were inseparably linked in Spanish policy, with the state assuming responsibility for religious establishments. One of Spain's objectives in colonizing the Philippines was the conversion of Filipinos to Catholicism. The work of conversion was facilitated by the absence of other organized religions, except for Islam, which predominated in the south. The pageantry of the church had a wide plea, reinforced by the incorporation of Filipino social customs into religious observances. The eventual outcome was a new Christian majority of the main Malay lowland population, from which the Muslims of Mindanao and the upland tribal peoples of Luzon remained detached and separated. At the lower levels of administration, the Spanish built on traditional village organization by co-opting local leaders. This system of indirect rule helped create in a Filipino upper class, called the *principalía*, who had local wealth, high status, and other privileges. This achieved an oligarchic system of local control. Among the most significant changes under Spanish rule was that the Filipino idea of public use and ownership of land was replaced with the concept of private ownership and the granting of titles on members of the *principalía*. The Philippines was not profitable as a colony, and a long war with the Dutch in the 17th century and intermittent conflict with the Muslims nearly bankrupted the colonial

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Decline of Spanish rule Spanish rule on the Philippines was briefly interrupted in 1762, when British troops invaded and occupied the islands as a result of Spain's entry into the Seven Years' War. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 brought back Spanish rule and the British left in 1764. The brief British occupation weakened Spain's grip on power and sparked rebellions and demands for independence. In 1781, Governor-General Jos  Basco y Vargas founded the Economic Society of Friends of the Country. The Philippines by this time was administered directly from Spain. Developments in and out of the country helped to bring new ideas to the Philippines. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 cut travel time to Spain. This prompted the rise of the ilustrados, an enlightened Filipino upper class, since many young Filipinos were able to study in Europe. Enlightened by the Propaganda Movement to the injustices of the Spanish colonial government and the "frailocracy", the ilustrados originally clamored for adequate representation to the Spanish Cortes and later for independence. Jos  Rizal, the most celebrated intellectual and essential ilustrado of the era, wrote the novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, which greatly inspired the movement for independence. The Katipunan, a secret society whose primary principle was that of overthrowing Spanish rule in the Philippines, was founded by Andr s Bonifacio who became its Supremo (leader). The Philippine Revolution began in 1896. Rizal was concerned in the outbreak of the revolution and executed

for treason in 1896. The Katipunan split into two groups, Magdiwang led by Andrés Bonifacio and Magdalo led by Emilio Aguinaldo. Conflict between the two revolutionary leaders ended in the execution or assassination of Bonifacio by Aguinaldo's soldiers. Aguinaldo agreed to a treaty with the Pact of Biak na Bato and Aguinaldo and his fellow revolutionaries were exiled to Hong Kong. It was the opposition to the power of the clergy that in large measure brought about the rising attitude for independence. Spanish injustices, prejudice, and economic oppressions fed the movement, which was greatly inspired by the brilliant writings of José Rizal. In 1896 revolution began in the province of Cavite, and after the execution of Rizal that December, it spread throughout the major islands. The Filipino leader, Emilio Aguinaldo, achieved considerable success before a peace was patched up with Spain. The peace was short-lived, however, for neither side honored its agreements, and a new revolution was made when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898. The Spanish-American war started in 1898 after the USS Maine, sent to Cuba in connection with an attempt to arrange a peaceful resolution between Cuban independence ambitions and Spanish colonialism, was sunk in Havana harbor. After the U. S. naval victory led by Commodore George Dewey defeated the Spanish squadron at Manila Bay on May 1, 1898, the U. S. invited Aguinaldo to return to the Philippines, which he did on May 19, 1898, in the hope he would rally Filipinos against the Spanish colonial government. By the time U. S. land forces had arrived, the Filipinos had taken control of the entire island of Luzon, except for the walled city of Intramuros Manila, which they were besieging. On June 12, 1898, Aguinaldo declared the independence of the Philippines in Kawit, Cavite, establishing



