Toward a Decolonized Future in Asia and the Pacific

Militarized Currents

Foreword by Chinua Achebe

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Touming Military Masculinities

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U.S.-Philippines Circuits of Science and Gratitude in Corregidor and Batan
examples of corruption and bribery, I explore how violent confrontations, economic policies, and political corruption have contributed to the ongoing conflict in the Philippines. The result is what has been called the "Philippine crisis," where the government's failure to address the root causes of corruption and violence has led to a cycle of violence and lawlessness.

Philippines and the World War II

The Philippines played a significant role in World War II. After the United States entered the war, the Philippine Commonwealth was annexed by the United States, and the islands became part of the United States. The Japanese occupation during World War II had a profound impact on the Philippines, leading to widespread destruction and suffering.

Philippines and the Cold War

During the Cold War, the United States provided military and economic aid to the Philippines, and the islands became a strategic ally in the region. The United States also maintained a significant military presence in the Philippines, which helped to shape the country's foreign policy and its relationship with other countries in the region.

Philippines and the Philippines

Despite its history, the Philippines remains a unique and diverse country, with a rich culture and history. The country's challenges, including corruption, poverty, and political unrest, continue to be significant, but there is also hope for change and progress.
The Philippines has been a strategic location for military and economic interests for many years. The presence of US military bases and the tourism industry in the country has been significant. In 1999, the Visiting Forces Agreement, which allows the US military to use Philippine bases, was signed. This agreement has been a source of contention and cooperation between the two nations.

The Visiting Forces Agreement has allowed the US military to conduct military exercises and training in the Philippines. This has had a significant impact on the country's economy, providing jobs and tourism opportunities. However, it has also raised concerns about security and sovereignty.

In recent years, the Philippines has seen a rise in terrorism and political instability. This has affected the country's tourism industry, with some tourists choosing not to visit due to concerns about safety.

Despite these challenges, the Philippines remains an important partner for the United States. The Visiting Forces Agreement helps to maintain this relationship, allowing the US military to continue to use Philippine bases for training and exercises.

The country's economic ties with the US are also significant. The Philippines is a major source of labor for the US, with many workers in the US coming from the Philippines. The country's position as a strategic location for US military operations and its tourism industry make it a key partner for the US.
in its complexity with often brutal domination. This stance of imperialist nostalgia is squarely located in a historically familiar orientalist framework that continues to structure a post-imperial modernity in the Philippines. The touristic soldier-spectacle subjects are once again at the center of these narratives, transforming the indigenous economy into an Other that can be commodified and consumed by the West.

In his work on tourism and militarism, Geoffrey White points out the cultural, economic, and political links between World War II military occupation and modern tourism in the Pacific. He argues that in Corregidor and Bataan, the freedoms of touring are melancholic and linked to the sentiment of martial citizenship and sacrifice.
Overlapping Domains of Tourism and Migration

Tourism involves a considerable degree of mobility, as tourists travel between countries or regions for leisure, business, or other purposes. This movement of people is often facilitated by modern transportation systems, and it has significant implications for the economies of tourist destinations. The tourism industry relies on the availability of affordable and accessible transportation options, which can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment and local communities.

Migration, on the other hand, involves the permanent or temporary movement of people across borders for a variety of reasons, including economic opportunities, political unrest, or family reunification. The process of migration can be driven by a range of factors, including economic and social conditions in the country of origin and the country of destination.

The overlap between tourism and migration is evident in the ways in which these two domains interact. For example, tourists who choose to move permanently to a destination may contribute to the local economy and culture, while migrants who choose to visit a destination may support local businesses and cultural activities.

In conclusion, the overlapping domains of tourism and migration are complex and multifaceted, and they require a nuanced understanding of the various factors that influence people's decisions to travel or move. Further research and analysis are needed to fully understand the ways in which these domains intersect and impact the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of both tourism and migration.
The next part of this chapter examines the broader and related political implications of the "special relationship" between the Philippines and the United States. This relationship, which is rooted in historical ties and shared democratic values, has been crucial in shaping the contemporary political landscape of the Philippines. The text explores how these ties have influenced Philippine foreign policy decisions and the broader implications for regional stability and security.
World War II had a profound impact on the Philippines, with American military forces occupying the islands during the conflict. This led to the development of a significant number of American military bases and installations, many of which remain in use today. The occupation also brought about changes in the local economy and society, including the growth of the defense industry and the establishment of new educational and cultural institutions.

