

Polynesia

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This essay focuses on the political, economic, and cultural history of six countries or dependencies in Polynesia – Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, French Polynesia, Pitcairn Island, and Rapa Nui (Easter Island). I wrote these talks for programs, operated between 2004 and 2013, by Stanford Travel/Study and Clipper, Seabourn, and Silversea Cruise Lines.

I begin with the Polynesian diaspora – the origins of the Polynesian people and how they settled the Pacific islands. I next discuss Western Polynesia (Samoa, Tonga, and Melanesian Fiji) – trade wealth, colonial rule, and current economies. I continue with Kiribati – its formation from 34 tiny islands, Britain’s colonial interest, and its fragile economy. I then look at French Polynesia – French imperialism in Eastern Polynesia and the structure of its economy as a dependency of France. Next I tell the story of the mutiny on the Bounty and the evolution of Pitcairn Island since 1790. I move on to Rapa Nui – its sources of wealth, cultural bases, and societal crash in the 18th century. I close by describing the Pacific explorations of Captain James Cook – his skills, discoveries, and death in Hawaii. I append a time line, a bibliography, and a description of the sites that I visited in Polynesia.

How Polynesians Settled the Pacific Islands

Austronesians in Taiwan (c. 13,000 BCE-present). Twenty-four million people live in Taiwan today. Nearly 98 percent are Han Chinese whose ancestors migrated from China, mostly in the past four centuries. About 575,000 Austronesian-speaking aborigines constitute a small but vocal minority. Although they refer to themselves as aborigines, the Austronesian speakers are not descendants of Taiwan's first inhabitants.

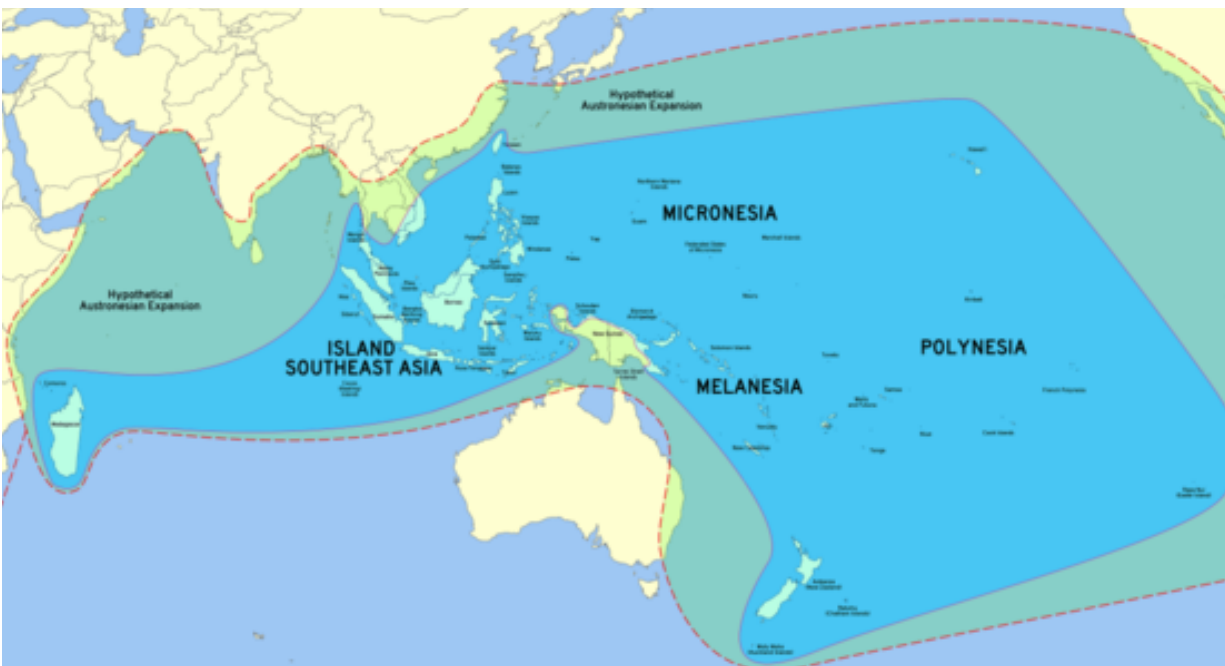


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indigenous_group_dancers_at_Amis_Music_Festival_2016_IMF0936.jpg>

*Amis (Austronesians) in Traditional Dance Costume –
Dulan Village, Taitung County, Taiwan*

The first people to settle Taiwan were hunter-gatherers, probably the ancestors of the Melanesian peoples who spread from southern

China and Taiwan through Southeast Asia to New Guinea and Australia more than 40,000 years ago. Clear evidence exists of Austronesian settlement in Taiwan for at least five millennia, and some scholars believe that those people have lived on the island for as long as 15,000 years. Three of the four subfamilies of the Austronesian language family are spoken only in Taiwan. The fourth, Malayo-Polynesian, comprises 945 of the 959 Austronesian languages and has spread from Taiwan to Indonesia, Polynesia, Hawaii, and Madagascar.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Austronesia_with_hypothetical_greatest_expansion_extent_\(Blench,_2009\)_01.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Austronesia_with_hypothetical_greatest_expansion_extent_(Blench,_2009)_01.png)>

Migrations of the Austronesian-speaking Peoples from Taiwan

The Austronesians most likely came to Taiwan from southern coastal China with a diverse cultural package consisting of rice and millet cultivation, fishing, domestication of pigs and dogs, red pottery, and stone tools. Because their agricultural techniques were superior to the subsistence strategies of the hunter-gatherers, the Austronesians replaced or absorbed those earlier inhabitants of Taiwan (as they did in much of Southeast Asia). About 70,000 Austronesians lived in Taiwan in the early 17th century. In 1984, the leaders of Taiwan's Austronesian people formed the Alliance of Taiwan Aborigines to lobby for self-government, aboriginal land rights, and better political representation.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pestle_Music_Theater_02.jpg>

*Young Indigenous (Austronesian) Taiwanese Woman –
Playing a Traditional Musical Instrument*

Austronesian Expansion (c. 3000 BCE-1500 BCE). Linguists have identified 1,200 contemporary languages in the Pacific islands known collectively as Oceania. Nearly two-thirds of those languages, 750, are Papuan, but the ancient Papuan languages are not members of one coherent language family. Most of the Papuan languages are spoken only on New Guinea, although some are found in nearby New Britain and the Bougainville Islands.



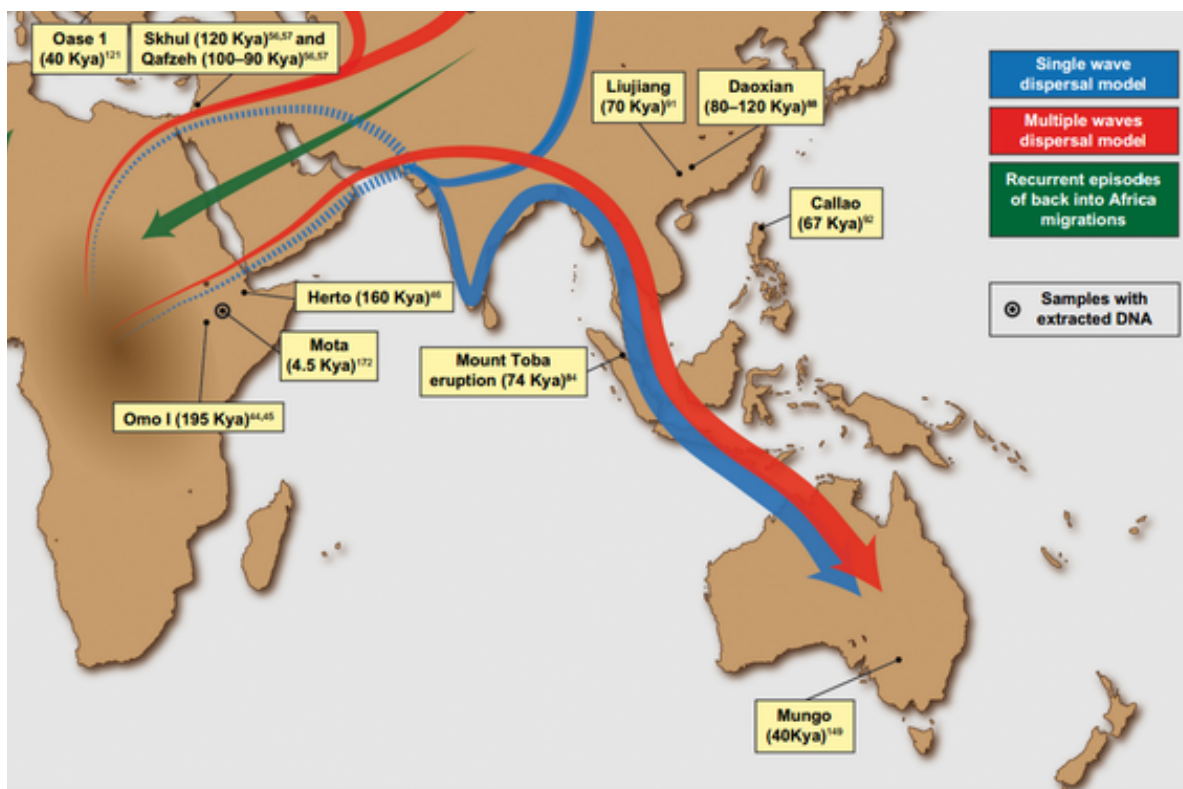
Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:People_of_Papua_New_Guinea_\(48991058107\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:People_of_Papua_New_Guinea_(48991058107).jpg)>

Papuan Chief (“Big Man”), Mt. Hagen Sing-Sing Festival, Papua New Guinea – Wearing Bird-of-Paradise Plumage in His Headdress

The other 450 languages spoken today in Oceania are Austronesian and are all related members of the Malayo-Polynesian family. Most of those Malayo-Polynesian languages are mutually intelligible. The closely related Austronesian languages are spoken in parts of Melanesia (outside of New Guinea) and in all of Micronesia and Polynesia. How did that distribution of languages and cultures occur? An early diaspora,

which probably began at least 40,000 years ago from southern China and Taiwan, introduced the Papuan peoples and languages into Southeast Asia, New Guinea, and the Near Oceania parts of Melanesia.

Archaeological evidence shows that the Sahul (New Guinea and Australia) was colonized by 35,000 BCE.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Putative_migration_waves_out_of_Africa.png>

Papuan Settlement of the Continent of Sahul (Present-day Australia and New Guinea), c. 40,000 BCE

The later Austronesian diaspora spread from Taiwan to the Philippines (by 3000 BCE), Sulawesi and Borneo (2500 BCE), Java and

Sumatra (2000 BCE), and New Guinea and Near Oceania (1500 BCE). The Austronesians used red pottery, stone adzes, shell tools, and bone fishhooks. They had an advanced agricultural package (taro, coconuts, bananas, breadfruit, pigs, chickens, and dogs). In Southeast Asia, the Austronesians absorbed their Papuan predecessors. In Melanesia, an uneven fusion of Austronesian and Papuan cultures, languages, and genes gradually occurred, differing according to region or island.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Junglefowl_\(male\)-9858,_crop.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Junglefowl_(male)-9858,_crop.jpg)>

*Male Red Junglefowl, Ancestor of Chickens in Southeast Asia –
First Domesticated by Austronesians, c. 3000 BCE*

Lapita Complex and Dispersal (1500 BCE-1000 BCE). Near Oceania encompasses the Pacific islands lying north and east of New

Guinea, from the Bismarck Archipelago through the Solomon Islands. In the five centuries prior to the arrival of the Austronesians (2000-1500 BCE), the indigenous Papuan residents of Near Oceania learned the practice of crop agriculture (taro, bananas, and sugarcane) from their New Guinean neighbors. The intrusive Austronesians and the native Papuans fused their cultures through intermarriage, especially in the Bismarcks, and formed a new cultural complex.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Songe-R%C3%A9union.JPG>>

*Taro (Colocasia esculenta) –
Staple Food Crop in the Austronesian Agricultural Package*

In just one century (1500-1400 BCE), the new complex spread throughout Near Oceania. That new culture is now confusingly called Lapita (after the site in northwestern New Caledonia, located in Remote Oceania, where the first extensive excavations were carried out in 1952). The Lapita settlements were sited on beaches or lagoons and were small-scale, comprising three to 150 households. After three centuries of consolidation, between 1200 and 1000 BCE the Lapita culture dispersed into Remote Oceania – southeastward to New Caledonia and then eastward to Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carte_lapita.png>

Lapita Culture Sites in Oceania

Archeologists have identified that expansion largely through the archeological visibility of decorated Lapita ceramics (open bowls and beakers). But most Lapita pottery was mundane and undecorated. The Lapita dispersal was based on an expanded economic base – planting of perennial tree crops, shifting cultivation (of tubers and sugarcane), domestication (of chickens, dogs, and pigs), and trolling for fish with lures. That rich and varied Lapita cultural package spanned the ethnographic divide between Austronesians and Papuans and served as the basis for the settlement of Polynesia and Micronesia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PortVilaLapita.jpg>>

Lapita Pottery – Vanuatu Cultural Center, Port Vila, Vanuatu

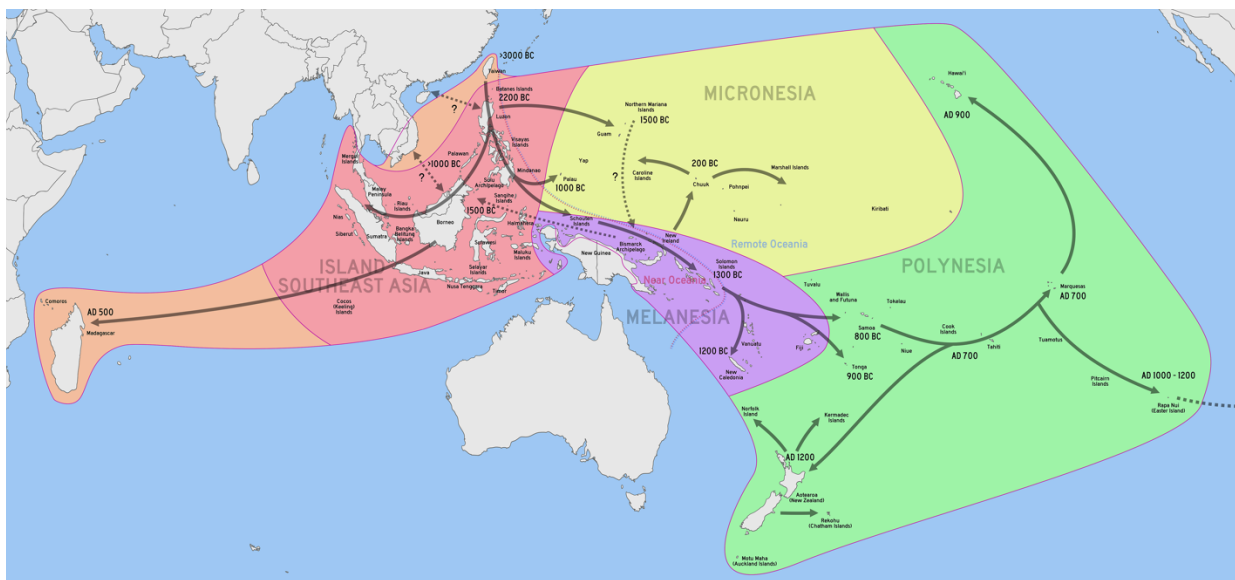
Settlement of Western Polynesia (1200 BCE-1000 BCE). The Lapita peoples moved rapidly to settle the uninhabited islands of Remote Oceania. In only two centuries, between 1200 BCE and 1000 BCE, they colonized one island or archipelago after another in a purposeful, successive settlement pattern. They waited a generation or two to consolidate one island settlement before moving on to make another. Only small numbers of people were involved, but their movements were critical in the development of the Pacific.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:National_Museum_of_Ethnology,_Osaka_-_Reconstructed_Lapita_female.jpg>

*Reconstruction of the Face of a Lapita Woman –
National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan*

The diaspora began in the southern Solomon Islands of Near Oceania and initially moved southeast to New Caledonia and Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides). From Vanuatu, the settlers moved eastward into what was to become Western Polynesia, successively colonizing Fiji, the Lau Islands, Tonga, and Samoa. Different groups of migrants emigrated from the Solomons and Vanuatu to colonize the islands of Eastern Micronesia, including the islands that are now Kiribati. Following that process of settlement, the ancestral Polynesian culture arose in Western Polynesia during the last millennium BCE.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chronological_dispersal_of_Austronesian_people_across_the_Pacific_\(per_Benton_et_al.,_2012,_adapted_from_Bellwood,_2011\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chronological_dispersal_of_Austronesian_people_across_the_Pacific_(per_Benton_et_al.,_2012,_adapted_from_Bellwood,_2011).png)

The Austronesian Diaspora from Taiwan, c. 3000 BCE-1000 CE

The descendants of the Lapita settlers spoke a Proto-Polynesian language that later evolved into the separate Polynesian languages of Western and Eastern Polynesia. They subsisted on variants of the standard Lapita food package – planting tubers (taro, yams) with shifting cultivation, growing perennial tree crops (coconuts, breadfruit, bananas), gathering fish, shellfish, and seabird eggs for protein, and raising chickens, pigs, and dogs for ceremonial feasts. They also developed what became standard Polynesian cultural norms – *mana* (spiritual power), *tapu* (sacredness), *tupuna* (ancestors to be deified), and *kava* (a narcotic plant used in spiritual ceremonies).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ARS_breadfruit49.jpg>

*Breadfruit (Artocarpus altilis) –
Polynesian Food Staple, Introduced by Austronesians*

Maritime Strategies and Navigational Skills. The Lapita peoples and later adventurers who explored, discovered, and colonized Oceania must have had a wide variety of motives for their dangerous sea-faring journeys. Part of their motivation must have been personal – the thrill of adventure, the prestige of discovery, the desire to overcome shame, or a societal decision to enforce exile. But much of the impetus for discovery must have had economic roots – the desire for more agricultural land, the quest for trading opportunities with settled islands, the lust for raiding, the need to offset natural disasters, or the hope of escaping occasional famine.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:JfBohol7038naturefyf_39.JPG>*

*Coconut Palm, Heavy with Fruit –
Polynesian Explorers Sought More Agricultural Land*

Geoffrey Irwin, the leading scholar of Pacific exploration, argues that Oceanic explorers followed a survival sailing strategy. To enhance chances for a safe return, they chose to sail into the wind and up-latitude on outbound journeys. Together those two decisions provided the means to sail and navigate back home. They also permitted the Pacific to be settled from west to east into the teeth of the prevailing trade winds.

Three navigational skills were essential: to steer a course at sea by using star compass techniques (following memorized star paths); to maintain a fix on position by using dead reckoning (against a known point); and to estimate a distant and not-yet-observable island landfall by studying the habits of birds (and knowing the ranges of different species of seabirds).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mau-star-compass.png>

*Polynesian Star Compass, Taught in the Caroline Islands –
 Re-creation with Shells on Sand, from the Polynesian Voyaging Society*

Advances in maritime technology included the development of large outrigger or double canoes (to maintain balance and provide extra storage) and of sturdy sails made of plaited mats. Pacific colonization depended both on maritime skill and portable food packages. The

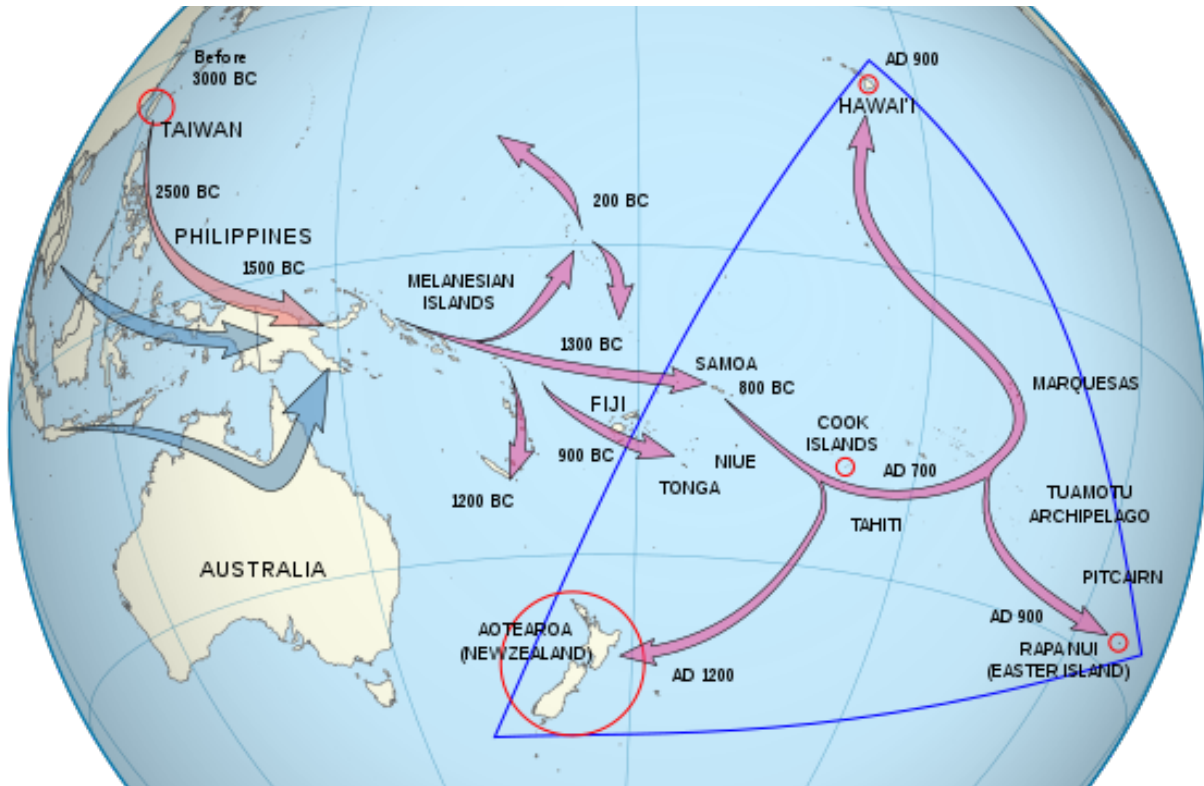
Lapita people had 28 different species of food crops that they transported from island to island.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hokule%27aSailing2009.jpg>>

*Hokule'a –
Modern Replica of an Austronesian Double-hulled Catamaran*

Settlement of Eastern Polynesia (200 BCE-1000 CE). After decades of debate, most archeologists and other Pacific area specialists now agree that the ancestral Polynesian culture evolved in Western Polynesia in the last millennium BCE. But few agree on the timing of the movement of the ancestral Polynesians from Samoa and Tonga into Eastern Polynesia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Polynesian_Migration.svg

Polynesian Diaspora, 200 BCE-1100 CE – from Western Polynesia to Eastern Polynesia (Society Islands, Rapa Nui, Hawaii, and Aotearoa)

Patrick Kirch, who has published an extensive review of Pacific archeology, feels that the period starting about 200 BCE and ending around 1000 CE provides the best estimated range for that movement. Kirch concludes that the earliest archeological evidence of settlement in Eastern Polynesia might be dated as early as c. 200 BCE in the Marquesas, but he notes that the earliest radiocarbon dating of Eastern settlement is about 600 CE. So the debate rages on.

