

Stories and Life Stories

A. Summary

- a. Last time
 - i. Rites of passage
 - ii. Kinship and marriage in Kangra
 - iii. Caste
- b. This time
 - i. Guest lecture by Noah Theriault

B. Lecture Outline

- a. Case study from his research to help illustrate analytical concepts, such as:
 - i. Indigeneity
 - ii. Authenticity
 - iii. Nationalism
 - iv. Neoliberalism
 - v. Multiculturalism
 - vi. Internal colonialism

C. Chieftain Jimmy

- a. Philippian leader
- b. "In the past, the Muslims organized us... Today it's the government and NGOs"

D. Main questions

- a. What are some groups of people classified as "indigenous" and assigned a special role in government
 - i. The uneven colonization of the tribal people (minorities)
 - ii. The number of ideologies that circulate in the island
- b. What are the consequences, especially unintended consequences of such policies?
- c. He is studying Palawan Island in the Philippines

E. Historical Context

- a. Philippines colonized by series of different states (Muslim/Malay, Spanish, US, Japanese)
- b. Process of colonization has been uneven
- c. Some "tribal" minority groups were not Christianized or Muslimized

F. The Palawan (People)

- a. Indigenous cultural minority
- b. Historically as "non-Christian tribes" "pagans", "mountaineers"
- c. Palawan cosmology
 - i. Reciprocity with invisible realm offerings (making rice wine, making rice cakes, & ritual offering of rice wine)

- ii. Cannot see these "invisible beings"
- d. Palawan livelihood
 - i. **Subsistence:** swidden agriculture (burning dead plant material to plant in area/nutrients to soil), foraging (burning a swidden, rice shots in a swidden, hunting large fruit bat, & gather bee hive)
 - ii. **Exchange for goods or money:** forest products (i.e. Rattan, type of cane used for rocking chairs & Copal, a type of tree resin)
 - iii. Monetization: wage labor; money through swidden agriculture
- e. Palawan social organization
 - i. **Egalitarian** (no ascribed status)
 - ii. **Kinship:** bilateral "kindred networks" [**kampung**]
 - iii. **Status/authority:** **achieved** through age, marriage, and expertise in customary law or ritual [**wedding negotiation (lumon)**]
 - 1. Chieftain Jimmy settles dispute [**dispute hearing (bitsara)**]
 - 2. His authority is determined by his ability to carry out his duty as Chieftain
 - 3. Status
- f. Palawan legal status
 - i. Recognized as indigenous people, with special rights and obligations

G. Indigeneity

- a. Original or first occupancy in a place, distinction from settler population
- b. Legal category within countries
- c. Transnational identity
- d. Often associated with notions of **authenticity**
- e. Confers rights but also *obligations*

H. Indigenous Empowerment (didn't finish typing this)

- a. Policies of indigeneity are meant to promote...
 - i. Land rights
 - ii. Cultural rights
 - iii. Priority

- b. Example: Environmental Conservation
 - i. Indigenous Palawans have special rights within protected areas...
 - ii. But they must:
 1. Send recognized representatives
 2. Limit new swiddens (swidden agriculture) to former swiddens
 3. Limit forest use to "traditional" activities (not monetize activities; can't sell these products); pressures on them to participate in the economy
 4. Adopt outsider views of "nature" and property
 5. Cooperate without conflict (amongst themselves)

I. Multiculturalism

- a. Idea that governments should protect cultural differences
- b. Policies intended to correct historical mistreatment of minority groups (e.g., special land claims or cultural rights)
- c. Burden of authenticity?

J. Nationalism

- a. Belief in inevitability or superiority of a particular nation
- b. Perception of nation-state as natural or rightful master of its territory and population (**hegemony**)
- c. The Palawan people feel that the nation-state is the hegemonic policy being forced on them
- d. Are indigenous groups separate nations? Who decides?
 - i. Government makes this decision (the answer is no)
- e. State vs. Nation
 - i. Nation – "imagined community" founded on shared ancestry, ethnicity, language, political identity, etc.
 - ii. State – complex political organization claiming the right to
 - iii. Nation-State: a state identified with a particular nation (e.g., "The Philippines")

K. Neoliberalism

- a. Political and economic policy of free markets, deregulation, and "rolling back" of government social services
- b. Belief in "the market" as best means of regulating and vaulting life
- c. E.g., free trade agreements, privatization of government assets, market "discipline" for the poor
- d. Transfer of responsibility to "community" level
- e. E.g., indigenous corporations or indigenous NGOs to manage resources (indigenous NGO election/chief bodies for advocacies for indigenous people & forest honey lab)
- f. Market discipline for indigenous people?