The Philippines gained independence from American rule in 1946, but the legacy of the war continues to influence the country's politics and society. Today, the Philippines remains a strategic ally of the United States, with significant military and economic ties.

In recent years, the Philippines has faced challenges including political instability, terrorism, and natural disasters. Despite these difficulties, the country has made strides in economic growth and development, with a focus on improving infrastructure and increasing access to education and healthcare.

The Philippines has also been a active participant in international affairs, with a particular focus on regional issues such as the South China Sea disputes and the US-Philippines security alliance.

Overall, the impact of World War II on the Philippines has been significant and enduring, shaping the country's identity and influencing its future trajectory.
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Continuing an Allied Fraternity

The United States and the Philippines have been allies for over 100 years, with
their history marked by both conflict and cooperation. In 1902, the United States
assumed control of the Philippines, following the Spanish-American War. This
led to the establishment of the Philippine Commonwealth, a time marked by
the struggle for independence and a period of significant cultural exchange.

The United States provided significant aid to the Philippines, including
military support and economic assistance. This aid was crucial in helping
the Philippines build a strong national identity. The United States
also helped the Philippines develop a democratic government and
a free market economy.

Today, the United States and the Philippines maintain a strong
relationship, based on shared values and interests. The two countries
continue to work together on a variety of issues, including security,
trade, and economic development.

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The United States, with its rich history of migration and diversity, has
always been a land of opportunity. For many Filipinos, the United States
has offered a path to better lives, with opportunities for education
and employment. The United States has also been a leader in
international relations, working to promote peace and stability around
the world.

The Philippines, on the other hand, has a long and complex
history, marked by conflict and transition. Today, the Philippines is
a thriving nation, with a strong economy and a diverse population.

The relationship between the United States and the Philippines
is based on mutual respect and understanding. Both countries
have a shared commitment to democratic values and economic
prosperity. This relationship is an example of how nations
with different histories and cultures can work together for
the benefit of all.

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destinations, Corregidor’s World War II ghosts sanitize what was a violent project of American empire building fifty years earlier. Writing about the Philippine–American War as a site of masculine citizen making, and of war memorials in particular, Oscar V. Campomanes argues that the process of “aestheticizing . . . the actual war is . . . shorn and cleansed of its mess, many costs, and savage malevolence.” Producing Corregidor as tourist site allows for narratives and histories of valor and brothel but little room for remembering the imperial occupation by American troops in an overseas colony.

American valor and the supporting role of Filipino friendship and bravery are the central elements of Corregidor’s monumental architecture. Among the memorials is the Pacific War Memorial, funded in 1964 by U.S. Congressional appropriations. It is a stark white dome with a circular hole at the top through which a shaft of sunlight every May 6 directly illuminates the marble slab below, commemorating the fall of Corregidor. Behind it, a wide walkway leads to a steel sculpture of the eternal flame, mounted on a deck that also provides a view of the ocean. On either side of the walkways are marble panels listing the narrative of World War II, from the “Defense of Hawai’i” to “Philippine Liberation.” Not incidentally, the “Philippine Resistance Movement” is praised for their “repeated blows against the armies of the invaders in a heroic fight for the cause of freedom. Their valiant effort contributed greatly to the final liberation of the Philippines.” Yet make no mistake: liberation was an American act. American funding for this Philippine monument, particularly during a time when American politics was instrumental in the postcolonial Philippines, is merely an extension of an ongoing “special relationship.” Tellingly, former dictator Ferdinand Marcos dedicated the memorial thus: “From this day on, this new edifice on Corregidor will also be a monument of peace. The men whose memory we honor with this memorial fought to make peace, if not possible, an enduring condition of human life. We who now behold it, do so as the living beneficiaries of their sacrifices. We look at this monument with eyes used to the spectacles of a peaceful life; the bright and soaring quality of its architecture symbolizes for us the heights of human achievement that we can reach, not in war but peace.” As “beneficiaries” of a peace secured by violence and sacrifice, Marcos reminds us (for his sake and the sake of his foreign sponsor) that we must be thankful for the peaceful life secured by suffering and death. Producing a national memory of militarized security, this memorial links masculine sacrifice with the continued sacrifice of a benevolent American protector. Thus, the “spectacles” of the tourist gaze are adjusted to see only the theatrical narrative of liberation and not the “savage malevolence” of colonialism and neocolonialism.

