



**“WHAT ARE
WE LEARNING?”
SCHOOLING & POWER**

Learning Goals

Understanding the significance of American imperialism through the site of schools

- What is imperialism?
- How is the Philippines related to American imperialism?
- How are schools related to American imperialism?



Overview

The Philippines is not widely discussed in context of American history even though the U.S. had an established relationship with the islands following the Spanish-American War in 1898. Notably, Filipino Americans have also contributed to helping develop this country since the early 1900's.

Similarly, countries like Puerto Rico and Guam have experienced shared stories of invisibility and erasure from American history even though they are technically U.S. territories.

American imperialism in the early 20th century saw a rise to the U.S. conquering countries such as the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and more. But... why?

IMPERIALISM

The act of a powerful country controlling other countries or foreign nations. This can be done through force (such as war), or through subtle ways (such as diplomacy or schooling).

Imperialism focuses on establishing **POWER** in these other countries to create or maintain an empire status.

Geography

- Located in Southeast Asia, near the equator in the Pacific Ocean
- 7,641 islands make up the Philippine archipelago
- Only 2,000 of these islands are inhabited
- 3 major island groups: Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao



Historical Timeline

Spanish Colonial Period

1521-1898

Began when Ferdinand Magellan came to the islands in 1521 and claimed it as a colony for the Spanish Empire until the Philippine Revolution in 1896

Philippine Revolution

1896-1898

Filipino revolutionaries revolted against Spanish colonial rule.

Spanish American War

1898

Resulted in the annexation of the Philippines from Spain and through the Treaty of Paris, the U.S. bought the Philippines

Philippine American War

1899-1902

Resulted in U.S. occupation and the age of the American Empire in the Philippines

Philippine Independence

1946

Independence of the Philippines granted by the U.S.

Immigration and Nationality Act

1965

Permitted Filipinos to apply for citizenship in the U.S.



American Schooling in the U.S.

- Following the Philippine-American War, U.S. policies, systems, and values were quickly established within the Philippines, starting with schools.
- As U.S. officials deemed the Philippines 'unfit to self-govern,' schools became a site of focus to 'Americanize' Filipinos
- The U.S. free public school system was created in the Philippines in 1901. It offered free education to all Filipinos, specifically the youth.
- Early educators of these schools were all American, known as "*Thomasites*" after the name of ship that brought over the first group of American teachers in 1901.
- Teaching English and training students for "self-government" were some of the common objectives of schooling.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

How can schools become a site of power and control?

Questions to reflect on:

How can school or a classroom influence one's way of thinking?

How often are students taught to question what teachers are teaching them? When have you ever questioned what you were reading or who you were learning from?

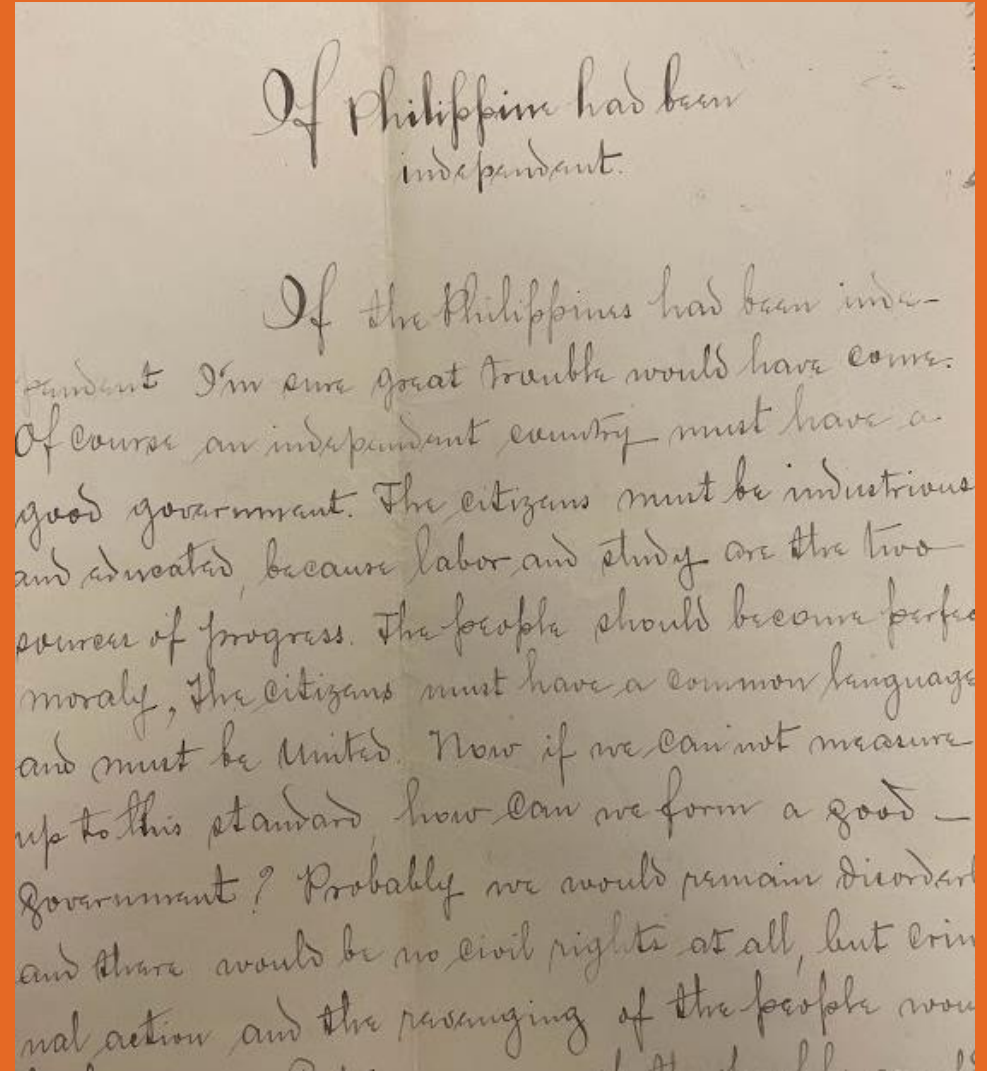
Beyond what you are learning about, how else do school administrators monitor students? What about how you speak? School uniforms? Classroom behavior?



