

The Process Of Decolonization Among Post 1965 Filipino Americans

: A Legacy of Colonialism

The history of Filipino Americans is inextricably intertwined with the legacy of colonialism. From the Spanish colonization in the 16th century to the American annexation in the 20th century, Filipinos endured centuries of foreign rule that left a profound impact on their culture, identity, and social dynamics.



Coming Full Circle: The Process of Decolonization Among Post-1965 Filipino Americans by Hazel Gaynor

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Following the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which significantly increased immigration from Asia, the Filipino American community underwent a major demographic shift. Large numbers of Filipinos arrived in the United States, bringing with them their unique experiences and perspectives shaped by their colonial past.

Navigating the Maze of Assimilation

Upon their arrival in the United States, post-1965 Filipino Americans faced the challenges of assimilation into a predominantly white society. They encountered societal expectations to adopt American values and conform to mainstream cultural norms. Many Filipinos grappled with the dilemma of preserving their cultural heritage while adapting to their new surroundings.

This process of assimilation was not without its struggles. Filipino Americans often faced discrimination, prejudice, and stereotypes that reinforced their perceived status as outsiders. They experienced a clash between their own cultural values and the dominant American culture, leading to feelings of alienation and disconnection.

Embracing Resistance and Empowerment

As the Filipino American community grew and matured, a spirit of resistance and empowerment emerged. Faced with the challenges of racism and discrimination, Filipinos began to organize and fight for their rights. They formed community organizations, participated in social movements, and engaged in political activism.

Through these initiatives, Filipino Americans sought to reclaim their cultural identity and demand recognition within American society. They challenged stereotypes and advocated for visibility and representation in all aspects of life, from education to the media.

The Evolving Concept of Identity

The process of decolonization has had a profound impact on the identity of post-1965 Filipino Americans. As they negotiated the tensions between assimilation and resistance, their sense of belonging and identity evolved.

Many Filipinos came to embrace a hyphenated identity, identifying themselves as both Filipino and American. They sought to bridge the gap between their heritage and their experiences in the United States, creating a unique and dynamic cultural synthesis.

Historical Context and Immigration

To fully understand the experiences of post-1965 Filipino Americans, it is essential to examine the historical context that shaped their immigration. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolished the national origins quota system that had previously restricted immigration from Asia. This change opened the door to a surge of Filipino immigrants, primarily from professional and middle-class backgrounds.

The arrival of these Filipinos brought new skills, talents, and perspectives to American society. They contributed to the growth of the American economy and enriched the cultural landscape. However, they also faced unique challenges related to language barriers, cultural differences, and the legacy of colonialism.

The Importance of Asian American Studies

The study of Asian American history and experiences, including those of post-1965 Filipino Americans, is vital for gaining a comprehensive understanding of American society. Asian American Studies scholars have made significant contributions to our understanding of the complexities of identity, immigration, and the impact of colonialism on racial and ethnic minority groups.

Through research, teaching, and community engagement, Asian American Studies helps to challenge stereotypes, raise awareness, and foster cross-

cultural understanding.

: An Ongoing Journey

The process of decolonization among post-1965 Filipino Americans is an ongoing journey, marked by both challenges and triumphs. As they navigate the complexities of their hyphenated identity, Filipinos continue to strive for inclusivity, representation, and empowerment.

By understanding the historical, cultural, and social forces that have shaped their experiences, we can better appreciate the resilience and determination of post-1965 Filipino Americans and recognize their valuable contributions to American society.

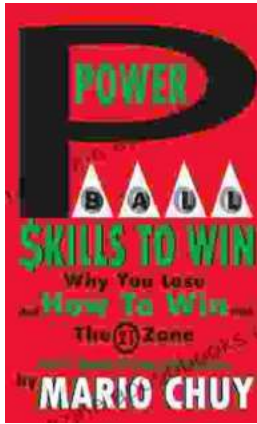


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