Kirch postulates three waves of expansion from ancestral Western Polynesia that might have occurred between 200 BCE and 600 CE. The first was a northward move into Tuvalu and Eastern Micronesia, accompanied by a westward move into parts of Northern Melanesia, which created Polynesian outlier islands that exist today.

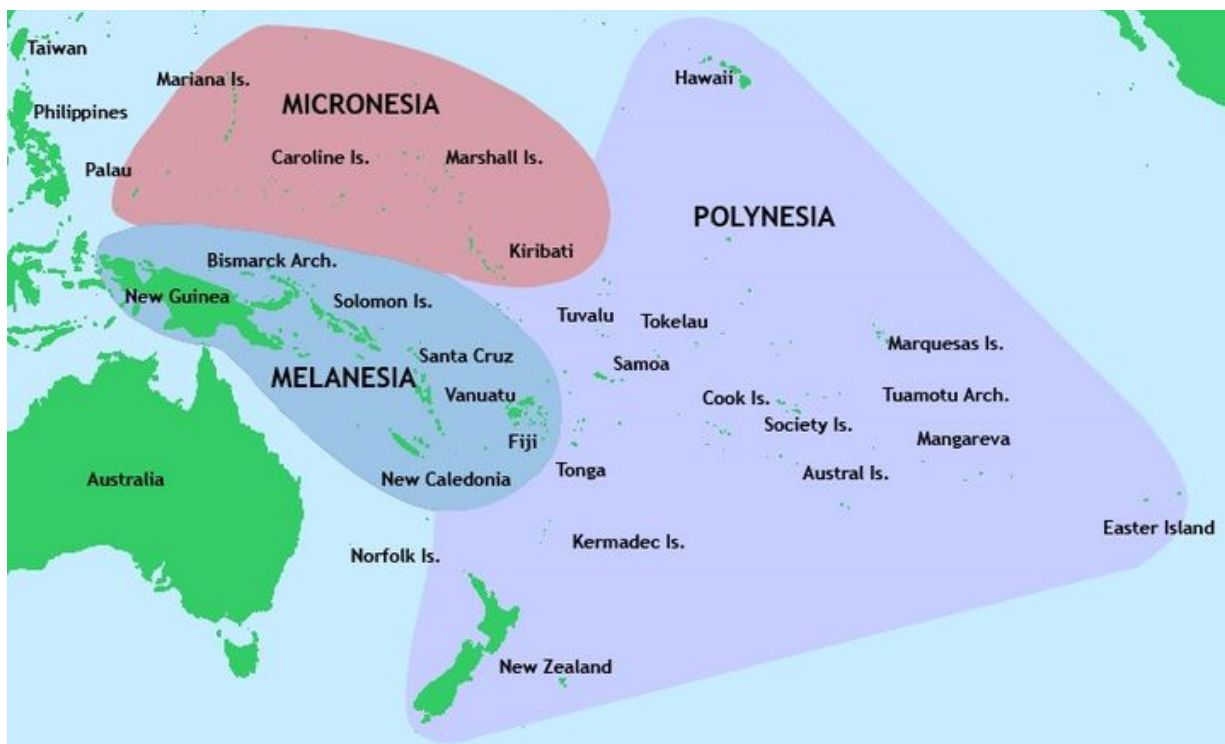


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marae_Ti%27i-rua,_Mo%27orea,_French_Polynesia.jpg>

Marae Ti'i-rua, Moorea, The Society Islands, French Polynesia

The second wave was across the northern parts of Eastern Polynesia, settling the northern Cooks, Fanning, the Society Islands, and the western Tuamotus. The third postulated sweep was through the southern parts of Eastern Polynesia, including the Australs, Mangareva,

the eastern Tuamotus, and the Marquesas (perhaps for a second time). The three extreme points of the Polynesian triangle were populated later from newly settled bases in Eastern Polynesia. Rapa Nui (Easter Island) was occupied about 300 from Mangareva, Hawaii about 400 from the Marquesas, and Aotearoa (New Zealand) no earlier than 1000 from the southern Cooks.

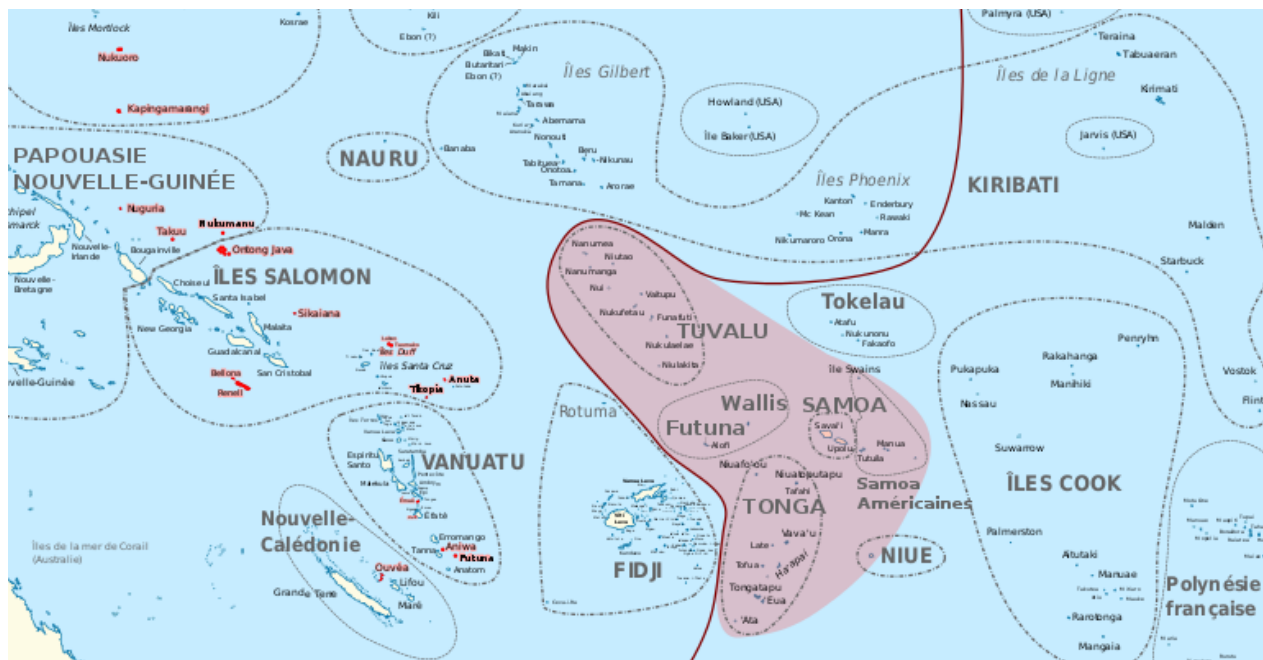


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pacific_Culture_Areas.jpg>

*Culture Areas in the Pacific Region –
Melanesia (Blue), Micronesia (Red), and Polynesia (Lavender)*

Western Polynesia – Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa

Settlement and Culture. Western Polynesia consists of the central Pacific archipelagos of Fiji, the Lau Islands, Tonga, and Samoa plus several smaller islands. Strong evidence – archeological, linguistic, and genetic – underpins a west-to-east pattern of Lapitan settlement in Western Polynesia, most likely between 1200 and 1000 BCE. No human occupation of the Pacific islands occurred before that time.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Western_Polynesia_and_Polynesian_Outliers_-_fr.svg>

Lapita Settlement within Western Polynesia and Fiji

The Lapitan colonizers crossed 500 miles of open ocean from Vanuatu, first settled Fiji, and established gateway communities for further expansion. From Fiji, the cradle of Ancestral Polynesian culture, the migrants moved on to settle the Lau Islands, Tonga, and Samoa – all within about two centuries. Expansion then ceased for several centuries, before resuming from Samoa to Eastern Polynesia about 200 BCE.

The food package of Ancestral Polynesia, adapted from the Lapitan food package, relied on marine and agricultural resources. The congenial natural environment was free of infectious diseases, insect pests, and predating animals. Protein was readily available from fish, shellfish, and seabirds. The Polynesians practiced crop agriculture with shifting cultivation (taro, yams, and sweet potatoes), planted trees (breadfruit, coconuts, and bananas), and raised animals (fowl, pigs, and dogs) for consumption at feasts.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ipomoea_batatas_006.JPG>

*Sweet Potato (Ipomoea batatas), Native to Tropical Regions of America
– Staple Food (Tuberous Source of Calories) in Ancestral Polynesia*

Their political culture was a warrior aristocracy in which chiefs held absolute power over landholding clans (each based on common ancestors). Early Polynesian religion was pragmatic and emphasized the accumulation of power and wealth, not morality, human kindness, or the attainment of an after-life. It stressed *mana* (spiritual power) and *tapu* (sacredness). Shamans intermediated between people and their ancestral spirits (*tupuna*).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Samoa_Familie.JPG>

Family in Rural Samoa – Still Practicing Elements of Shamanism

Colonization. European/American contact in Western Polynesia began in the 19th century. Trade went through cycles – sandalwood (1800-1820), bêche-de-mer (sea slugs, 1820-1850), whaling (1820-1860), and coconut oil (from 1855). Christian missionaries made rapid conversions, and contact introduced diseases (measles, tuberculosis, influenza) that severely reduced populations and led to social dislocation, and arms and alcohol, which exacerbated civil warfare.

Fiji's population fell from 200,000 at contact to 80,000 in 1900, Samoa's from 45,000 to 30,000, and Tonga's from 30,000 to 20,000.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tapa.jpg>>

Tongan Bark Cloth (Ngatu in Tonga, Tapa Elsewhere in Polynesia)

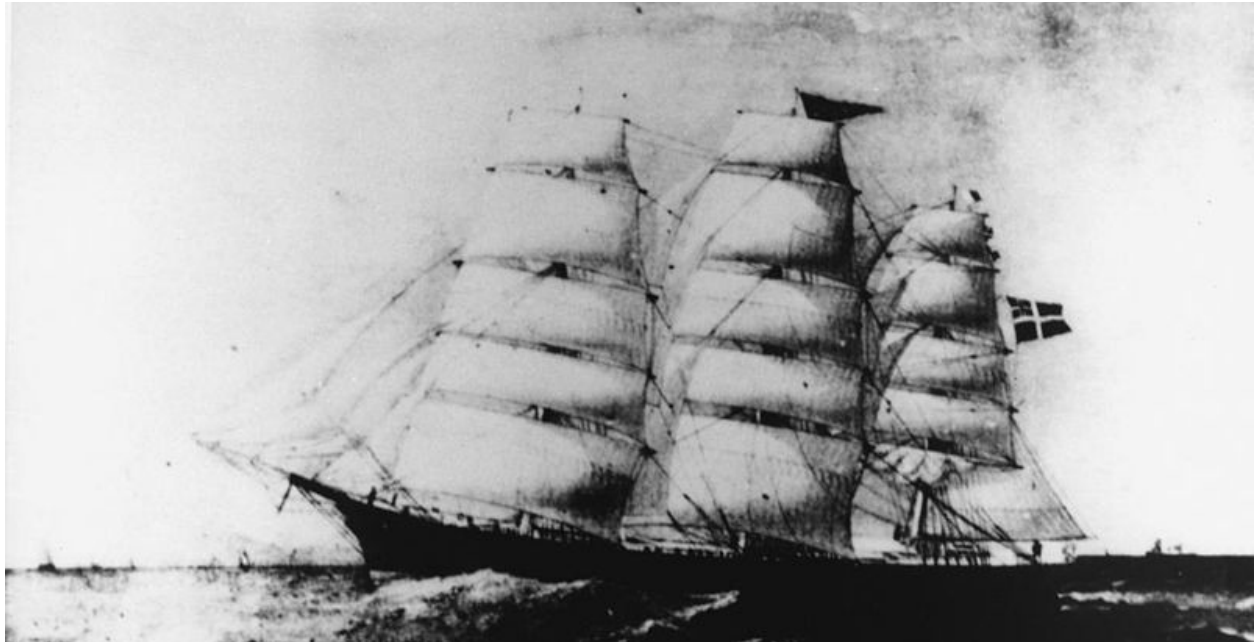
The first European to visit Fiji was Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer, in 1643. In the 19th century, despite endemic civil warfare Fiji had brief export booms in sandalwood and bêche-de-mer. Intrigue intensified with foreign settlement after the 1850s. A self-styled king, Cakobau, sought British help, and Britain colonized Fiji in 1874.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Port_of_Canton.jpg>

Guangzhou (Canton), China, Market for Fijian Sandalwood and Bêche-de-mer – Painting by Sunqua, c. 1830

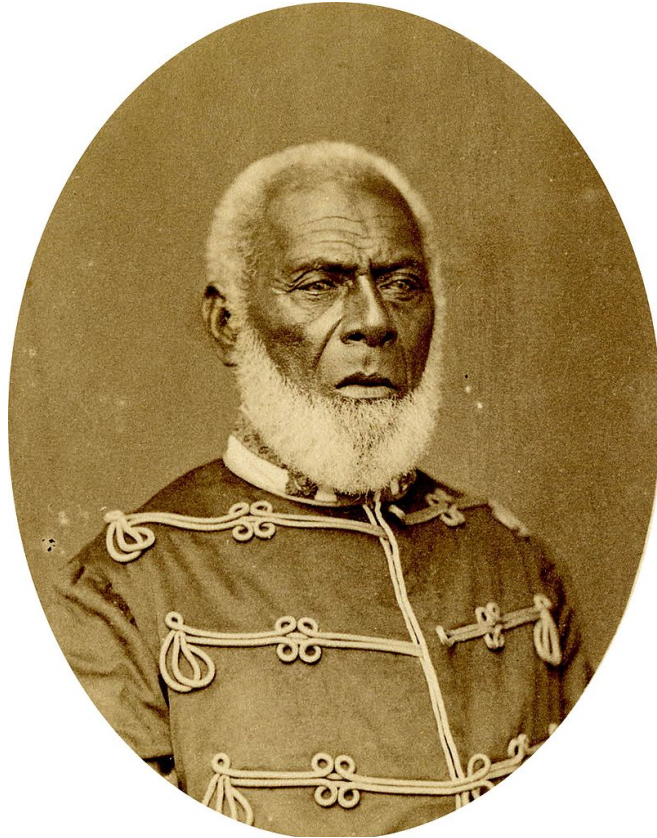
Jacob Roggeveen, a Dutch explorer, was the first non-Polynesian to visit Samoa – in 1722. Samoa suffered civil warfare during much of the 19th century. Godeffroy und Sohn, a highly successful German trading company, set up its Pacific headquarters in Apia in 1856. Germany, Britain, and the US imposed a unified kingdom in 1889, but warfare resumed. In 1899, Germany colonized western Samoa (Savaii and Upolu) and the US claimed eastern Samoa (Tutuila and Manua).



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibOld_1_103302_La_Rochelle_\(ship\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibOld_1_103302_La_Rochelle_(ship).jpg)>

*La Rochelle – Trading Ship of the German Firm, Godeffroy und Sohn,
Headquartered in Hamburg, Germany*

Two early Dutch explorers, Jacob Le Maire and Willem Schouten, visited Tonga in 1616. Following decades of civil war, King Tupou I reunified Tonga in 1845 under an absolute monarchy. Germany and Britain set up coaling stations in Tonga in the late 1870s. In 1900, Britain established a protectorate over Tonga although the kingdom retained its nominal sovereignty.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:George_Tupou_I,_c._1880s.jpg>

King Tupou I of Tonga (1845-1893) – Photographed in the 1880s

Colonial Rule. During the era of colonial rule in Western Polynesia, two significant events affected the entire Pacific region. World War II caused lasting changes, although Polynesia was outside of the zone of combat. The US built huge staging bases in Fiji and Samoa, and New Zealand had military facilities in Tonga. While Melanesia and Micronesia experienced brutal fighting, Polynesia prospered from massive war expenditures. But the Pacific region suffered when it

became the site of 250 post-war tests of nuclear weapons – staged by the US and UK (1946-1963) and France (1966-1996).



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Operation_Dominic_-_Frigate_Bird_nuclear_explosion.jpg>

US Nuclear Test, Frigate Bird, May 1962 – Launched from USS Ethan Allen, Flew 1,100 Miles, Detonated 2.1 Miles Above the South Pacific

British colonial policy in Fiji benefited native Fijians more than migrant Indians. In 1879, British Governor Arthur Gordon supported the importation of indentured laborers from India. Indian labor, Fijian land, and Australian capital combined to produce sugar for the Colonial Refining Company. When the indenture program ended in 1920, 60,000

Indians opted to stay in Fiji, precipitating an on-going conflict between native Fijians and Indian citizens of Fiji.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fiji_Sugar_Locomotive_11_enters_Lautoka_with_full_load.jpg>

*Fiji Sugar Corporation Locomotive Entering Lautoka, Fiji –
With Forty-five Loaded Wagons of Sugar Cane*

Divided Samoa experienced two opposite ruling approaches. Western Samoa, ruled by Germany (1899-1914) and New Zealand (1914-1962), had progressive rule, whereas American Samoa was governed paternalistically by the US Navy (1899-1951). Neither approach led to much development for Samoans.

Between 1900 and 1970, Tonga was a British protectorate and a constitutional monarchy. The Tongan monarch had partial sovereignty. A British consul controlled foreign affairs and had budgetary oversight. Because the Tongan Government banned private ownership of land, there were few foreign settlers. The government also exercised a monopoly over the production and export of copra, the main cash-earning activity.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coconuts_drying_before_being_processed_into_copra,_Polomuhu_village,_Central_Province,_Solomon_Islands_2004._Photo-_Peter_Davis_-_AusAID_\(10687170956\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coconuts_drying_before_being_processed_into_copra,_Polomuhu_village,_Central_Province,_Solomon_Islands_2004._Photo-_Peter_Davis_-_AusAID_(10687170956).jpg)>

Copra (Dried Coconut Meat) – Main Colonial Export from Tonga

Politics. Fiji has been the least stable of the four large political units in Western Polynesia. The interests of native Fijian and Indian citizens conflicted, especially after the Indian population became the majority in Fiji. Since becoming independent from Britain in 1970, Fiji has had three coups d'état. Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara dominated Fijian politics from independence until the first coup in 1987. Sitiveni Rabuka overthrew an Indian-dominated coalition government and became prime minister. Massive Indian emigration put native Fijians back in the majority. George Speight led the second coup in 2000 to overthrow an Indo-Fijian prime minister, elected in 1999. The third coup, led by Frank Bainimarama in 2006, ousted an elected multi-party government. Bainimarama, a controversial and authoritarian leader, has been Prime Minister since 2007.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frank_Bainimarama_November_2014.jpg>*

*Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji (2007–) –
Photographed in 2014*

In contrast, Western Samoa (known as Samoa since 1997) has been a bastion of political stability. In a time of post-war prosperity, New Zealand rushed culturally-homogeneous Samoa to independence in 1962. Malietoa Tanumafili ruled from 1962 until his death in 2007. His Human Rights Protection Party continued to dominate the unicameral parliament (Fono) of 49 members. Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Eft served as Head of State from 2007 until 2017. Tuimalealifano Va'aletoa Sualauvi II has held that position since 2017.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hon._Fiam%C4%93_Naomi_Mata%27afa_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hon._Fiam%C4%93_Naomi_Mata%27afa_(cropped).jpg)>

*Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa (May 2021 –)
Photographed in 2021*

American Samoa is a stable, unincorporated territory of the US. It gained a territorial legislature in 1960 and elected its first governor in 1975. The people of American Samoa have little desire for independence, because they have open access to residency in the US (a majority live there), receive budgetary subsidies, and benefit from American social services.