The museum next to the war memorial is a more compact version of the island itself, with smaller guns guarding the entrance, and dog tags, badges, broken crockery, and utensils standing in for their larger counterparts outside. The menu for the last Thanksgiving before the war makes this a distinctly American space—a sentimental American holiday celebrated on foreign soil for the last time. The domestic scenes evoked in the museum displays belie the inherent violence of soldierhood: these are youthful (emphasizing the sacrifice) and reliable boys just doing their patriotic duty. Photographs capturing heroic poses and prewar innocence line the walls: men in bunks, cleaning guns, talking, and parading. The interruption of war, then, functions in the way of breaking up this homosocial family. It almost seems that the U.S. military occupation of the Philippines was a kind of male-only bonding retreat, and not until rudely provoked did the military respond.

In spaces shared by tourism and militarism such as Bataan and Corregidor, the analytics of power, identity, the state, empire, and capital are borne out in particularly gendered and racialized ways. A photograph in the military museum on Corregidor Island captures what Grewal and Kaplan point out as the “scattered hegemonies” of modernity that are organized and established through gender. This oversize color photograph, taken in 1994, hangs on one of the walls in the museum, which is dominated by black-and-white photographs of U.S. soldiers who were based in Corregidor before World War II. In this image, smiling former presidents of the United States and the Philippines (Bill Clinton and Fidel Ramos, respectively) pose with each other during a tour of the island, capturing a moment within a larger official history of gendered militarism and travel. As masculine prototourists and heads of state, Clinton and Ramos represent the promises of unfettered and secure travel as products of continued state cooperation and increased neoliberal policies. More significantly, they frame the contemporary production and consumption of Corregidor (and, implicitly, Bataan) within the heroic mode of World War II’s shared suffering and triumph, structuring military history as a heritage destination. In the photograph, the smiling faces of Clinton and Ramos imply that present-day freedoms—including the privileges of travel—are thus neatly
The American and the Filipino: Confrontation and Conflict

The relationship between the American and the Filipino is a complex one, characterized by historical events and cultural differences. On one hand, the Filipinos have a rich history that includes the Spanish colonial period, the American occupation, and the struggle for independence. On the other hand, the Americans brought their own cultural influence, including language and customs.

The war between the United States and the Philippines in the late 1800s and early 1900s left a lasting impact on the relationship between the two nations. The American military presence in the Philippines continues to this day, and the legacy of the war is still felt in the region.

The tensions between the two nations have been exacerbated by issues such as language and cultural differences, as well as political and economic concerns. Despite these challenges, there have been efforts to improve relations and promote understanding between the two peoples.

The future of the relationship between the American and the Filipino will be shaped by ongoing negotiations and cultural exchange. It is hoped that through these efforts, a more harmonious future can be achieved.
The expansion of tourism and cultural heritage is an integral part of the country’s economic growth. The tourism industry is not only a source of foreign exchange, but it also provides employment opportunities for the local population. The expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure is crucial for the development of the country’s tourism sector. The country has a rich cultural heritage, which includes its history, art, and traditions. This is reflected in the various festivals and events that are celebrated throughout the year. The expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure can help to boost the country’s economy and create jobs for the local population.

The expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure can also help to promote the country’s cultural heritage. The country has a rich history, which includes its famous landmarks and monuments. These landmarks and monuments attract tourists from all over the world. The expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure can help to make it easier for tourists to visit these landmarks and monuments. This can help to promote the country’s cultural heritage and increase the country’s tourism revenue.

The expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure can also help to promote the country’s traditional arts. The country has a rich tradition of arts, which includes its music, dance, and literature. The expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure can help to promote these traditional arts and attract tourists who are interested in these forms of art. This can help to increase the country’s tourism revenue and promote the country’s cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure is crucial for the development of the country’s tourism sector. This can help to boost the country’s economy, create jobs, and promote the country’s cultural heritage. The country should continue to invest in the expansion of tourism facilities and infrastructure to ensure that it can continue to attract tourists from all over the world.
military barracks and U.S. military bases. This controversial pattern of
relocation in the Philippines has sparked debates over Filipino
removion and the human rights of the Filipinos living near these
bases.

Joint military exercises:

Joint military exercises are a common practice in the
Philippines, involving both Filipino and foreign military
forces. These exercises aim to strengthen military capabilities
and improve interoperability between different armed forces.

Philippines' Forgotten War:

The forgotten war refers to the long and often overlooked
conflict between the Philippines and the United States in the
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Militarized Movements