the First Philippine Republic under Asia's first democratic constitution. Their dreams of independence were crushed when the Philippines were transferred from Spain to the United States in the Treaty of Paris (1898), which closed the Spanish-American War. Concurrently, a German squadron under Admiral Diedrichs arrived in Manila and declared that if the United States did not grab the Philippines as a colonial possession, Germany would. Since Spain and the U. S. ignored the Filipino representative, Felipe Agoncillo, during their negotiations in the Treaty of Paris, the Battle of Manila between Spain and the U. S. was alleged by some to be an attempt to exclude the Filipinos from the eventual occupation of Manila. Although there was substantial domestic opposition, the United States decided neither to return the Philippines to Spain, nor to allow Germany to take over the Philippines. Therefore, in addition to Guam and Puerto Rico, Spain was forced in the negotiations to hand over the Philippines to the U. S. in exchange for US\$20,000,000.00, which the U. S. later claimed to be a "gift" from Spain. The first Philippine Republic rebelled against the U. S. occupation, resulting in the Philippine-American War (1899—1913). The Spanish colonization of the Philippines began in earnest with the arrival on the shores of Cebu in April 1565 of an expeditionary force led by a minor Spanish colonial official from Mexico named Miguel Lopez de Legaspi. The new Spanish king Felipe II who had ascended the throne in 1556 gave a fresh impetus to the colonial ambitions of his father Carlos V by ordering the Viceroy of Mexico to make preparations for a new expedition. By 1564, the Royal Audiencia of Mexico gave the instructions that were to guide Legaspi's mission to the Philippines. He was ordered to undertake the voyage for the discovery and possession of

the so-called Islas del Poniente or Western Islands, which included the islands discovered by Magellan and named subsequently by Villalobos as Filipinas, in honor of the Spanish King. Among his objectives in these lands were to search for spices, spread the Catholic faith and establish settlements where it might be fitting or advantageous to the crown and the propagation of the faith. He was provided with ships, supplies, weapons and men who were paid at the port where they were to depart. A foothold in Cebu: 1565-1569. With an initial fleet of four vessels and force of 200 soldiers, 150 sailors and five religious, Legaspi established an outpost in Cebu. During the next four years, his contact with the peninsula was maintained through the voyages of his ships which carried spices and dispatches to Mexico and Spain and returned with reinforcements and provisions. The fledgling colony survived on tribute collected from the native villages in Cebu and nearby islands, overcoming resistance with help from friendlier natives. However, there was a development that nearly spelled the doom of the colony — the Spaniards were being starved in Cebu. Rather than cooperate with them, the natives fled to the mountains, while those who remained simply refused to plant crops or trade with them. It came to a point when Legaspi's men were reduced to eating rats and cats. In 1568, a Portuguese fleet dropped anchor in Cebu and laid siege on the settlement. The Portuguese were claiming that the islands lay within the demarcation line intended for Portugal by the Treaty of Zaragoza in 1529. But they were not able to break Spanish resolve to stay. They lifted the siege months later in January 1569 when they themselves ran out of provisions. Feeling vulnerable to the Portuguese in their present site, Legaspi decided to

transfer the colony to Panay which abounded in food. The expedition moves to Panay — 1569. In 1569, the Spaniards crossed the sea to the island of Panay. There, they continued to levy tribute, their companies spread thinly in Panay and neighboring islands for the purpose. Among the conquistadors with Legaspi, the most celebrated were the maistre de campo Martin de Goiti and the young, dashing Juan Salcedo, brother of Felipe de Salcedo and grandson of Legaspi, who explored most of Luzon and whose love affair with Lakan Dula's niece, Princess Candarapa, became the stuff of which legends were made. Salcedo left their base camp in Panay in late 1569 with a company of 40 soldiers. He reached Mindoro and its nearby islets, subduing the natives and plundering the rich village of Mamburao with the cutting-edge weapon of their day, the arquebus, and their usual auxiliaries of Pintados, the Visayan natives allied with the Spaniards. Salcedo returned to Panay in May 1570, there to meet with Legaspi and the maistre de campo Goiti who had also arrived from another expedition to discuss the final leg of their odyssey in the islands — the conquest of Luzon and the thriving community of Manila which, with its 4, 000 inhabitants, was under the rule of a Muslim noble named Rajah Soliman. On May 3, Goiti and Salcedo sailed out of Panay in two small ships with a hundred soldiers and accompanied by a fleet of 14 or 15 vessels of the Pintados. They again passed through Mindoro which remained hostile and attacked its principal village whose inhabitants took a refuge behind walls mounted with some columns. But that was all their firepower. The natives were armed with badly tempered lances which could not penetrate a good coat of mail and daggers and arrows which the Spaniards dismissed as weapons of little value.

Defeated, they became willing vassals of the Spaniards and paid tribute to them.