Tonga became independent in 1970 as a monarchy in the British Commonwealth. King Tupou IV (ruled 1965-2006) and the royal family

and nobles dominated parliament. Following the accession of King Siaosi Tupou V in 2006, protesters demanded greater rights and riots destroyed Nuku'alofa, the capital. After the king's death from leukemia in 2012, 'Aho'eitu Tupou VI, his brother, succeeded him as King of Tonga.

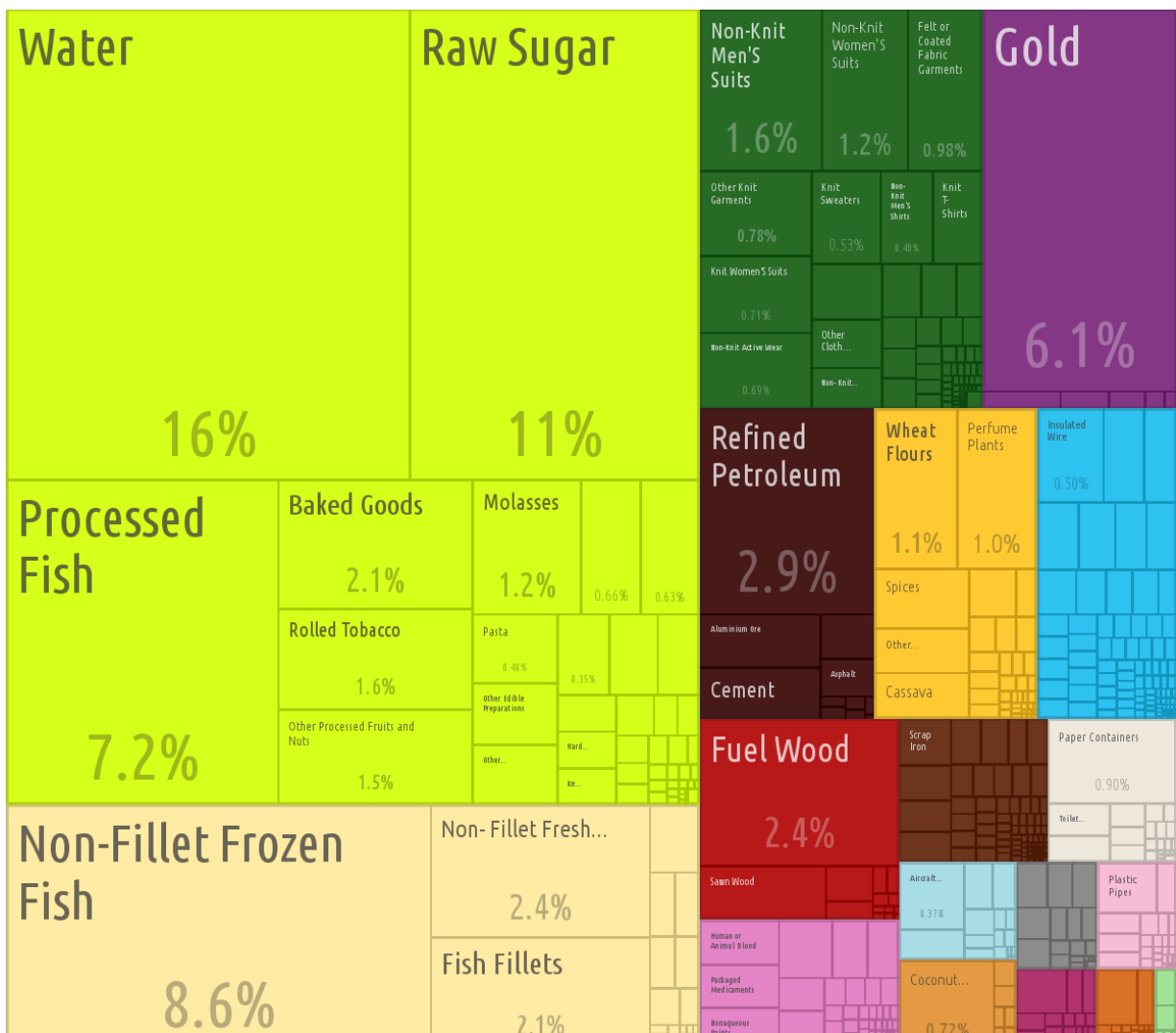


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dinner_for_His_Majesty_King_Tupou_VI_of_the_Kingdom_of_Tonga_and_Her_Majesty_Queen_Nanasipau%E2%80%99u_04.jpg>

Aho'eitu Tupou VI, King of Tonga (2012 –) – Photographed in 2019

Economy. In 2019, each of the 890,000 residents of Fiji earned an average income (adjusted for purchasing power) of \$14,290 – 22 percent of the US level. Fiji's quality-of-life indicators were better – average

longevity was 70 years, and the literacy rate was 99 percent. Fiji ranked 93rd of 189 countries in the United Nation's Human Development Index and 102nd of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fiji_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg

Proportional Representation of Fiji's Export Earnings in 2017 – Fish, Sugar, Processed Water, Garments, and Gold Dominate

Fiji's economy is based principally on earnings from tourism (\$1.4 billion in 2019), fish, sugar, and garment exports (\$2.7 billion total exports in 2019, and agriculture for local consumption. Secondary contributors are remittances from Fijians living abroad (\$287 million in 2019), foreign development assistance (\$111 million in 2019), and export earnings from mineral water and gold. In 2005, Fiji lost its sugar preferences in the European Union and its textile quotas under the multi-national Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. Political instability arising from the Fijian/Indian conflict hampers investment (only \$323 million in 2019).

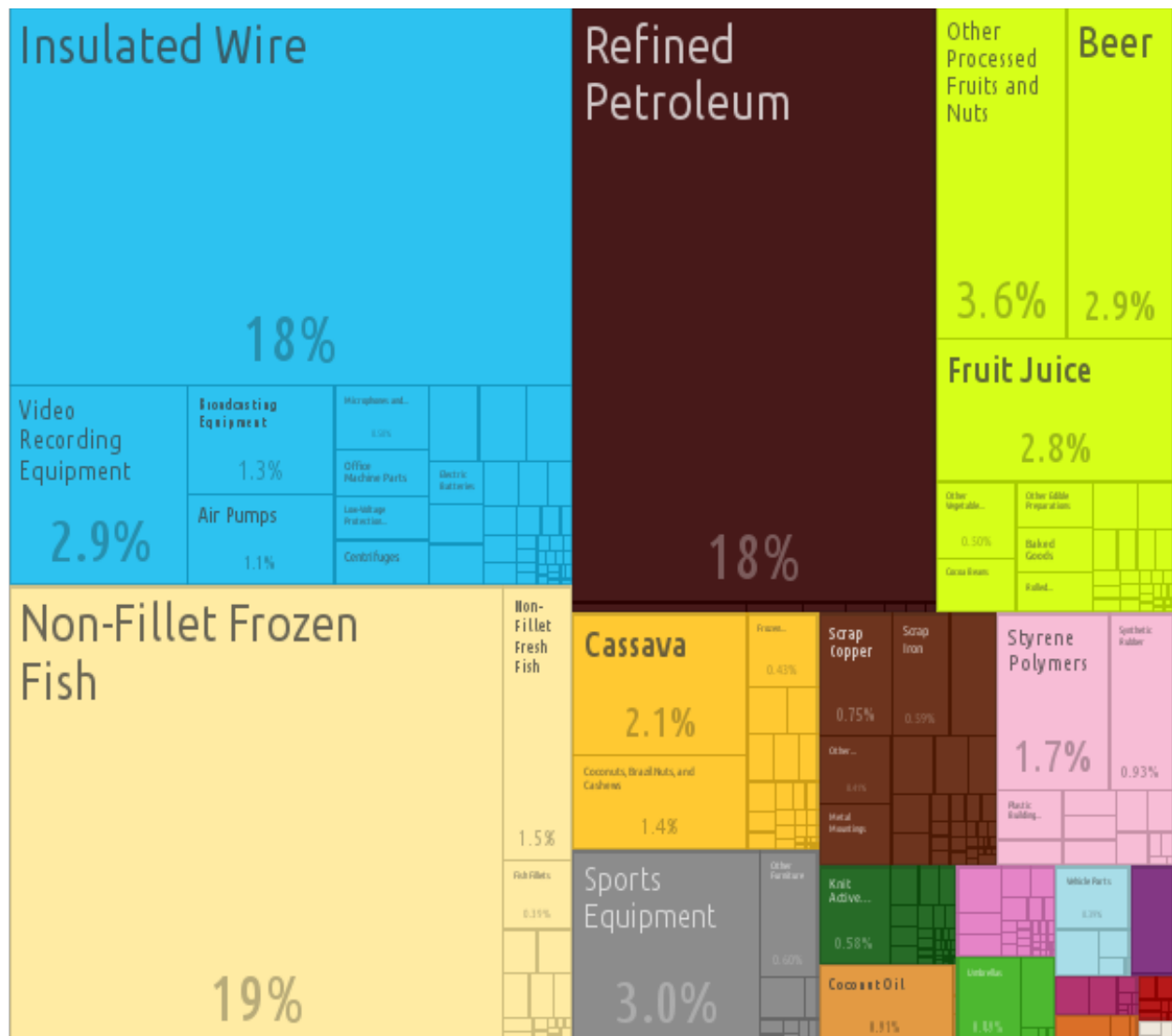


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fiji_map.png>

Contemporary Fiji

In 2019, Samoa's 197,000 people earned \$6,796 each, lived on average for 73 years, and had an official literacy rate of 99 percent.

Samoa ranked 111th of 189 countries in the United Nation's Human Development Index and 98th of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. The Samoan economy depended on remittances from expatriated Samoans (\$147 million in 2019), tourist earnings (\$191 million in 2019), fish exports (total exports of \$316 million in 2019), and foreign aid (\$115 million in 2019). Samoa also earns foreign exchange by selling automotive components to Australia (on a concessionary basis) and exporting fish, fruit, and copra.

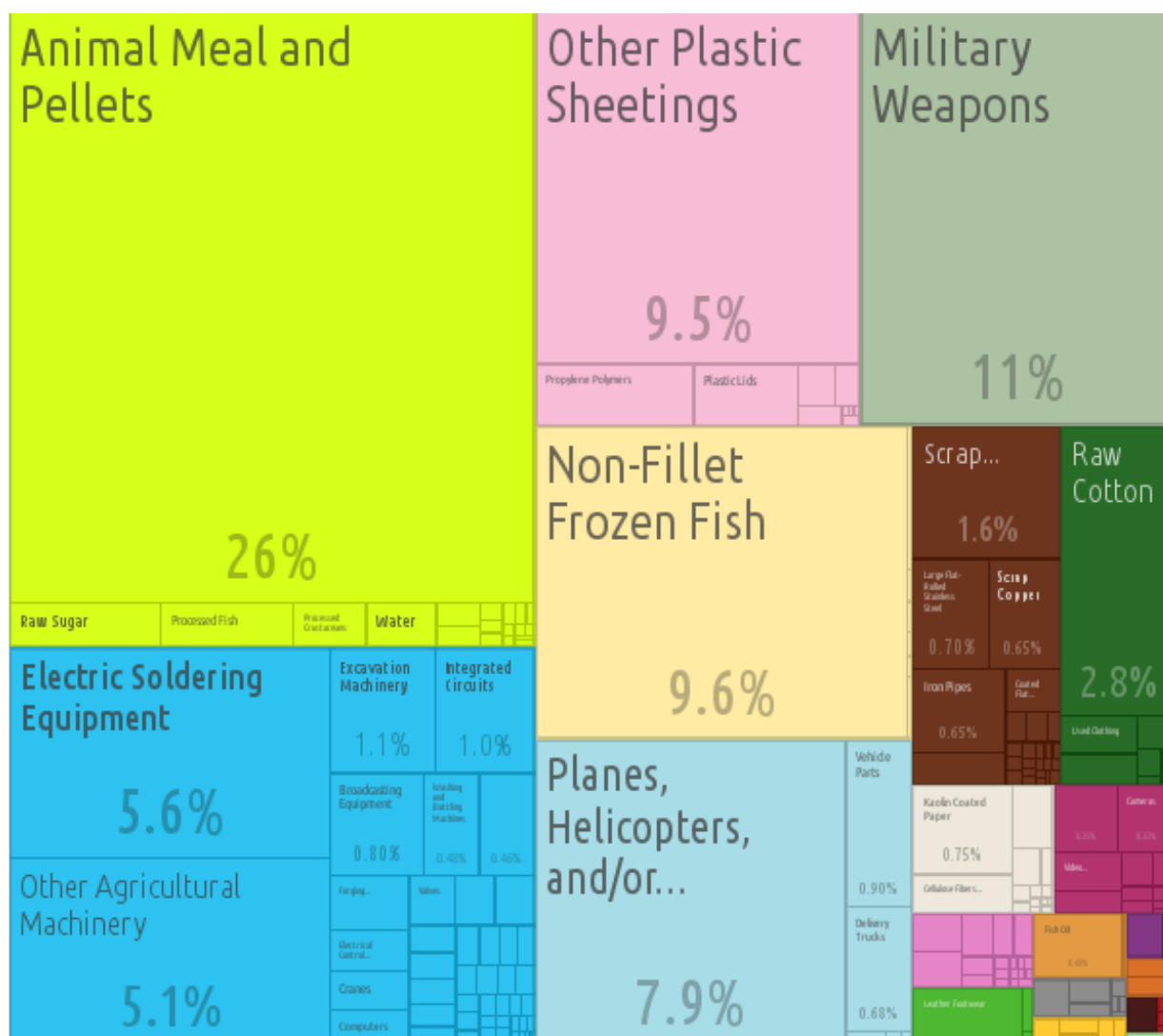


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Samoa_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg

Proportional Representation of Samoa's Export Earnings in 2017 – Insulated Wire, Fish, Refined Petroleum, and Fruits and Nuts Dominate

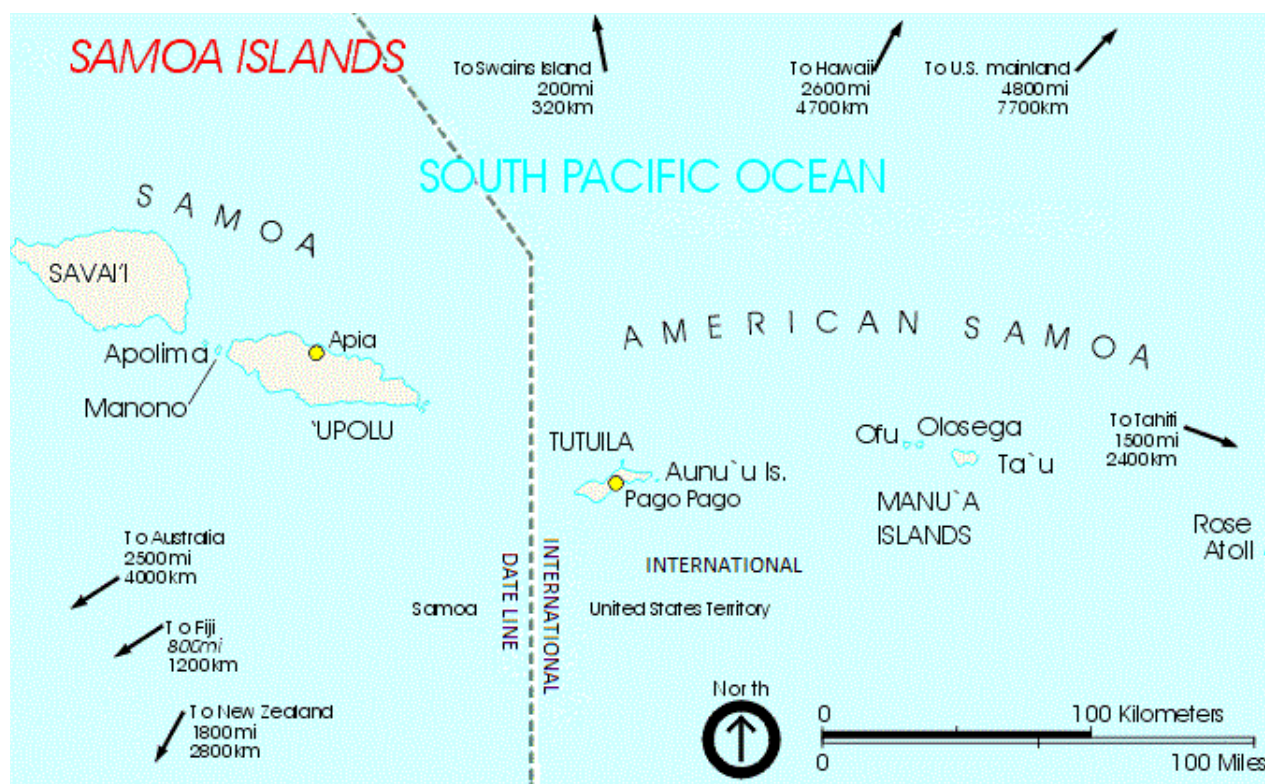
The 55,000 American Samoans earned average incomes of \$11,467 (2018), had an average life expectancy of 76 years, and had an adult literacy rate of 99 percent. The economy of American Samoa is

dependent on remittances from Samoans living in the United States, aid and subsidies from the American government, and exports of fish meal and canned tuna. The territory also benefits from tourist earnings (total exports of \$70 million in 2018).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:American_Samoa_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg

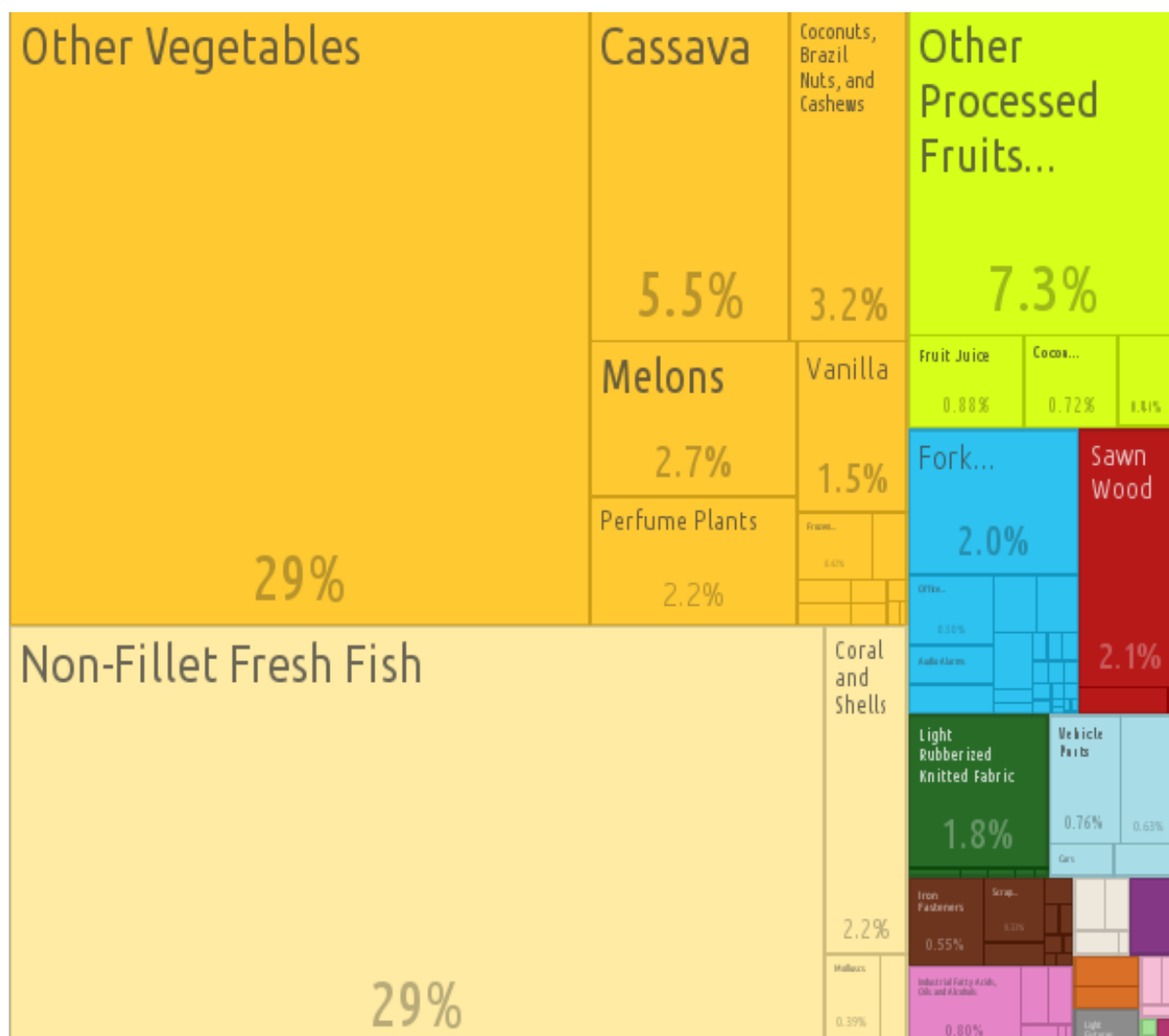
Proportional Representation of American Samoa's Export Earnings in 2017 – Animal Meal, Weapons, Fish, and Plastic Sheetings Dominate



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Samoa_islands_2002.gif

Contemporary Samoa and American Samoa

In 2019, Tonga's 104,000 residents on average lived for 71 years, 99 percent were literate, and they each earned \$6,666 per year (10 percent of the US level). In that year, Tonga ranked 104th of 189 countries in the United Nation's Human Development Index and 103rd of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index.

