## The Peopling of the Philippines

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That the Philippines from part of the East Indies cannot be disputed. Admittedly, the mountains of Formosa can be seen in clear weather from the top of Iraya, a mountain on the island of Batan off the north coast of Luzon. But the connection with the islands to the south is stronger, and owing to bifurcation of the group, has more than one link. The sills that separate deep basins and break the surface to form the Talaud and Sangihe Islands join the Philippines to Celebes; and two submerged ridges, still broader and shallower, from which emerge the Sulu Islands and Palawan connect the group with Borneo. The lowering of the sea level by 25 fathoms would leave only two very narrow straits between the Philippines and the north-eastern end of Borneo and would more or less restore the outline that existed in the ice ages.

The forms of life also point to the inclusion of the Philippines in the East Indies. The flora and fauna have been found to include species that occur in Formosa, but they are only survivals and are restricted to the mountains. Northwards the isolation of the group seems to have occurred as early as the Oligocene, and it had definitely come about in the Pliocene, for Dipterocarps, which are not found in Formosa, appear in the limestone rocks of that period at Sagada in northern Luzon, and they are still common in the Philippines. The freshwater fish are related to those in Borneo, not those in Formosa.

The majority (62%) of the animal and vegetable species in the western East Indies also flourish in the Philippines, while only 26% are found in eastern Indonesia and Australia. This is proof that the connections with Celebes and the Moluccas were shorter in time than those with Borneo.

Distance from the equator and nearness to the mainland of Asia give the Philippines a monsoon climate in both western districts, and on the other hand a prevalence, especially in the north, of typhoons, which are unknown elsewhere in the East Indies.

The peculiarity of the Philippines also appears in its population. It is obviously similar to the rest of the East Indies in the superimposition and juxtaposition of ethnic groups and modes of life and in the succession and mingling of waves of cultural influence. Nearly all the streams of migration which have helped to form the existing population seem to have come mainly by way of Borneo. Most of the cultivated plants and domestic animals have been derived from the same region.

More than any other part of the East Indies the Philippines present an astonishing ethnical stratification. Anthropological research is far from complete; and in spite of the fine work of American scholars like H. Otley Beyer, the series of migrations and civilizing streams have not been established with complete certainty. The historical era of the Philippines covered falls into three broad periods:

- 1. The *Prehistoric Philippines*: This era covers the period from the unrecorded beginnings to a point in time roughly coinciding with the beginnings of the Christian era.
- 2. The *Protohistoric Period*: This span of time reaches from the beginnings of the Christian era to the time of Magellan's landing in the Philippines.
- 3. The *Historic Period*: These four + centuries from Magellan's landing to the present day are amply documented by printed records and manuscript literature.

A backward bird's eye view of the Philippine prehistory shows six distinct cultural horizons clearly standing out.

First, there is the primitive human type similar to the Java Man of 250,000 years ago. Earliest stone implements and fossil remains have been found in Rizal, Bulacan, and Batangas provinces, recording a culture brought to the islands by slow overland migrations more than a quarter of a million years ago. This primitive man was accompanied by such huge mammals as the stegedon elephant and the rhinoceros. This early man wore little or no clothing, and lived only in caves or rock shelters provided by nature. He subsisted on such raw food as he was able to wrest from his surroundings by means of his primitive tools. It seems probable that this earliest man disappeared or became extinct about the time of the last glacial period, along with the large land mammals of his time. Apparently no living descendants of this primitive human survive in these islands today.

The second historical curtain raises much later, about 25,000 to 30,000 years ago, when the ancestors of the living pygmy people began to percolate slowly into the Philippines from the south over the various land bridges then in existence. The Negritos and other primitive Australoid-Sakai types of human being that still inhabit remote Philippine forest regions constitute a slowly disappearing remnant of this probably once extensive migration. The first wave of this migration of little people was probably the short, round-headed type classified as Proto-Malay. The evidence indicates they came into Luzon over a land bridge from Borneo, via Palawan and Mindoro some 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. Another group trekked over the Sulu land bridge into Mindanao about the same time. These people already had the blow-gun and bow and arrow for weapons, and probably practiced a crude kind of dry agriculture in forest clearings. They made and used many small stone implements-microliths. The descendants of the Australoid-Sakai type constitute about 1/2 per cent of the present population, while the Proto-Malay descendants from about 91/2 per cent.

A very different group of people—the first sea-farers—the third group to come, came to the Philippines from the north some 5,000 to 6,000 years ago. These were the people of the Early New Stone Age, who had ground or polished stone axes, adzes, chisels, and other tools, round or oval in cross-section, which tell archeologically of a much advanced culture and craftsmanship. Their culture is now classified as Early Neolithic or *Indonesian A*. These tall, slender immigrants left their blood and heritage to the Philippines and their descendants constitute about 12 per cent of the population today.

Fourth in the great waves of immigration came about 1500 B.C. and continued for approximately a millenium. These latter visitors were also sea-faring, coming from Indo-China and South China coast to Luzon and Formosa. Their distinguishing cultural contributions were houses with pyramidal roofs raised above the ground on four posts, advanced small wood-working tools made of very hard stone. They practiced extensive dry agriculture, and introduced upland rice, taro, new varieties of cultivated yams. Their clothing was beaten bark, often intricately embroidered with fine designs, printed in color with stone or wooden blocks. Many stone bark-cloth beaters and printers have been found among the remains of their ancient villages. This fourth migration is known as the *Indonesian* B or late Neolithic and descendants of these people number 18 per cent of the present population.

Fifth in the chain of incursions was probably a continuation of the fourth but was marked by a distinctly improved and advanced culture, featured by the use of metals. This fifth group began arriving between 800 and 500 B.C. and brought with them copper and bronze tools of their immediate predecessors. It seems probable that this advanced group introduced irrigated rice culture, and built the first rice terraces. They also introduced Central Asian methods of copper mining and smelting, and used the forge and bellows. This culture is usually known as the Copper-Bronze culture although it might well be called the Terrace Culture. The Copper-Bronze people were not numerically large, and their descendants probably do not compose more than 3 per cent of the present population.

The sixth and the last group of prehistoric migrations, occurring between 300 and 200 B.C. brought from the south a most numerous and advanced prehistoric people-the Iron Age group usually known as the Malays. They filtered in fleets of dug-out boats, up from the west coast of Borneo into Luzon via Palawan and Mindoro, and in another ocean pathways through the Celebes Strait to Mindanao and the Visayas. In addition to advanced irrigated agriculture, these migrants brought four new industries: (1) the smelting, forging and manufacture of tools, weapons, utensils and ornaments of iron and metals; (2) the manufacture of a great variety of turned and decorated pottery; (3) the art of weaving cloth on handlooms; and (4) the manufacture of beads, bracelets, and other ornaments of green and blue glass. These crafts seem to have originated in India, and to have spread from there to Indo-China and southern Malaysia, finally reaching the Philippines by way of Borneo and Celebes. This culture eventually was carried on north into Formosa, southern Japan, Korea and central Manchuria, where it finally disappears.

The existing population contains the physical types already mentioned above. These classes and types are defined only by average and betray every degree of mixture and transition. Within historical times the gradual modification of the population has continued through the introduction of Indian, European, Arab, American and Chinese elements.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

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