Examining Student Essays from the 1900's

Utilize examples from the archive to explore the topics Filipino students learned in these American schools. Here is an example:

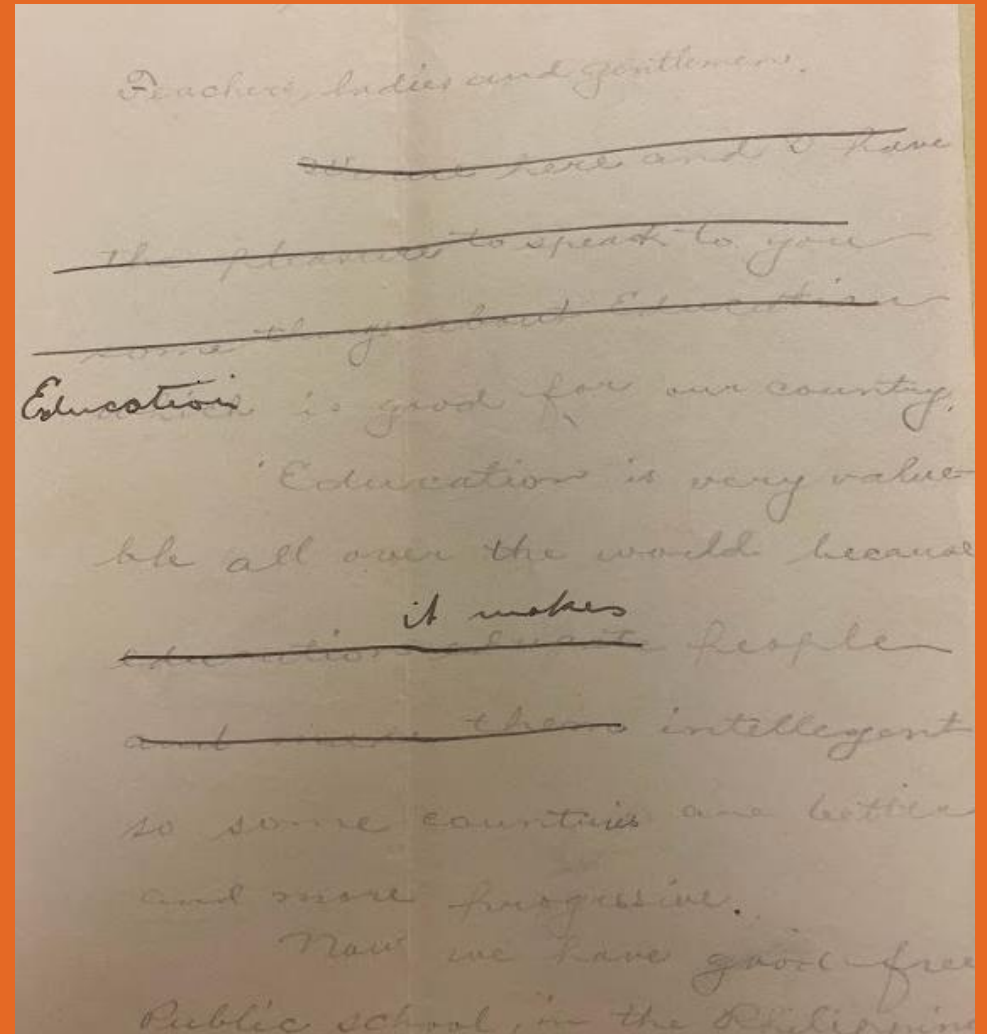
"If the Philippines had been independent, I'm sure great trouble would have come. Of course, an independent country must have a good government. The citizens must be industrious and educated because labor and study are the two sources of progress. The people should become perfect morally, the citizens must have a common language and must be united..."



Examining Student Essays from the 1900's

Utilize examples from the archive to explore the topics Filipino students learned in these American schools. Here is another example:

"Education is good for our country. Education is very valuable all over the world because it makes people intelligent, so some countries are better and more progressive. Now we have good free public school in the Philippines."



SMALL GROUP WORK

In your groups, discuss how the American schooling system in the Philippines influenced youth in the Philippines.

As a group, produce a paragraph that focuses on these three elements:

- Develop an argumentative claim that takes a stance on whether you believe schooling is a form of imperialism
- Include three substantial forms of evidence to support your claim
- Provide analytical reasoning (*the why*) to your argument that gives more in-depth, critical thought to your arguments purpose



SHARE OUT

[Use a google doc to see examples in live time for students. After share out, provide a brief summary of imperialism and the schooling system.]