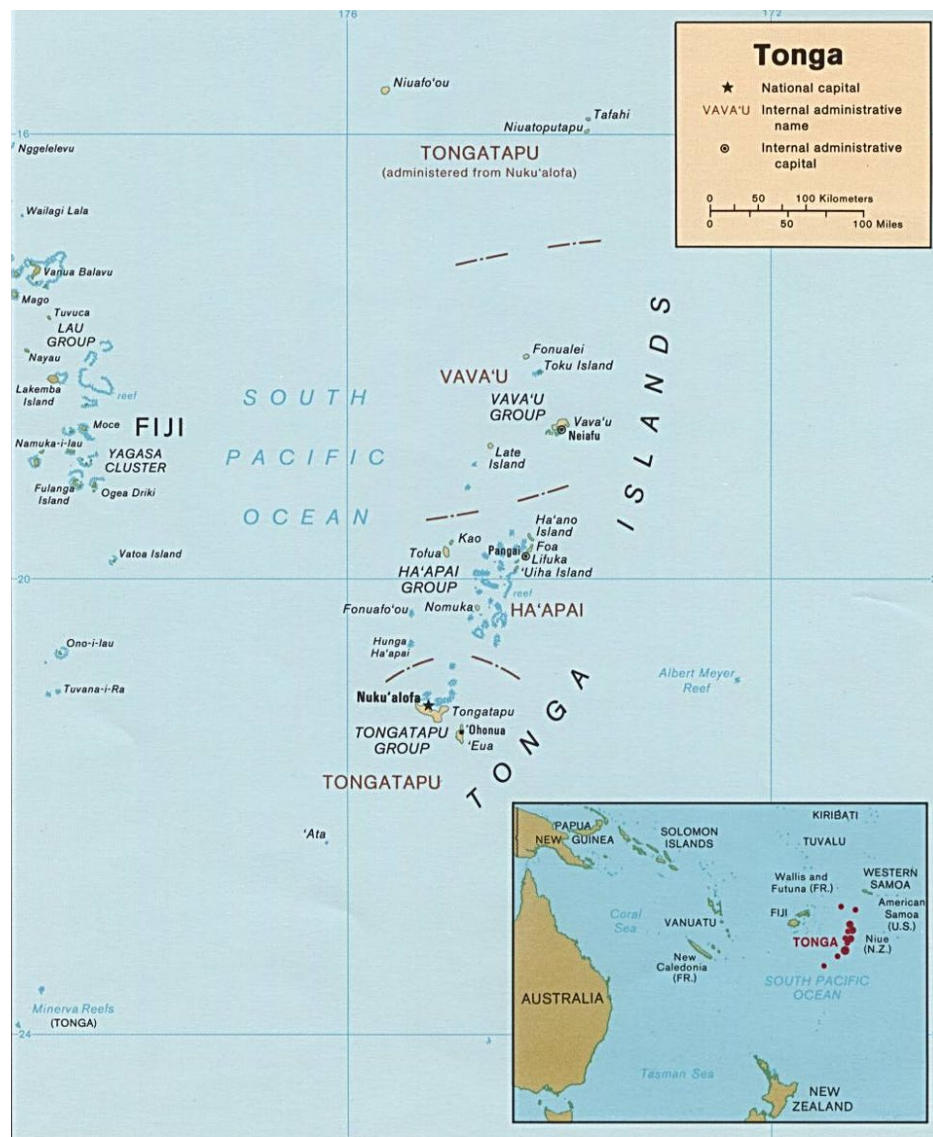


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tonga_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg>

Proportional Representation of Tonga's Export Earnings in 2017 – Vegetables (Squash), Fish, Processed Fruits, and Cassava Dominate

The Tongan economy is dependent on emigrant remittances (\$215 million in 2019) and foreign aid (\$87 million in 2019). Tonga is heavily reliant on funds sent home by 200,000 Tongans living abroad. The main

exports of Tonga are squash (sold to Japan) and fish. The archipelago also benefits from tourism (\$48 million in 2019) and earnings from exports of cassava, vanilla, and copra (total exports were \$108 million in 2019). Political unrest has hurt tourism and reduced investment.

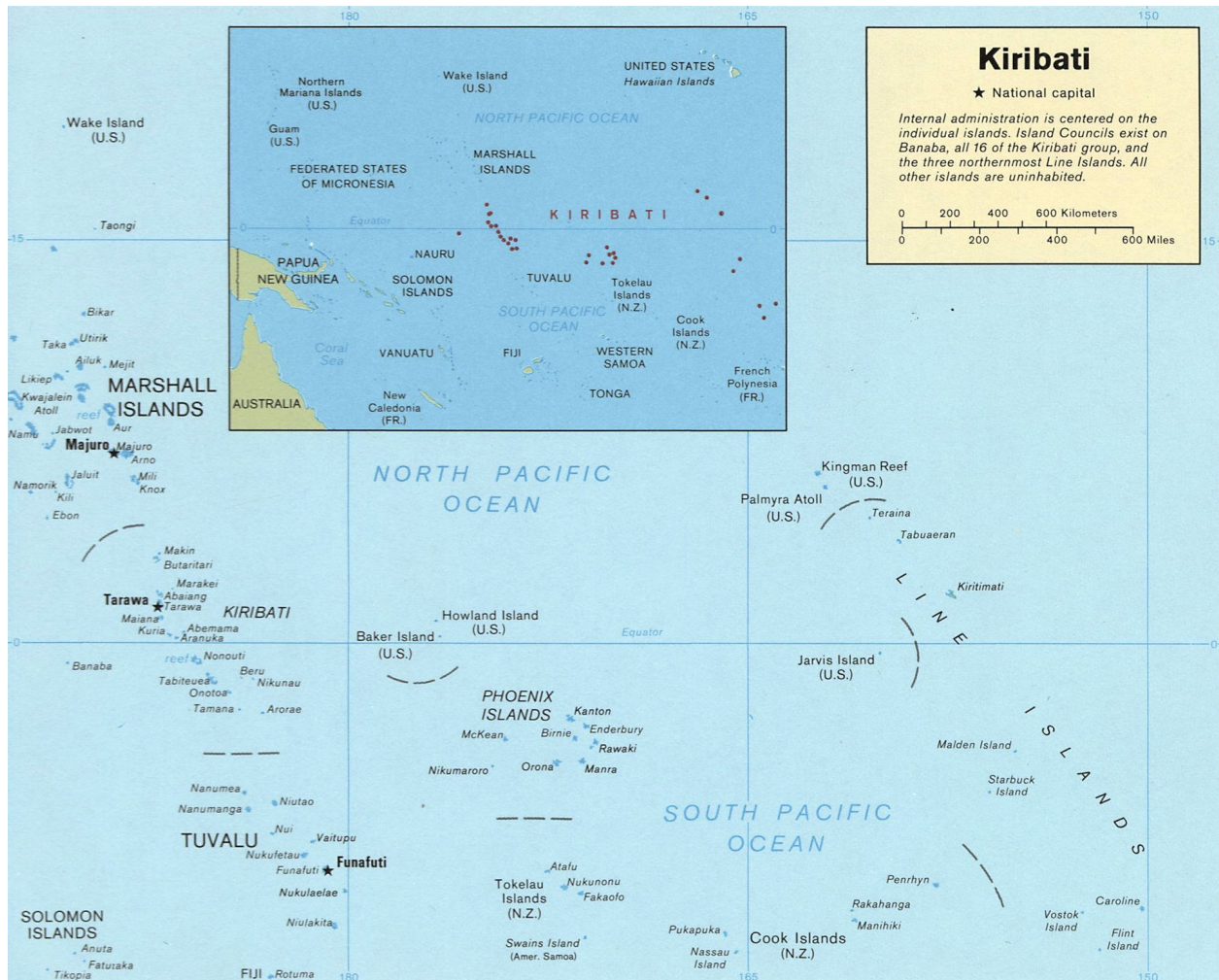


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tonga.jpg>>

Contemporary Tonga

Kiribati

Geography and Settlement. The Republic of Kiribati lies in the central-eastern Pacific Ocean, astride the equator and on both sides of the international dateline. It contains only 300 square miles of land, on 34 islands scattered within more than 1 million square miles of ocean. Kiribati comprises three archipelagos – the Gilbert Islands (17 islands), the Phoenix Islands (8), and the Line Islands (8) – plus one individual island, Banaba. Banaba is a raised, limestone island, and the other 33 islands are flat, coral atolls.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kiribati_map_LOC.jpg

Contemporary Kiribati – 118,000 People, 34 Islands, 300 Square Miles

The independent island country has 118,000 inhabitants. Over 90 percent of the people live in the Gilberts, and more than one-third are in the capital on Tarawa. The remaining 9,000 reside in the Line Islands, which form a north-to-south line, running south of Hawaii to French Polynesia. The Phoenix archipelago is uninhabited (after a settlement

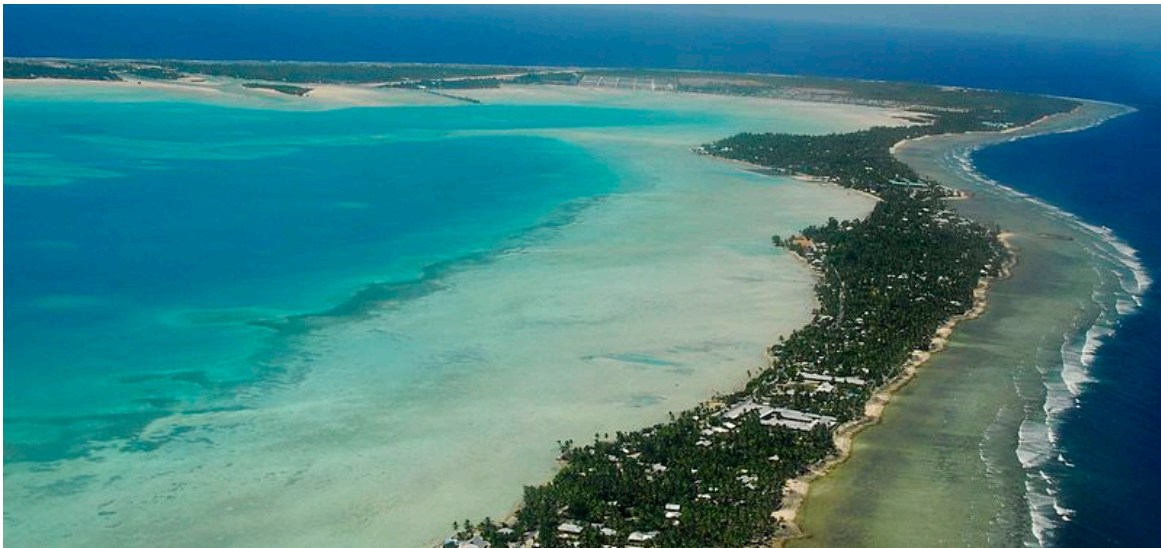
scheme failed). The Line Islands consist of eight isolated, scattered, small coral atolls. Kiritimati (Christmas) Island is the world's largest atoll with 150 square miles of land, but it consists mostly of barren sand flats that nowhere exceed an elevation of 10 feet above sea level.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kiritimati-EO.jpg>>

Kiritimati (Christmas) Island – Aerial Photo, NASA Space Shuttle

The Line Islands offer few agricultural resources for settlers, because they lack reliable water supplies and good soil. Nevertheless, ancient Polynesians once inhabited four of those islands, although all had been abandoned by the 17th century. Archaeological remains of houses, temples (*marae*), graves, and fishhooks exist on Malden and Tabuaeran (Fanning), linking them to settlement from Penrhyn in the northern Cooks. Little diagnostic evidence remains on Teraina (Washington) and Kiritimati. The Gilberts, in eastern Micronesia, were settled permanently from eastern Melanesia (the Solomons and Vanuatu) more than 3,000 years ago.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:South_Tarawa_from_the_air.jpg>

Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands, Kiribati

British Colonization. Europeans first discovered the Line Islands in the late 18th century. On his third voyage to the Pacific, Captain James Cook, aboard the *Resolution*, discovered Kiritimati (Christmas) Island on Christmas day, 1777. He dispatched his navigator, William Bligh, to seek turtles, and a week later Cook's crew departed with 300 90-pound turtles.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chelonia_mydas_is_going_for_the_air_edit.jpg>

Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) – A Likely Turtle Species Taken by William Bligh off Christmas Island on Cook's Third Circumnavigation

In 1798, an American whaler, Edmund Fanning, on the *Betsy*, discovered Tabuaeran (Fanning) and Teraina (Washington) Islands and named one for himself and the other for the ex-president of the United States. Following exposure to European diseases, the population of Micronesia fell drastically in the 19th century – by at least 50 percent. The first impact came through American and British whalers who operated in the southern Gilberts during the 1840s and 1850s. An even worse devastation occurred between 1860 and 1900. “Blackbirding,” the illegal recruitment of labor that resembled slave-raiding, was then rampant in the Pacific. Thousands of I-Kiribati workers were recruited to work on plantations in Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii, the Line Islands, Australia, and South America. Those who stayed home worked as coconut harvesters on family farms.

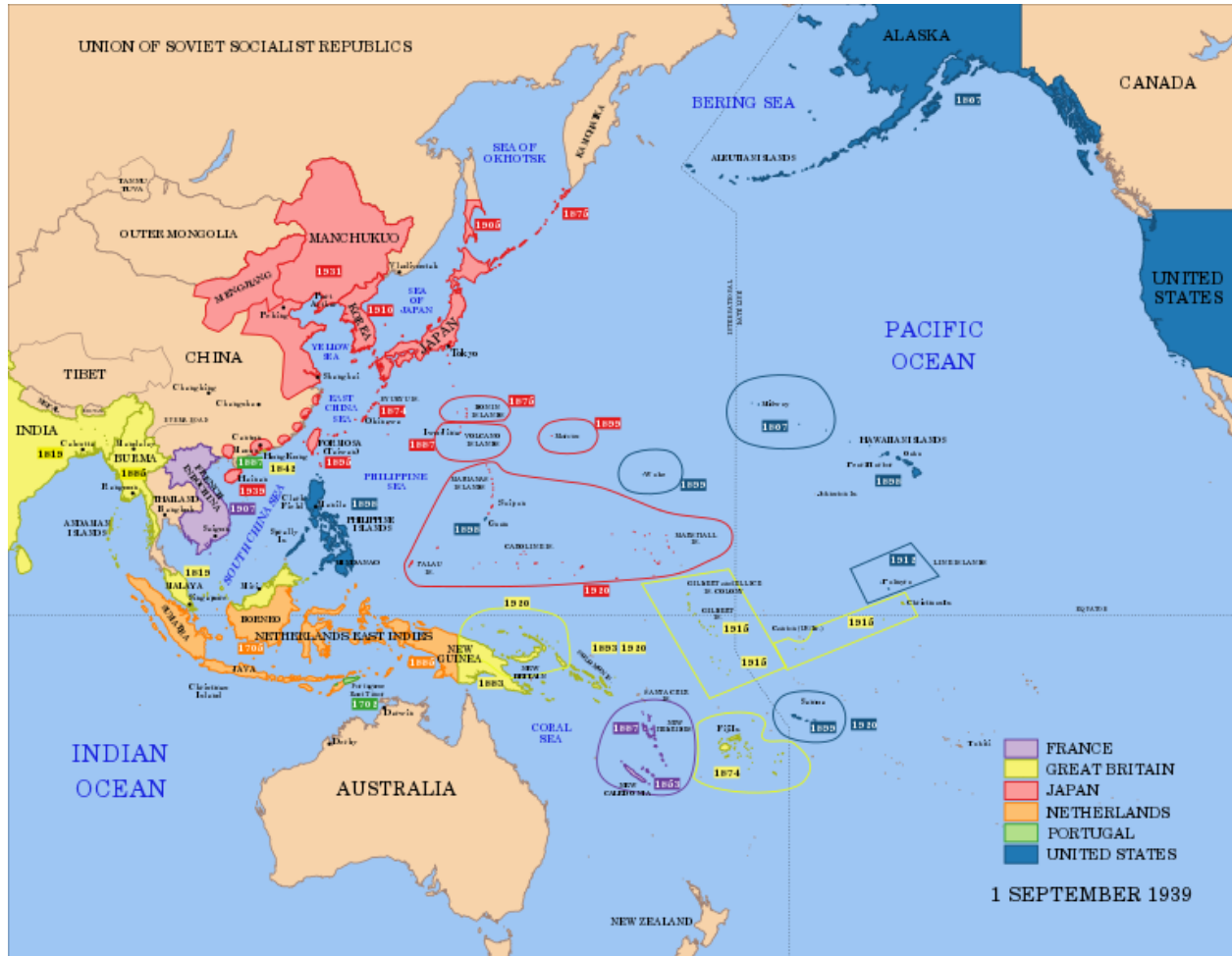


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibOld_1_258229_Workers_planting_sugar_cane_in_the_Townsville_district,_ca._1900.jpg>

*Blackbirded Laborers, Planting Sugar Cane –
Townsville District, Queensland, Australia, c. 1900*

Great Britain was a reluctant Pacific imperialist in the late 19th century, prodded by expansionists in Australia and New Zealand, entrepreneurial traders, and imperialist competitors. In 1886, Britain and Germany signed a convention that divided Micronesia into spheres of interest, and Britain established the Gilbert and Ellice Protectorate in 1892. Britain annexed the islands as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in 1916 and expanded the colony by adding Ocean Island (in

1916), the Line Islands (Fanning and Washington in 1916 and Christmas in 1919), and the Phoenix Islands (in 1937).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pacific_Area_-_The_Imperial_Powers_1939_-_Map.svg>

The British Empire (Yellow Areas) in the Pacific Region, 1939 – The Gilbert, Ellice, Phoenix, and Line Islands Lie Northeast of Australia

British Rule. Great Britain's rule of its Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony was benign. Little conflict occurred, in part because there were

few European settlers or residents in the colony. Only copra traders, missionaries, and phosphate miners were attracted to this unpromising economic environment. Beyond keeping the peace, most British officials saw as their main responsibilities the regularization of labor recruitment and the facilitation of copra exports. They faced little opposition to their rule. The sparsely populated atolls offered limited economic opportunities. The primary activity was a native-style copra economy in which families harvested coconuts on their small farms, which were exported as copra to be converted into soap or oil in Europe.

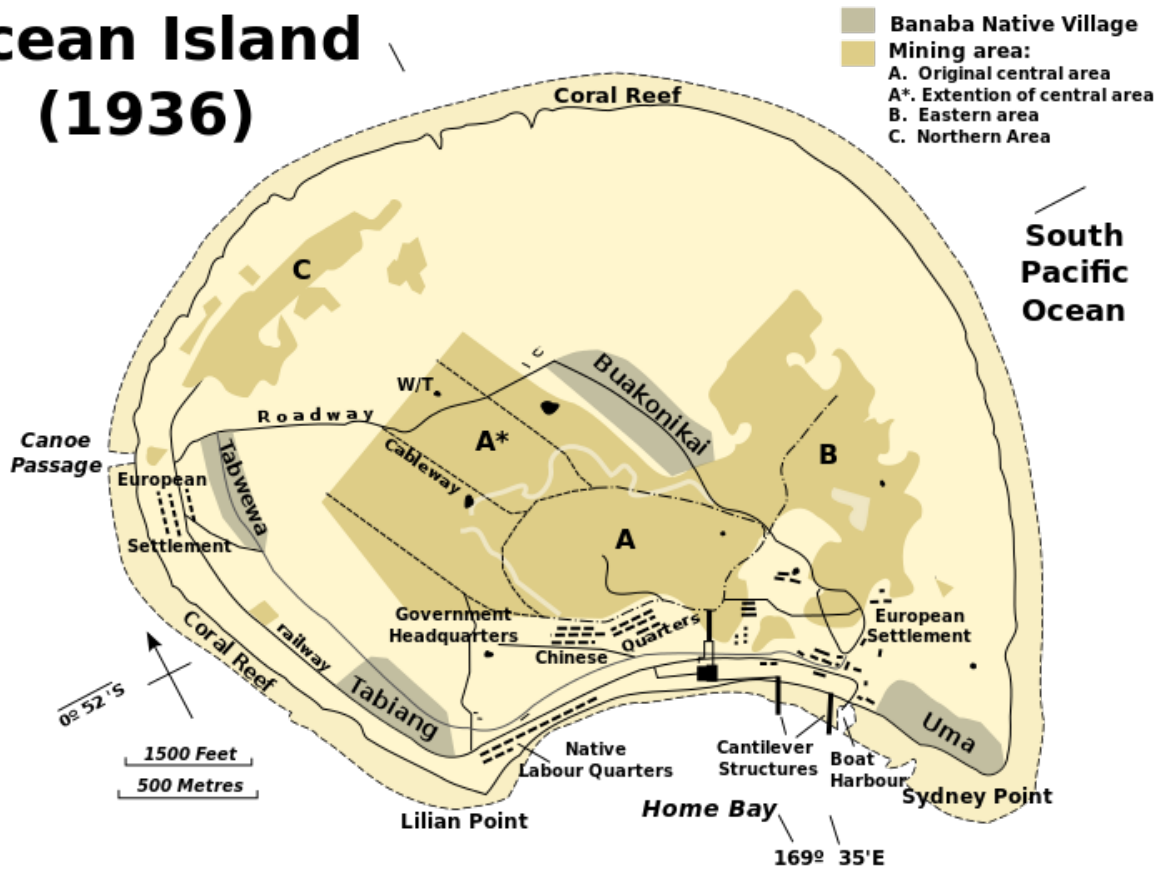


*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fanning_native_outrigger.jpg>*

*Remnant Coconut Plantation, Tabuaeran (Fanning) Island –
Pictured in 1968*

Some Westerners established coconut plantations. The Rougier family from France owned much of Christmas and all of Fanning and Washington Islands and set up coconut plantations between the two world wars. Burns Philp, an Australian trading and planting firm, controlled most exports of copra from the colony and in 1936 bought Fanning and Washington from the Rougiers. The colony's leading export was phosphate, mined on Ocean (Banaba) Island from 1900 to 1979. The rich lode of calcium phosphate ore produced 100,000 tons of phosphate exports annually and provided jobs for 1,000 local workers.

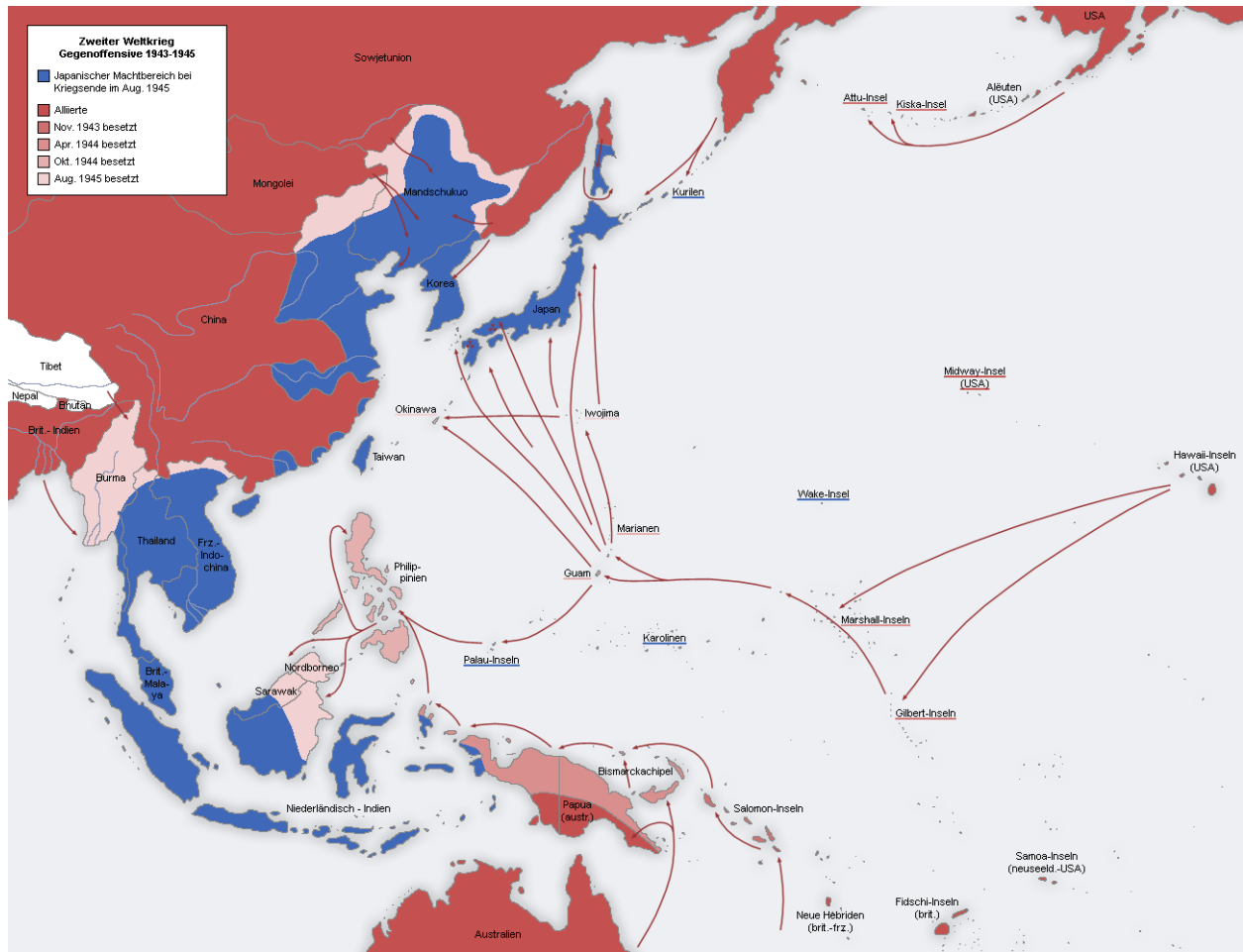
Ocean Island (1936)



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_Banaba_Island_1936-en.svg

Phosphate Mining on Banaba (Ocean) Island, 1936

The Second World War brought enormous change to Kiribati. Japan took Ocean Island and Tarawa in 1942, and the Allies regained Tarawa in November 1943 after a vicious battle that cost the lives of 4,700 Japanese and 3,300 Allied troops. The United States constructed a series of air transport stations in the Pacific, including major ones on Christmas Island (in the Line group) and Canton Island (Phoenix group).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Second_world_war_asia_1943-1945_map_de.png>

Allied Counter-offensive Against Japan, 1943-1945 – Began with the Battle of Tarawa (Gilbert Islands) in November 1943

Independence. After the Second World War ended, the transition from colonialism to independence was gradual. At first, neither side wanted to change the colonial relationship. Britain decided to hold on to its South Pacific dependencies, and most I-Kiribati people felt they had benefited from British rule, which had guaranteed security of property

and impartiality in settling disputes. Political pressures for change thus were slow in evolving.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maneaba_in_South_Tarawa,_Kiribati.jpg>

Thatched Maneaba (Meeting House), South Tarawa, Kiribati

In 1965, Reuben Uatioa, the first prominent politician in the Gilbert and Ellice colony, formed the Gilbertese National Party. His platform was to push for greater local representation and to promote the interests of the less-well-educated Gilbertese, who hoped to displace the better-educated Elliceans in the best government and mining jobs.

Britain responded in 1967 by creating an elected House of Representatives, with 18 members from the Gilberts and 5 from the Ellice Islands.

By the 1970s, the British wanted to end their colonial links and thus pushed hard for a quick transition to full independence. This push precipitated a split between the 48,000 Gilbertese, who are Micronesian, and the 8,000 Elliceans, who are Polynesian. The Elliceans, who dominated the top positions in the civil service and mining, feared for their future under democracy. In 1975, they voted overwhelmingly (92 percent) to separate, and in 1978 the Ellice Islands became the independent country of Tuvalu.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Children_of_Niutao_Island.JPG>

Polynesians in Niutao Island, Tuvalu – Independence in 1978

The Gilbertese negotiated with Britain for economic assistance and received \$24 million for the first three years of independence. They also convinced the British to override the wishes of the Banabans to take their island into Fiji. The Republic of Kiribati then was proclaimed in 1979, encompassing the Gilbert, Phoenix, and Line Islands and Banaba.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kiribati_House_of_Assembly.jpg

*First Maneaba ni Maungatabu (House of Assembly) –
The Legislature of Kiribati (1979-2000), Bairiki, South Tarawa, Kiribati*

Politics. The years, 1978-1991, are called “The Tabai Years” in Kiribati politics. Prior to independence, in 1978, Ieremia Tabai was elected to be chief executive at age 29. With independence in 1979,

Tabai became the country's first *Beretitenti* (President), and he held that office for twelve years. Tabai was a Protestant (in a country that is half Catholic) from a remote southern island. He owed his wide popularity to his political skills, good education, and modest lifestyle.



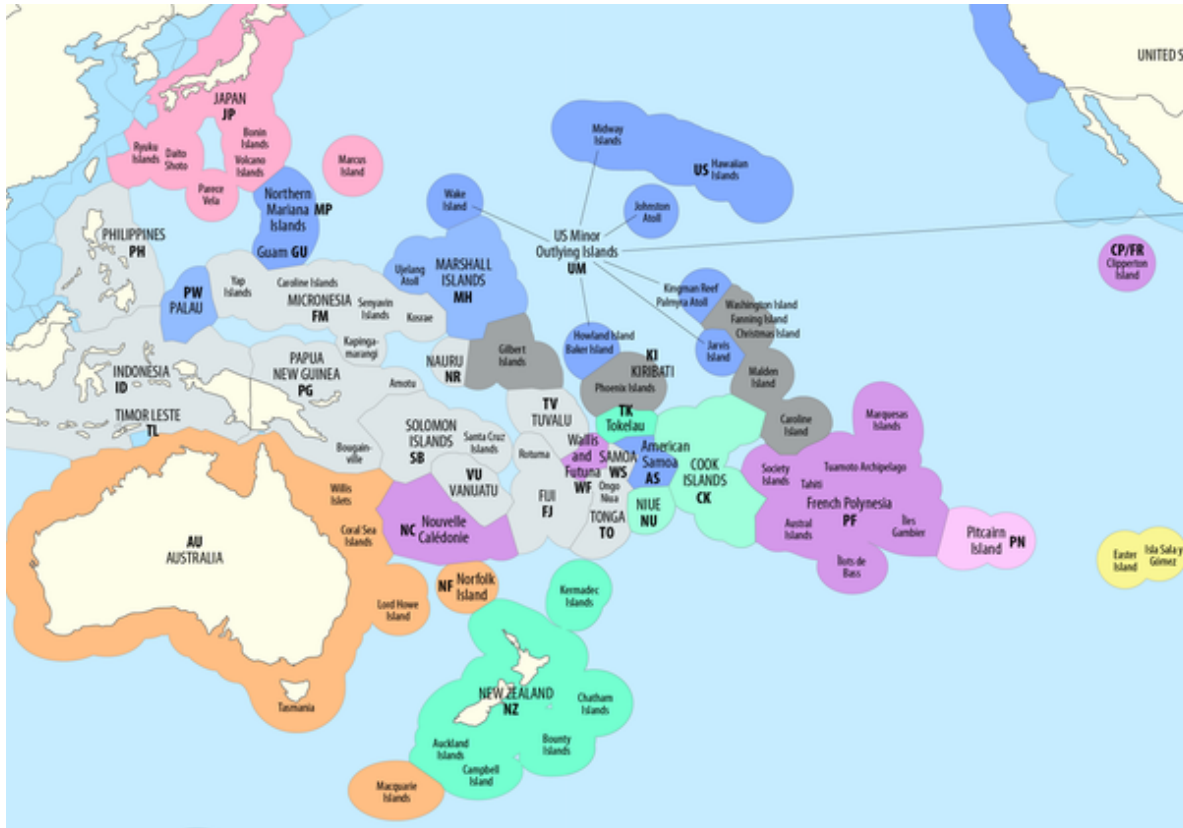
Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coat_of_arms_of_Kiribati.svg>

*Coat of Arms of Kiribati – Ieremia Tabai Was Kiribati's
Controversial First Beretitenti (President), 1978-1991*

Tabai presided over a stable government that practiced budgetary restraint. He met several challenges. In 1979, his government negotiated a critical Treaty of Friendship with the United States in which the US acknowledged Kiribati sovereignty over several islands that

America had formerly claimed in return for Kiribati promising to consult the US before permitting third country military bases. In 1980, when government workers went on strike, Tabai negotiated their peaceful return to work. In 1987, he overcame strong political opposition to earn a third term as *Beretitenti*.

Tabai's biggest political crisis came in 1985-1986. He negotiated a controversial one-year fishing agreement with the Soviet Union in the face of furious opposition from Catholics at home and from the US, Australia, and New Zealand abroad. In return for a fee of \$1.5 million, the Soviet fishing company, Sovrybflot, was permitted to fish for tuna with 16 trawlers in Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million square miles. The deal quickly led to a doubling of foreign aid to Kiribati from the US, Australia, and New Zealand.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Territorial_Waters_of_the_Pacific_Ocean.png

Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in the Pacific Region – Kiribati's EEZ is the Charcoal-colored Areas

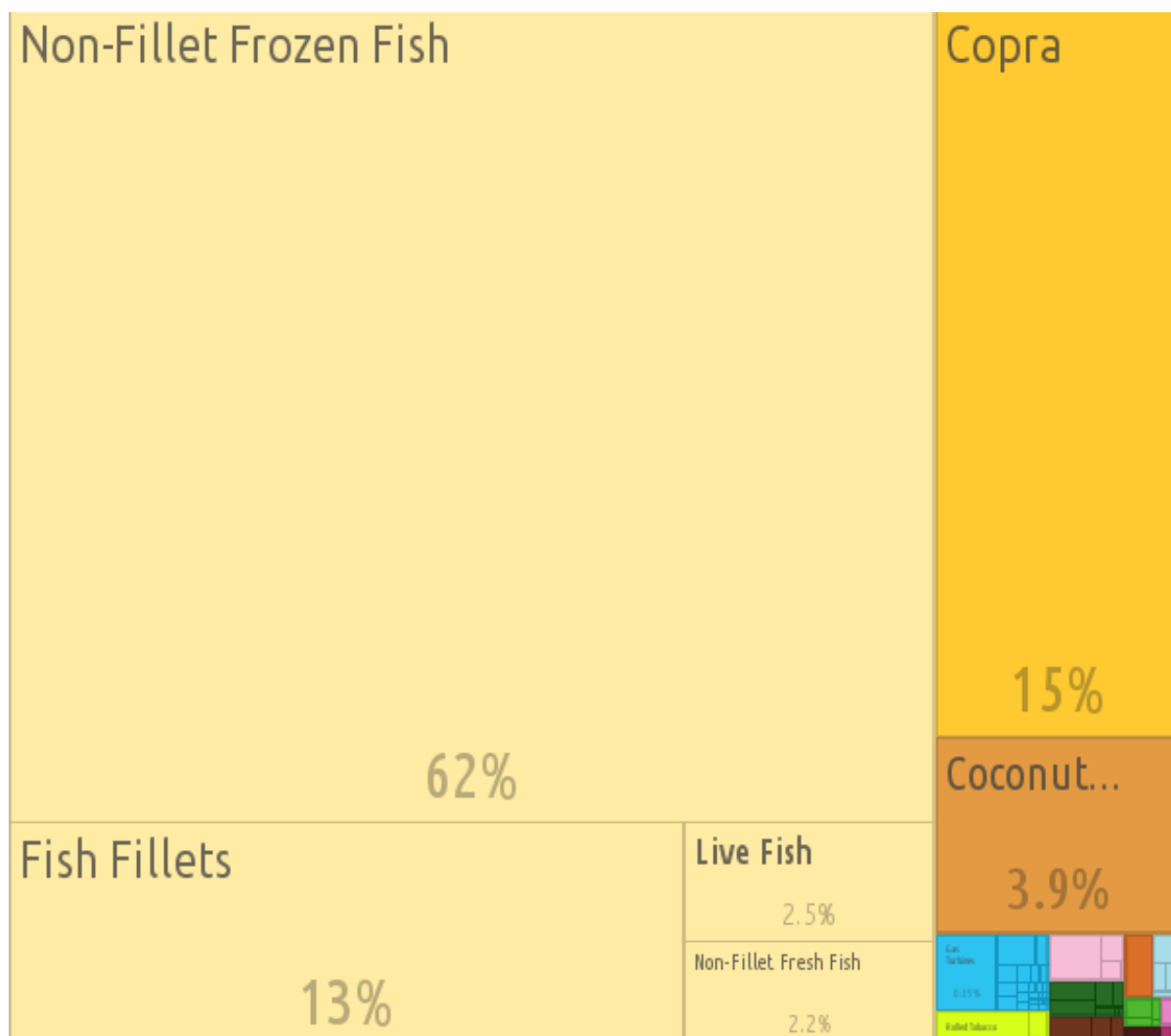
In 1991, when Tabai could not run, his Vice-president, Teatao Teannaki, was elected *Beretitenti*. Anote Tong (47 percent) was elected *Beretitenti* in July 2003 and served until March 2016. Taneti Maamau has served as the leader of Kiribati since then, winning re-election in 2020 with 50 percent of the vote.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Taneti_Maamau_\(27139288541\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Taneti_Maamau_(27139288541).jpg)>

Taneti Maamau, Beretitenti (President) of Kiribati (2016 –)

Economy. Kiribati is a very poor country. Kiribati's 118,000 residents on average live for 69 years, and in 2019 they each earned only \$2,373 per year (just 4 percent of the US level). The country is the poorest in Oceania. Kiribati ranked 134th of 189 countries in the United Nation's Human Development Index and a disappointing 164th of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. About four-fifths of Kiribati's population engage in small-scale fishing and farming (giant taro (*babai*), breadfruit, and coconuts), and their only significant cash crops are fish and copra for export.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kiribati_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg

*Proportional Representation of Kiribati's Export Earnings in 2017 –
 Frozen, Filleted and Fresh Fish, Copra, and Coconuts Dominate*

Kiribati runs an annual trade deficit that it covers in a variety of ways. The government earns interest income from its Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund (RERF) of \$150 million, which it amassed in

the 1960s and 1970s from phosphate revenues before the Banaba mine closed in 1979. It earns about \$4 million by selling licenses to foreign firms (from Japan, Korea, and the US) to fish (mostly for skipjack and yellowfin tuna) in the country's vast Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million square miles.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kiribati_Ship.jpg>

*Fishing Boat, Abaiang (Charlotte) Island –
Coral Atoll in the Northern Gilbert Islands, Kiribati*

Kiribati also received foreign aid of \$74 million (in 2019), mostly from Great Britain and Japan, for infrastructure and budget support.

Additional foreign exchange is earned through worker remittances of \$2

million from I-Kiribati employed on foreign merchant ships (seamen are trained regularly at Kiribati's Marine Training Centre).

Tourism earned \$4 million in 2019, especially on Kiritimati Island, which features sport fishing (for bonefish and marlin) and seabird watching. To take advantage of opportunities in the Line Islands, in 1983 the government purchased Tabuaeran and Teraina from Burns Philp for \$1 million. Between 1988 and 1990, with the help of aid from New Zealand 1,200 settlers were moved from the Gilberts to those two Line Islands to farm coconuts and breadfruit and to fish. That scheme increased the population of the three inhabited Line Islands by a third in 1990.

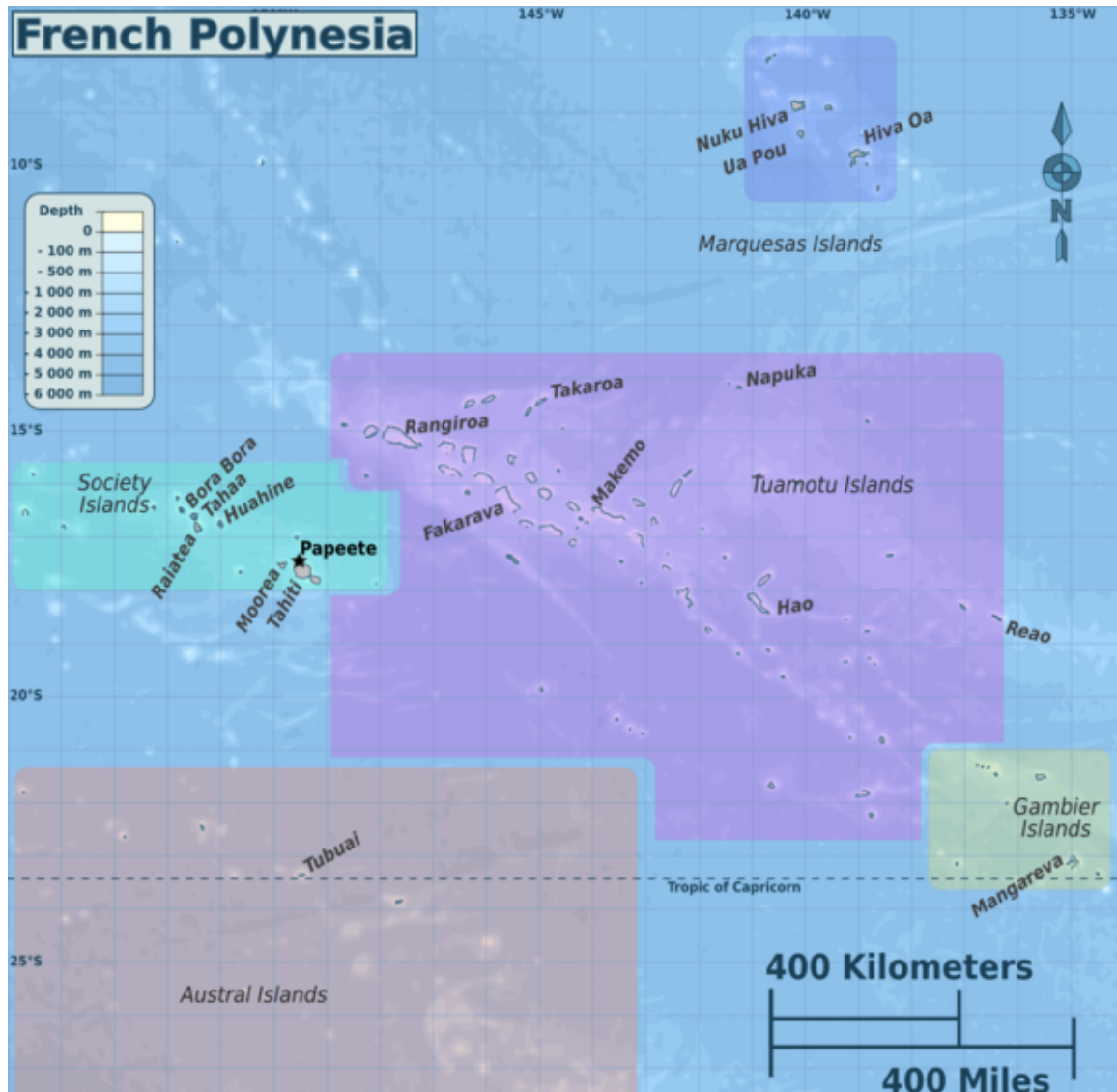


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Kiribati_CIA_WFB.png>

Contemporary Kiribati – The Gilbert, Phoenix, and Line Islands, and Banaba Island

French Polynesia

Geography and Culture. At the time of first European contact (1767), the islands that later became French Polynesia had been settled by Polynesians for perhaps two millennia. Those islands, scattered within two million square miles of the southeast Pacific Ocean, include five archipelagos – the Society, Marquesas, Tuamotu, Gambier, and Austral Islands. The islands range from craggy, high volcanic islands to flat atolls.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Polynesia_regions_map.png

*Contemporary French Polynesia –
 The Society (Aqua), Marquesas (Purple), Tuamotu (Lavender), Gambier
 (Light Green), and Austral (Gray) Islands*

The Society Islands historically have been the most important of those archipelagos because they have had high population densities, evolved complex cultures, and generated significant wealth. The

Society Islands comprise eight volcanic islands and three atolls, divided along a 300-mile axis into the five windward islands in the east (Tahiti, Moorea, and three smaller islands) and the six leeward islands in the west (Raiatea, Borabora, and four smaller islands). A good estimate of the population of the Society Islands in 1767 is 50,000, including 35,000 in Tahiti (which has nearly two-thirds of the total land area). Despite the concentration of people and wealth on windward Tahiti, the political and religious center was in leeward Raiatea, which had the most sacred temple (*marae*), Taputapuatea. But Borabora warriors then ruled Raiatea, basing their rule on the new primary god, Oro.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marae,_Raiatea_2.jpg>

*Two-tiered Platform, Marae Taputapuatea–
Raiatea, Leeward Islands, French Polynesia*

Tahiti was split among three warring kingdoms, which united only to fend off invasion from Borabora. Tahiti had greater rainfall and wealth, based on “wet” agriculture (producing taro, breadfruit, and chestnuts), than Borabora, which used a “dry” system (producing sweet potatoes and yams). Both regions had a traditional Polynesian political culture in which the chiefs exploited the commoners but redistributed much of the accumulated wealth through feasts and gifts.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dioscorea_alata_-_Purple_yam_tuber_-_Mindanao,_Philippines.jpg>

Purple Yam (Dioscorea alata) – Tuberous Food Staple in Borabora

French Colonization. Europeans first encountered the rich Polynesian culture on Tahiti in 1767. The British explorer, Samuel Wallis, commanding the *Dolphin*, was impressed with the opulence, military strength, and openness of the Tahitians. In the following year, Louis Bougainville, a French explorer commanding the *Etoile*, sailed into Tahiti. In his well-written book, *Voyage Around the World* (1771), Bougainville called the island, New Cythera (the home of Venus), and vividly described the unsentimental sexuality of the Tahitian women.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Webber_-_Poedooa,_the_Daughter_of_Oree.jpg>

Poedooa, Daughter of Orio (a Raiatean Chief) – Painting by John Webber, 1777, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, UK

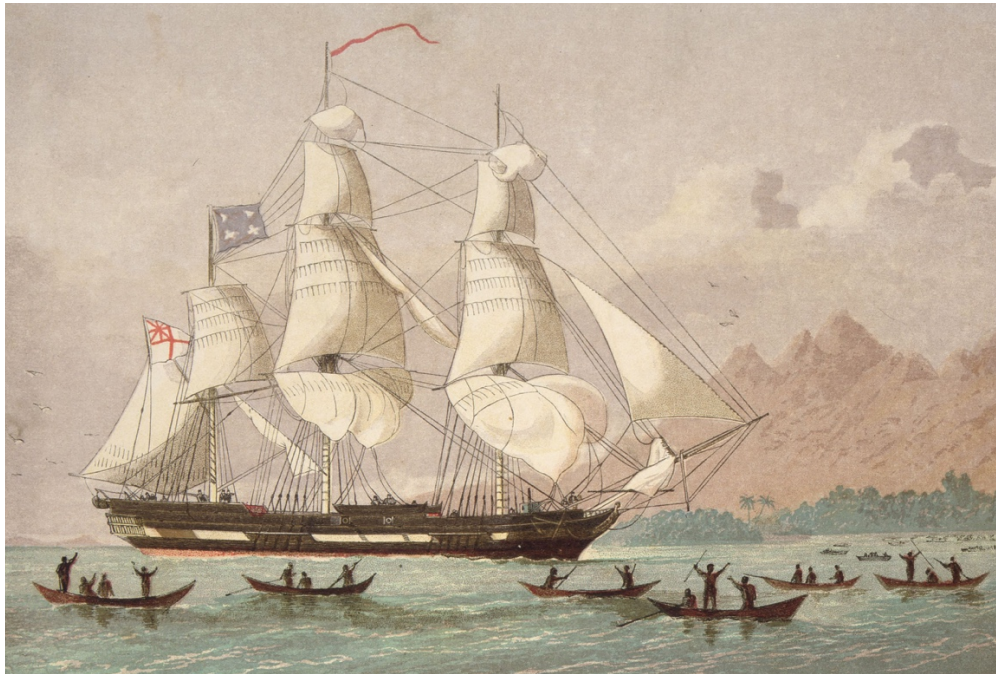
In 1769, Captain James Cook entered Matavai Bay aboard the *Endeavour*, to take a transit of the planet Venus. Two decades later, in 1789, William Bligh brought the *Bounty* to Tahiti to collect breadfruit plantings (to transplant in the West Indies as food for slaves), and the charms of Tahiti contributed to the mutiny on the *Bounty*. The immediate consequence of European intervention was the introduction of diseases that caused the population of Tahiti to decline from 35,000 in 1767 to 8,000 in 1800.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Engraving_of_%27The_Fleet_of_Otaheite_Assembled_at_Oparee%27.jpg>

*Tahitian Warships, Preparing to Attack Moorea, 1774 –
Engraving of a Painting by William Hodges, 1777*

Missionaries from the London Missionary Society went to Tahiti in 1797 and by 1815 had converted the royalty and most of the commoners to Protestantism.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_missionary_ship_%22Duff%22_arriving_\(ca._1797\)_at_Otaheite,_lithograph_by_Kronheim_%26_Co.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_missionary_ship_%22Duff%22_arriving_(ca._1797)_at_Otaheite,_lithograph_by_Kronheim_%26_Co.jpg)>

London Missionary Society Ship Duff, Arriving at Otaheite, Society Islands, 1797 – Lithograph by J. M. Kronheim & Co., c. 1820

The French navy began the colonization of French Polynesia in 1842 when it forcibly conquered the Marquesas. Fearing British retaliation, France lodged a protest over Queen Pomare's expulsion of French missionaries from Tahiti and forced the Tahitian queen to agree to a French protectorate over Tahiti and Moorea. France desired naval

and whaling stations in the Pacific and greater control of copra exports. France, therefore, gradually increased its control over French Polynesia by annexing Tahiti and the Gambier Islands in 1881, the Leeward Islands in 1888, and the Tuamotu and Austral Islands by 1900.

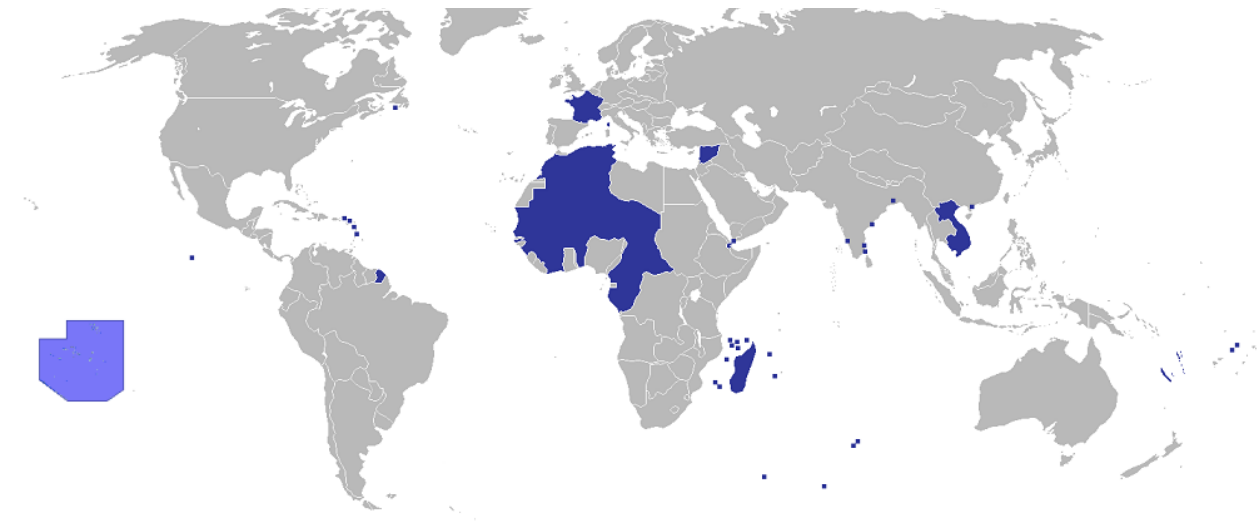


*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Vue_Rikitea_2006.jpg>*

*Rikitea, Mangareva Island, Gambier Archipelago –
Colonized by France in 1881*

French Rule. The imposition of French rule was met with military opposition on several of the Polynesian islands. On Tahiti and the Marquesas in the 1840s and on the Leeward Islands in the 1890s, France brutally restrained all opposition. But French officials showed

little interest in developing the region. France was politically unstable during much of the 19th century, and its colonial interests were focused primarily on the French colonies in Africa and Indochina.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Empire_1919-1939.png>

*French Empire, 1919-1939 – French Polynesia,
North, West, and Central Africa, Madagascar, Syria-Lebanon,
Indochina, and New Caledonia*

The weak and inconsistent administration of French Polynesia is evidenced by the high rate of turnover of French governors in Papeete (the Tahitian capital of French Polynesia). Between 1882 and 1914, 24 governors ruled. France's economic exploitation of Polynesia was limited to three exports – copra, pearl shells and pearls, and phosphate. Copra (the dried meat of coconuts) was used in France to make soap and

cooking oil, and France was the world's leading importer of copra in the 19th century. Pearl shells and pearls, produced mainly in the Tuamotus, provided handsome profits for French importers until the pearl fishery was over-harvested. Phosphate, used in making fertilizer, was produced on Makatea, an island in the Tuamotus, and exported mostly to Japan.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Perles_de_Tahiti_\(3\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Perles_de_Tahiti_(3).JPG)>

Black (Tahitian) Pearls, from the Black Lip Oyster (Pinctada margaritifera) – Longtime Main Export from French Polynesia

The Second World War had a large impact on French Polynesia. After the fall of France in 1940, the Pacific colonies quickly supported the Free French Government (the *ralliement* to Charles de Gaulle) and

the Allied war effort. An economic boom occurred in the islands, such as Borabora, that had American military bases. Other islands benefited from a wartime boom in copra exports. New Zealand took over the responsibility for the defense of French Polynesia with US support. Polynesian leaders thus expected significant post-war political changes.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BoraBoraAirportAerial.JPG>>

*Borabora Airport, Motu Mute Islet, Society Islands, French Polynesia –
Constructed as an American Air Base in 1943, During World War II*

Nuclear Testing. In 1962, the President of France, Charles de Gaulle, announced that France would move its nuclear testing facility from the desert of southern Algeria to Pacific atolls in French Polynesia. He then established the Centre d'Experimentation du Pacifique (CEP), a

new French nuclear testing facility. Between 1963 and 1966, the CEP constructed testing sites on two atolls in the Gambier Islands, Mururoa and Fangataufa, and built annexes on Hoa Island and in Papeete.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Polynesia-CIA_WFB_Map.png>

*Centre d'Experimentation du Pacifique (CEP) Nuclear Testing Sites,
Mururoa and Fangataufa, Gambier Islands –
Fangataufa Is Near and Directly South of Mururoa*

France had several rationales to continue its nuclear testing despite strong international opposition. French politicians reasoned that France

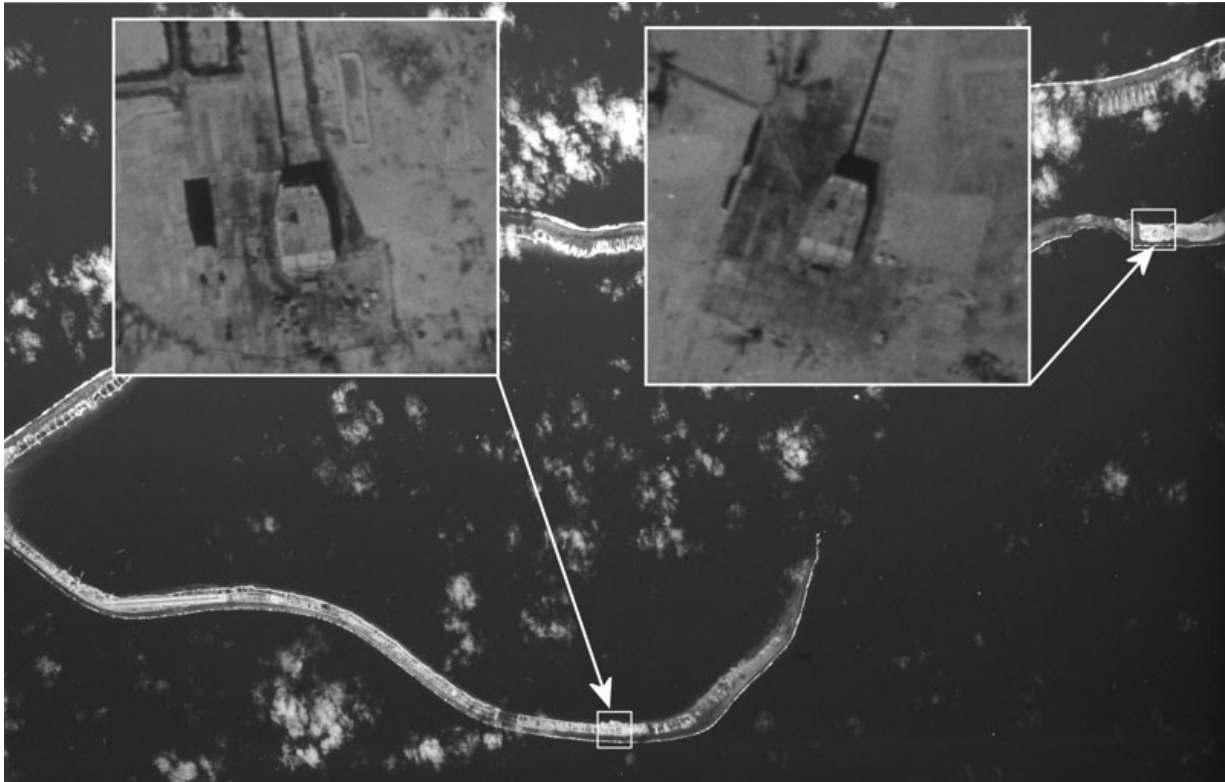
needed nuclear weapons to assert its independence from the United States, act as a power broker in the Cold War, mollify the French military (after crushing defeats in Vietnam and Algeria), subsidize the development of the country's technological base, and provide new weapons to export. France also noted that the United States had carried out 213 atmospheric explosions in the Pacific (1946-1963) and Great Britain had exploded 21 devices in the Pacific (1957-1962).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Paul_Gauguin_056.jpg>

France's Interest in French Polynesia Shifted from Impressionist Art to Nuclear Weapons – Tahitian Women on the Beach, Painting by Paul Gauguin, 1891, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France

The CEP conducted 193 nuclear tests during its three decades of operations, 1966-1996. The first 46 tests (1966-1974) were atmospheric blasts – 41 at Mururoa and 5 at Fangataufa. The remaining 147 explosions were underground (1975-1996) – 137 at Mururoa and 10 at Fangataufa – despite the danger of using limestone atolls for underground testing. France ignored the Rarotonga Treaty (1985) in which most Pacific nations declared a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. CEP construction and operational activities employed 15,000 people at the peak in 1968, and for many years, one-sixth of Polynesian workers were on the CEP payroll. Its closure in 1996 thus created major adjustment problems.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mururoa_lg.jpg>*

*Satellite Image of the French Atomic Test Site –
Mururoa, Gambier Islands, French Polynesia, May 1967*

Politics. In 1946, France liberalized its policies. It granted full French citizenship to Polynesian and European residents of French Polynesia (but not to Chinese residents until 1964), created a democratically elected, local representative assembly, and gave French Polynesians representation in the French Parliament. Nevertheless, France has retained full effective control over the laws, officials, and budgets of French Polynesia.

The ethnicity of French Polynesia influences its politics, but figures are in doubt because of the high degree of mixed-race people (*demis*). Perhaps 84 percent are Polynesian (or Polynesian *demis*), 11 percent are European (or are *demis* who consider themselves European), and 4 percent are Chinese (or Chinese *demis*).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TahitiGirls.png>>

*Eighty-four Percent of the People of French Polynesia
Are Polynesian or Polynesian Demis*

Religion also affects politics. About two-thirds of the population is Protestant (mainly in the west), and one-third is Catholic (mostly in

the east). All of the post-war prominent politicians have been Polynesian-European *demis*. Pouvanaa a Oopa, the leading figure in the 1940s and 1950s, was a charismatic fighter for Polynesian nationalism, populism, and Protestantism, whom the French exiled to France during the 1960s. John Teariki, Pouvanaa's heir in the 1960s, continued his fight for greater political autonomy from France and opposed nuclear testing and the CEP. Gaston Flosse, who held all major political offices during the 1980s and 1990s (five simultaneously in 1986), is a neo-Gaullist conservative and an advocate of greater local autonomy within the current French-led system. He served as President of French Polynesia on five different occasions for 17 of the 30 years between 1984 and 2014. Édouard Fritch was elected President in 2014 and has served in that role since that time.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edouard_Fritch_Pr%C3%A9sident_Visite_Huahine_10.3.2017a_IMG_5519.jpg>

*Édouard Fritch, President of French Polynesia (2014 –) –
Pictured in 2017*

A new political force entered the arena during the 1990s. *Hiti Tau* is a national network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with 60 affiliates and international affiliations. But still absent is a powerful movement to overthrow French control and win independence.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Floreal-Bora-Bora.jpg>>

*The French Frigate Floréal, Stationed In Bora Bora Lagoon, 2002 –
Will French Polynesia Be Forever French?*

Economy. In 2019, the population of French Polynesia was 279,000, the average life expectancy was 77 years, and the adult literacy rate was 98 percent. Per capita income in French Polynesia, estimated at \$22,000, was the highest in the Pacific region outside of Australia (\$53,500), New Zealand (\$44,100), and New Caledonia (\$37,600).



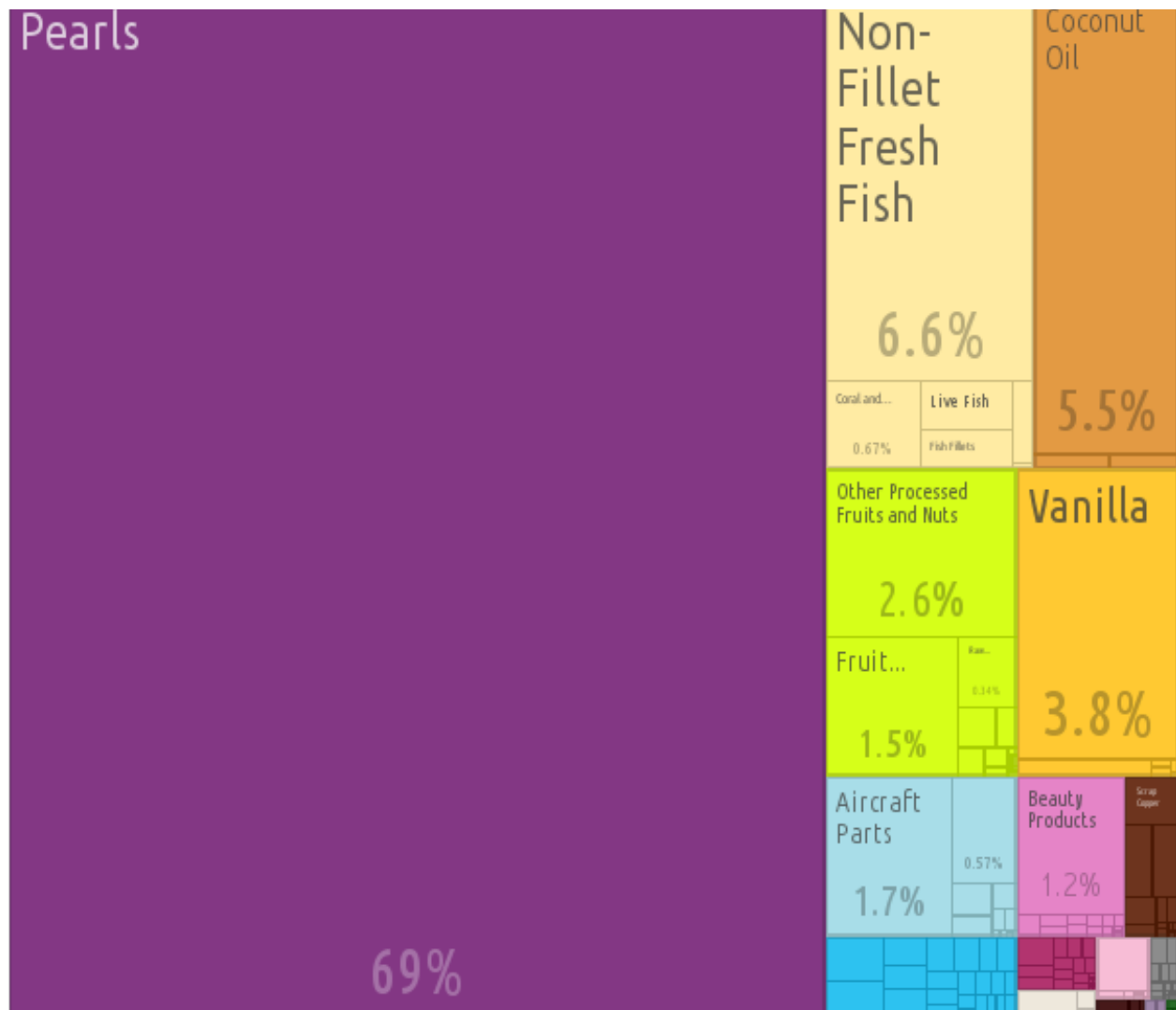
Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:FP-papeete-hafen-1.jpg>>

*Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands –
Prosperous Capital of French Polynesia*

How have the French Polynesians achieved that level of income?

Between 1908 and 1966, the most important economic activity was phosphate mining on Makatea. At its peak in the 1950s, the mine employed 4,000 Polynesians, produced and exported 275,000 tons of phosphate (mostly to Japan), and provided one-fourth of the territory's export earnings and government income. But the mine closed in 1966 when the ore deposits were exhausted. The islands then relied on the traditional production of copra for export earnings. In the 1980s,

sustainable pearl farming expanded rapidly in the Tuamotus. Thirteen cooperatives produced 12,000 highly valuable black pearls each year, and pearls surpassed copra as the territory's leading export. But in 2019, total export earnings from French Polynesia were only \$169 million.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Polynesia_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg>

Proportional Representation of French Polynesia's Export Earnings in 2017 – Pearls, Fish, and Coconut Oil Were Dominant

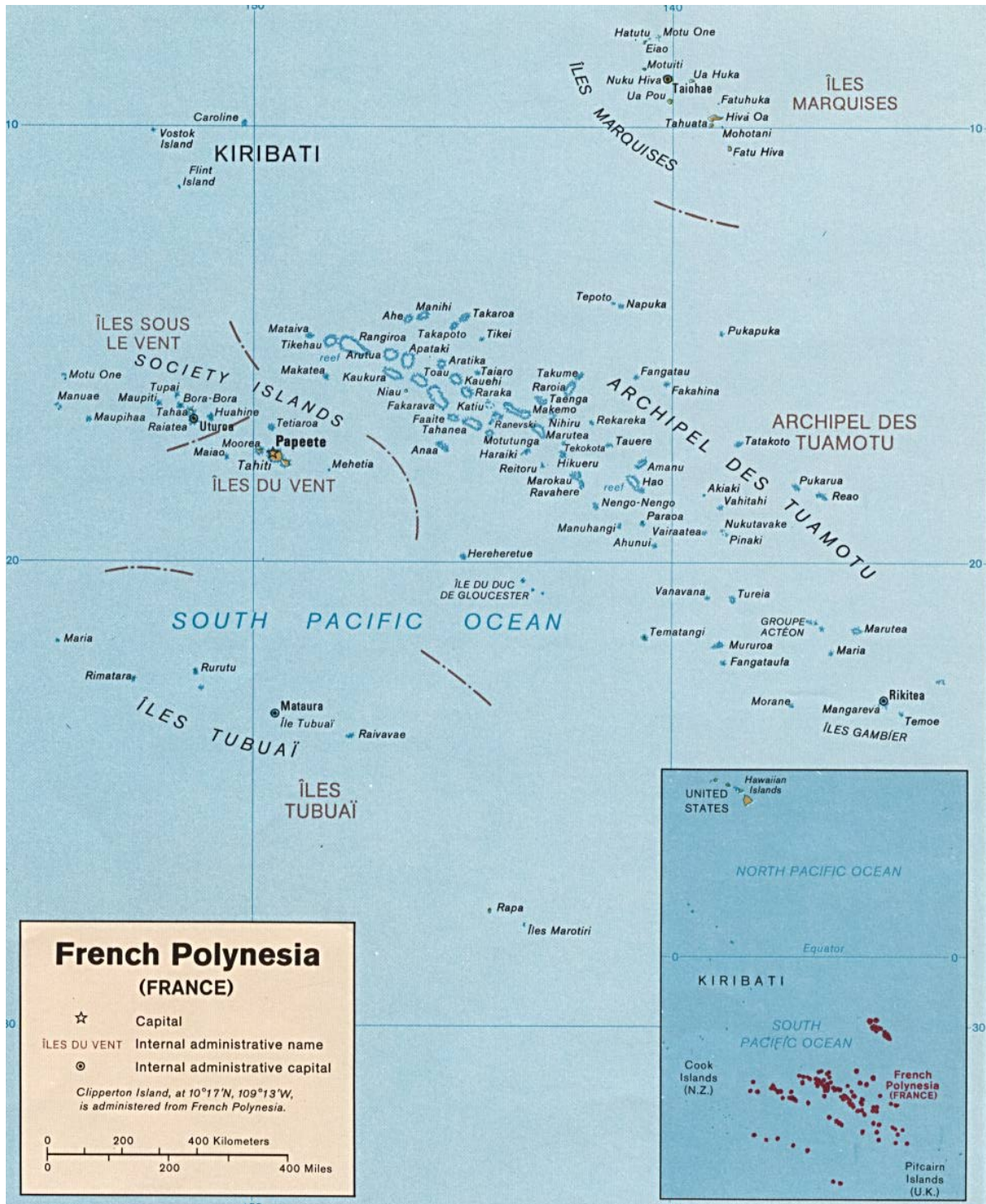
Earnings from tourism have continued to rise, especially with the growth of air transportation to Tahiti and Borabora. In 2018, 216,000 tourists, mostly from the US, France, and Japan, visited French Polynesia and spent \$782 million. Remittances from French Polynesians working abroad (mostly in France) amounted to \$582 million in 2019.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DSC00033_Polyn%C3%A9sia_Mor%C3%A9a_island_Haapiti_Beach_\(8076090305\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DSC00033_Polyn%C3%A9sia_Mor%C3%A9a_island_Haapiti_Beach_(8076090305).jpg)>

*French Polynesia Attracted 218,00 Tourists in 2018 –
Haapiti Beach, Moorea, Society Islands*

Nevertheless, the cornerstone of the economy continued to be metropolitan transfers for government programs. Expenditures related to nuclear testing and military activities created transfers of \$700 million annually that covered wide trade and budgetary deficits. In 1996, following the closing of the CEP and the decline of military spending, the French government agreed to provide an offsetting annual subsidy of \$200 million for ten years. But French Polynesia is still seeking a basis for long-term economic adjustment. Some hope that selling fishing rights within the territory's vast, 2 million-square-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) will provide part of the answer.

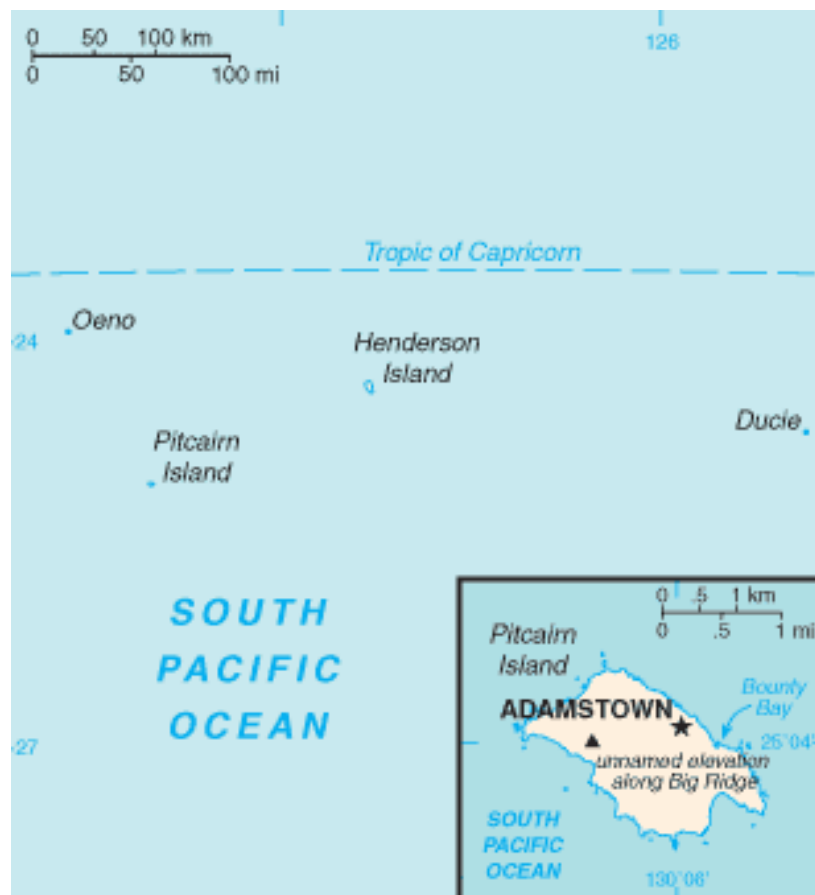


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Polynesia_map.jpg

Contemporary French Polynesia – Searching For a Sustainable Economic Base

Pitcairn Islands

Geography and European Exploration. The four remote Pitcairn Islands – Oeno, Pitcairn, Henderson, and Ducie – are located in the southeastern Pacific, about 800 miles east of French Polynesia and 1,200 miles west of Easter Island. Only Pitcairn, with a population of 50, is currently inhabited.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pitcairn_Islands-CIA_WFB_Map.png>

*Pitcairn Islands (Oeno, Pitcairn, Henderson, and Ducie) –
Located in the Southeast Pacific Ocean*

Pitcairn is the tip of a volcano with steep slopes, deep valleys, and high cliffs. Although its volcanic soils are fertile and it receives adequate rainfall (70 inches per year), only about 90 acres of its two square miles of area are cultivable.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pitcairn.jpg>

The Physical Geography of Pitcairn Island

Henderson is a *makatea* (raised coral island) and, with 14 square miles of area, is by far the largest of the Pitcairn group. It was made a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988 to protect its rich wildlife,

including four endemic land birds (Henderson rail, Stephen's lorikeet, Henderson fruit dove, and Henderson warbler). Ducie and Oeno are both low, sandy, coral atolls, each containing 2 square miles of area. These two tiny islets are known for seabirds and shipwrecks (the *Bowden*, 1893, on Oeno and the *Acadia*, 1881, on Ducie).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henderson.JPG>>

*Henderson Island, UNESCO World Heritage Site –
Remote, But Polluted by Plastic Sea-Waste*

In 1606, Pedro Fernandes de Quirós, exploring for Spain, discovered Henderson and Ducie. British exploration of the Pacific began after the Seven Years War (1756-1763). Philip Carteret,

commanding the *Swallow*, discovered Pitcairn in 1767 and named it after the midshipman who sighted the island. Pitcairn then was uninhabited. Ducie was re-discovered in 1791 by Edward Edwards, the brutal commander of the *Pandora*, who was in search of the *Bounty* mutineers and narrowly missed finding them on Pitcairn. Edwards named the island after Lord Ducie, his patron. James Henderson, British explorer, discovered Henderson and Oeno in 1819 and named the *makatea* after himself. Oeno took its name from an American whaling ship that visited in 1824.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Philip_Carteret.jpg>

*Philip Carteret (1733-1796), British Commander of the Swallow –
Discovered and Named Pitcairn Island in 1767*

Early Polynesian Settlement. No archeological evidence has been found on Ducie or Oeno of any early Polynesian settlement. Both atolls appear to have been uninhabited throughout their histories. In contrast, there are ample archeological remains of lengthy, continuous Polynesian settlement in both Pitcairn and Henderson, which was later followed by abandonment of both islands. Archaeologists have coined the term, “mystery islands,” for the dozen Polynesian islands that experienced long settlement followed by abandonment.

The best estimate for the time span of continuous settlement in Pitcairn and Henderson is 1100-1400 CE. The visible remains of that early Polynesian settlement include stone platforms (three on Pitcairn), parts of statues, petroglyphs (on the rock face of Down Rope on Pitcairn), stone adzes, shell and stone fishhooks, and pig bones.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Petroglyph_tuff_Raivavae_Austral_Islands_in_French_Polynesia.JPG>

*Polynesian Petroglyph, Ravavae, Austral Islands, French Polynesia –
Similar to Petroglyphs Found on Down Rope Rock, Pitcairn Island*

Those remains provide strong evidence of a long-distance trading network that connected the island of Mangareva (800 miles to the west), which produced ovens and oyster shell fishhooks, with Pitcairn (which had a quarry for stone adzes) and Henderson (which was the source of red tropicbird feathers and green turtles). Mangareva suffered an ecological collapse at the end of the 15th century (similar to that later experienced on Easter Island). Overpopulation led to deforestation that

in turn led to a loss of timber for canoes, an end to long-distance trade, a shortage of fish for protein, endemic warfare, and societal collapse.

Following the disappearance of the Mangareva trade lifeline, the population of Pitcairn and Henderson died out or abandoned the islands.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mangareva.jpg>>

Mangareva Island – Provided Long-distance Trade Support of Pitcairn Island Before Suffering an Ecological Collapse in the Late 15th Century

Mutiny on the *Bounty*. The British Navy sent the *Bounty* to the Pacific in 1787-1789 for two purposes – to transfer breadfruit seedlings from Tahiti to the West Indies (to feed African slaves cheaply and increase profits on British plantations) and to chart the Endeavour Straits

between Australia and New Guinea (on the shipping route between Britain and its new penal colony in Australia).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HMS_BOUNTY_II_with_Full_Sails.jpg>

Replica of HMS Bounty – Constructed in 1960, Chicago, Illinois, US

Lieutenant William Bligh, aged 33, was selected to lead the expedition. Bligh was a brilliant navigator, surveyor, and observer of foreign cultures. He had sailed with distinction on Captain James Cook's last Pacific voyage (1776-1780). As a disciple of Cook, Bligh stressed the importance of accurate charts, discipline, and health,

exercise, and cleanliness aboard ship (to prevent scurvy). Bligh was not violent. He resorted to flogging less than any British naval captain in the 18th-century Pacific.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WilliamBligh.jpeg>>

*Lieutenant William Bligh, Master of HMS Bounty –
Portrait by Alexander Huey, National Library of Australia, 1814*

Fletcher Christian, aged 23, was a midshipman on the *Bounty*. Christian had sailed under Bligh before and had become his protégé. Like Bligh, he had strong family connections on the Isle of Man.

Christian was charismatic and likeable, and the crew admired him.

Bligh regularly invited Christian to dine with him. Christian led the mutiny on the *Bounty* in April 1789 after both men had come to the ends of their tethers.

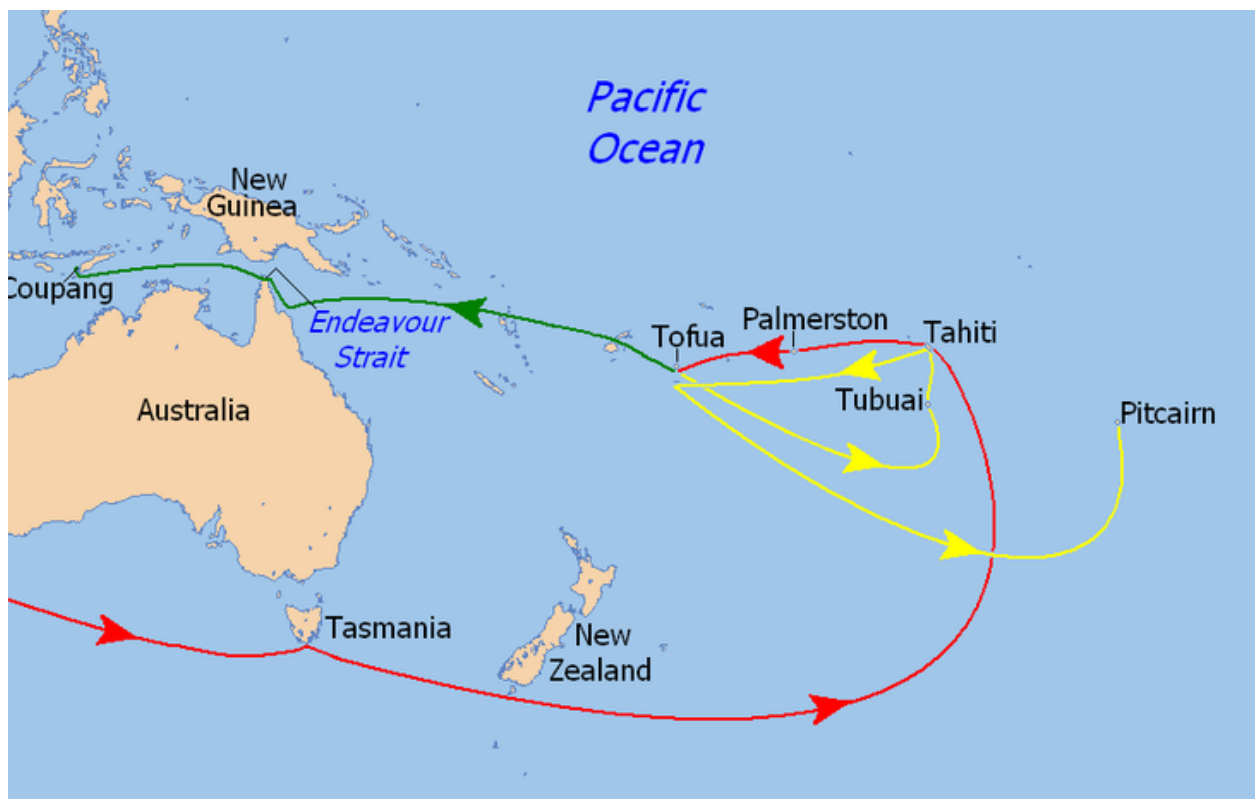


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fletcher_Christian2.jpg>

*Midshipman Fletcher Christian, Leader of the Mutiny on the Bounty –
Painting by Robert Dodd, 1790,
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, UK*

Bligh's leadership had become inconsistent, he was abusive toward his officers, and he felt guilty about his stinginess with ship rations and

his lack of leadership during the five-month stay on Tahiti. Christian asserted that he was “in Hell” because of Bligh’s abuse, he and his friends had developed hatred for two other officers, and he regretted the ending of his idyll on Tahiti. Some historians have speculated that Bligh and Christian were suffering from the sudden ending of a longstanding homosexual relationship.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bounty_Voyages_Map.png>

Voyage of the Bounty Before the Mutiny (Red Line) and After (Yellow Line), Ending on Pitcairn Island – Voyage of the Launch (Green Line)

Bligh and Mutineers in England. During the mutiny, William Bligh and 18 loyalists were crowded into the *Bounty*'s 23-foot-long launch. Bligh then performed a maritime miracle. He sailed the open launch 3,618 miles from Tofua to Timor in the Dutch East Indies in 48 days with only five days' of full food rations.

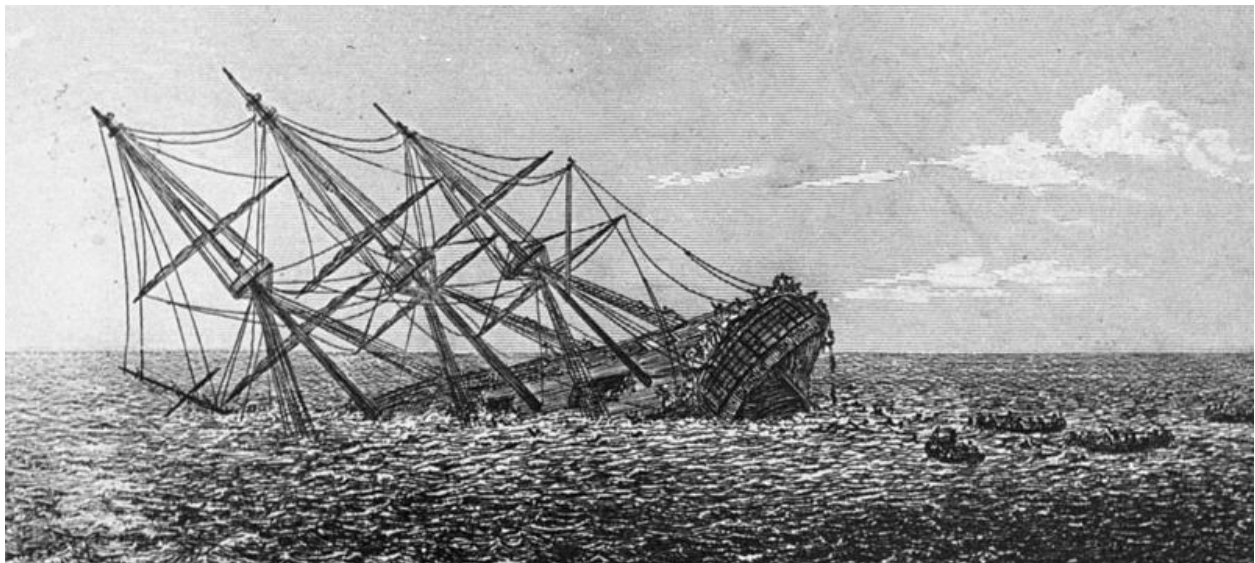


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mutiny_HMS_Bounty.jpg>

*Lieutenant William Bligh and Eighteen Men Exiled on the Launch –
Painting by Robert Dodd, National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, UK, 1790*

In 1790, Bligh returned to England as a hero. Later in that year, he and his men were exonerated in the court martial to ascertain whether

they had done all in their power to prevent the loss of the *Bounty*. Late in 1790, the British navy sent its most feared captain, Edward Edwards, in the *Pandora* to find the mutineers. In May 1791, he captured the 14 surviving men from the *Bounty* who had chosen to live on Tahiti (two had died), declared them mutineers, and placed them in an 11-by-18-foot prison called “Pandora’s box.” Four months later, the *Pandora* was shipwrecked on Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, and Edwards, his crew, and the ten surviving prisoners made their own small-boat journey to Timor.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HMS_Pandora.jpg>

*HMS Pandora, Foundering in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, 1791 –
Etching by Robert Barry, 1831, From a Sketch by Peter Heywood*

William Bligh, newly promoted, was put in charge of a new breadfruit expedition to Tahiti. Between 1791 and 1793, Bligh led the *Providence* and *Assistant* to Tahiti and successfully transferred breadfruit seedlings to the West Indies. Though he was rewarded, the slaves preferred to eat plantain and the breadfruit experiment thus failed. The ten *Bounty* mutineers, who had survived Pandora's box, faced court martial in September 1792. Four were acquitted, three were hanged, two were pardoned, and one was let off on a point of law. Bligh went on in 1801 to command the *Glatton* in the Battle of Copenhagen and assisted Lord Nelson in that British naval victory. In 1817, while living in retirement, Vice-Admiral William Bligh died of cancer at age 63.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artocarpus_altilis_\(fruit\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artocarpus_altilis_(fruit).jpg)>

Breadfruit (Artocarpus altilis) – William Bligh Eventually Introduced It to the West Indies, But It Never Became an Important Food Staple There

Mutineers’ Settlement of Pitcairn. The 25 mutineers on the *Bounty* searched for a refuge island. They first tried Tubuai (in the Austral Islands, south of Tahiti). In three months there, they killed 66 Tubuaians and decided to move on. Sixteen voted to go to Tahiti, and eight cast their lot to stay with Fletcher Christian. Christian had read about Pitcairn Island in one of Bligh’s books, John Hawkesworth’s *An Account of Voyages*.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tubuai_depuis_le_motu_Mitiha.jpg>

Tubuai Island, Austral Islands – Fletcher Christian and the Bounty Mutineers Built Fort George and Took Refuge There for Three Months

Upon their arrival at Pitcairn in January 1790, the mutineers noted several critical advantages of that island. It was uninhabited (free of native revolts and trading links), defensible (with a high surf and numerous caves), and fertile (with good soil, ample water, and extensive forests). To supplement existing plants (breadfruit, taro, yams, and coconuts), the settlers planted seeds of bananas, plantain, sugarcane, and sweet potatoes.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:An_entire_cluster_of_plantains..jpg>

*Plantain (Cooking Bananas, Musa paradisiaca) –
Introduced into Pitcairn Island by the Bounty Mutineers in 1790*

The nine mutineers divided the cultivable land into equal shares and distributed them by lottery. But they chose not to allocate any land to the six Polynesian (Tahitian, Raiatean, and Tubuaian) men or twelve Polynesian women in their group. That decision led to intense jealousy, and in 1793, the six native men killed five of the British men. The four remaining mutineers and their wives then killed all six of the Polynesian

men. By 1800, John Adams was the sole surviving adult male, and he introduced a strict version of Christianity (three fasting days per week, bell ringing to change activities) to rule over the nine women and 24 children on the island. Pitcairn was visited by Mayhew Folger, on the American sealer, *Topaz*, in 1808 and by Thomas Staines on the *Briton* and Philip Pipon on the *Tagus*, of the British navy, in 1814. But by then, Britain had lost interest in persecuting the mutineers and Adams was never tried.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Adams_\(mutineer\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Adams_(mutineer).jpg)>

*John Adams – Sole Surviving Bounty Mutineer on Pitcairn Island by
1800 and Patriarch of the Island Until His Death in 1829*

Pitcairn After Adams. John Adams, the patriarch of Pitcairn and sole adult male on the island in 1800, died in 1829 at age 65. In 1831, the British government, concerned with overpopulation on Pitcairn, relocated all 77 of the islanders to Tahiti. Although Queen Pomare and the Tahitian people treated the islanders well, twelve soon died. The remaining 65 returned to Pitcairn within six months. Great Britain formally annexed Pitcairn as a British colony in 1838 to preempt France.

The British and Pitcairn's leaders again became concerned with the threat of overpopulation. In 1856, all 194 of the Pitcairn islanders moved to the then uninhabited Norfolk Island (northeast of Australia), which earlier had been settled by Great Britain as a penal colony. Sixteen islanders returned to Pitcairn in 1859 and a further 24 in 1864, bringing the population to 43 (with only five families).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Descendants_of_the_mutineers,_1862.jpg>

Four Pitcairn Settlers on Norfolk Island (Descendants of Mutineers, John Adams and Mathew Quintal) – Photographed in 1862

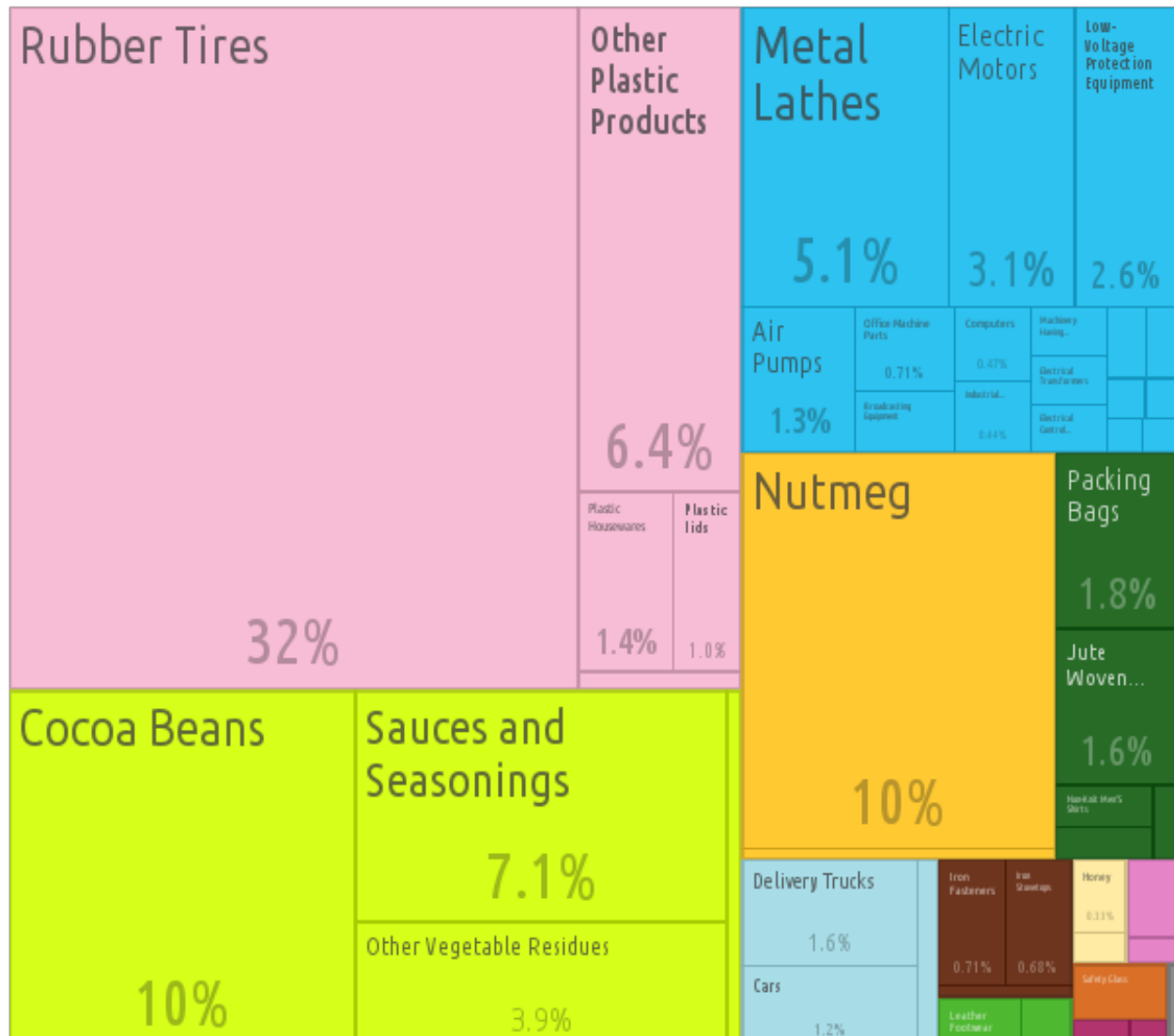
Between 1876 and 1890, the Pitcairn islanders converted from the Church of England to Seventh Day Adventism, and the American church sent out a ship, the *Pitcairn*, to link Pitcairn with Tahiti. In 1902, Great Britain annexed the three uninhabited islands of the Pitcairn group – Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno. The population of Pitcairn Island continued to grow during the first decades of the 20th century and reached a peak of 223 in 1940.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pitcairn_Islanders,_1916.jpg>

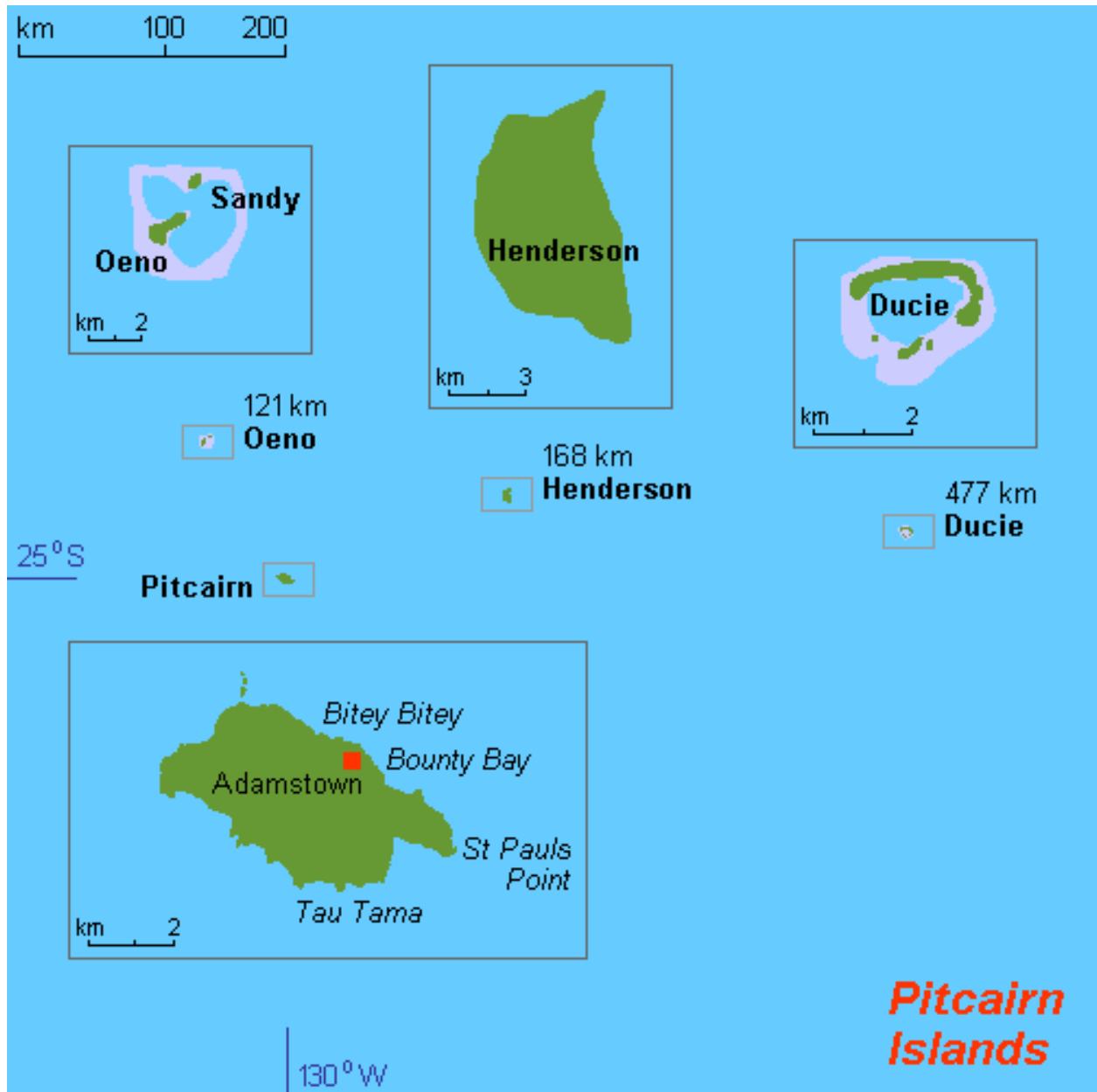
The People of Pitcairn Island – Photographed in 1916

After the end of the Second World War, many younger islanders chose to emigrate from Pitcairn to seek better opportunities elsewhere (mainly in New Zealand). The island's population declined steadily to 161 in 1956, 96 in 1966, 74 in 1976, and 47 in 2003. By 2019, it had stabilized at 50. Pitcairn's economy is now based on agriculture, British government spending, occasional tourism, sale of stamps, and export of tires, cocoa beans, nutmeg, and honey.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pitcairn_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg>

Proportional Representation of Pitcairn Island's Export Earnings in 2017 – Rubber Tires, Cocoa Beans, and Nutmeg Were Dominant



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PN_-A.png>

Contemporary Pitcairn Islands – Pitcairn, Oeno, Henderson, and Ducie

Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

Geography and Settlement. Rapa Nui (Easter Island) is a volcanic Pacific island of 60 square miles, located 2,400 miles west of Chile in eastern Polynesia. The island is the top of a 10,000-foot, mostly submerged volcano, formed over a geologic “hot spot.” Rapa Nui is one of the most remote places in the world. Within a 2,000-mile radius, human settlement exists only on Pitcairn Island, 1,200 miles to the west.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pacific-Ocean-Pitcairn-Island-on-globe-view-English.jpg>>

Rapa Nui (Easter Island) – Remote Location in the South Pacific Region

The island is now virtually treeless and devoid of seabirds. But it was once covered by a giant palm forest (of now extinct trees closely related to the Chilean oil palm) and was the lush home of 25 endemic species of seabirds.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Easter_Island_map-en.svg>

Contemporary Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Chile

Polynesians settled Rapa Nui from the west and called the island, Te Pito-te-henua (sometimes translated as “Navel of the World” but more properly termed “Lands End”). The most likely early interaction

sphere was the Austral Islands and Mangareva, although some scholars identify the Marquesas as the source of Polynesian migrants to Rapa Nui. The oral traditions of the Rapanui (the people of Rapa Nui) claim that their ancestors migrated from an island called “Marae Renga,” led by a chief named Hotu Matu’a.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rapanooke_vona.jpg>

*Traditional Dance of the Rapanui –
Celebrating the Migration from Marae Renga to Rapa Nui*

The probable date of settlement of Rapa Nui is usually estimated at about 300-400 CE. Scientific dating from a pollen core sample at Rano Kau confirms the existence of settlers between the 2nd and 7th centuries.

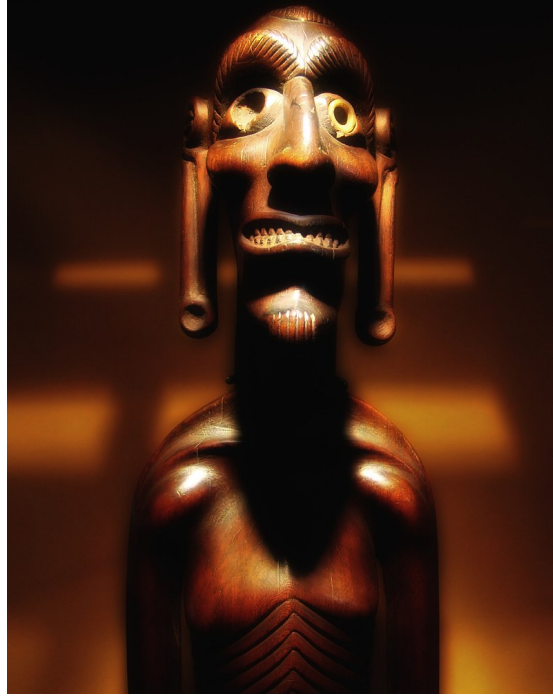
Thor Heyerdahl gained notoriety in the 1950s with his theory of the settlement of Rapa Nui from South America, but that theory has been thoroughly discredited on the basis of subsequent linguistic, ethnographic, and archaeological evidence. The population of Rapa Nui gradually expanded until it reached an estimated peak of about 10,000 in the 16th century. In a 2017 census, the island's population was recorded as 7,750 including 4,650 ethnic Rapanui people.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oceania_UN_Geoscheme_-_Map_of_Polynesia.svg>

The Polynesian Triangle – Rapa Nui (Easter Island) Was Settled c. 300-400 CE from the Austral Islands or Mangareva (French Polynesia)

Culture and Agriculture. Rapa Nui had a traditional Polynesian social system for more than a millennium after first settlement. At the top reigned a hereditary paramount chief (*ariki-mau*) who traced his lineage back to the island's founder-ancestor, Hotu Matu'a. The Miru clan furnished the chiefs. A warrior class (*matatoa*) supported the chiefdom, and its members were subordinate to the supreme chief. The vast majority of the populace made up the lower classes and were engaged in food production, canoe- and tool-making, construction and maintenance of houses and agricultural buildings, creation of monuments and other art forms, and participation in ceremonies.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moai_Kavakava.jpg>

Moai Kavakava Statue, Demonstrating the Power of the Paramount Chief in Rapa Nui – Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney

Structural remnants from this early Rapanui culture can still be seen today. The noble and warrior classes lived in large, elliptical basalt stone houses (*hare paenga*) that had elaborately thatched roofs and sides. Each lineage clan had one or more stone-lined earth ovens (*umu pae*), which were less than three feet in diameter because of the lack of large mammals to cook. The land-holdings were wedge-shaped units (*kainga*), stretching from the shore well inland to provide each lineage-based clan with access to a wide range of fishing and farming resources.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
[h<tps://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Orongo_Stone_House_EasterIsland.JPG>](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Orongo_Stone_House_EasterIsland.JPG)

*Entrance to a Hare Paenga (Elliptical Stone House) –
Orongo, Rapa Nui*

The first settlers brought the full Polynesian package of crops and animals to Rapa Nui. Because the island lies outside the tropics, breadfruit and coconuts could not be cultivated. The Rapanui people grew sweet potatoes, taro, yams, and sugar cane in rainfed fields, and they raised chickens (but no pigs or dogs) in stone chicken coops. They built stone-lined pits (*manavai*) in which they grew vegetables, bananas, and paper mulberry (for barkcloth). Much inter-island trade occurred between the farmers of the south and east and the fishermen of the north and west.

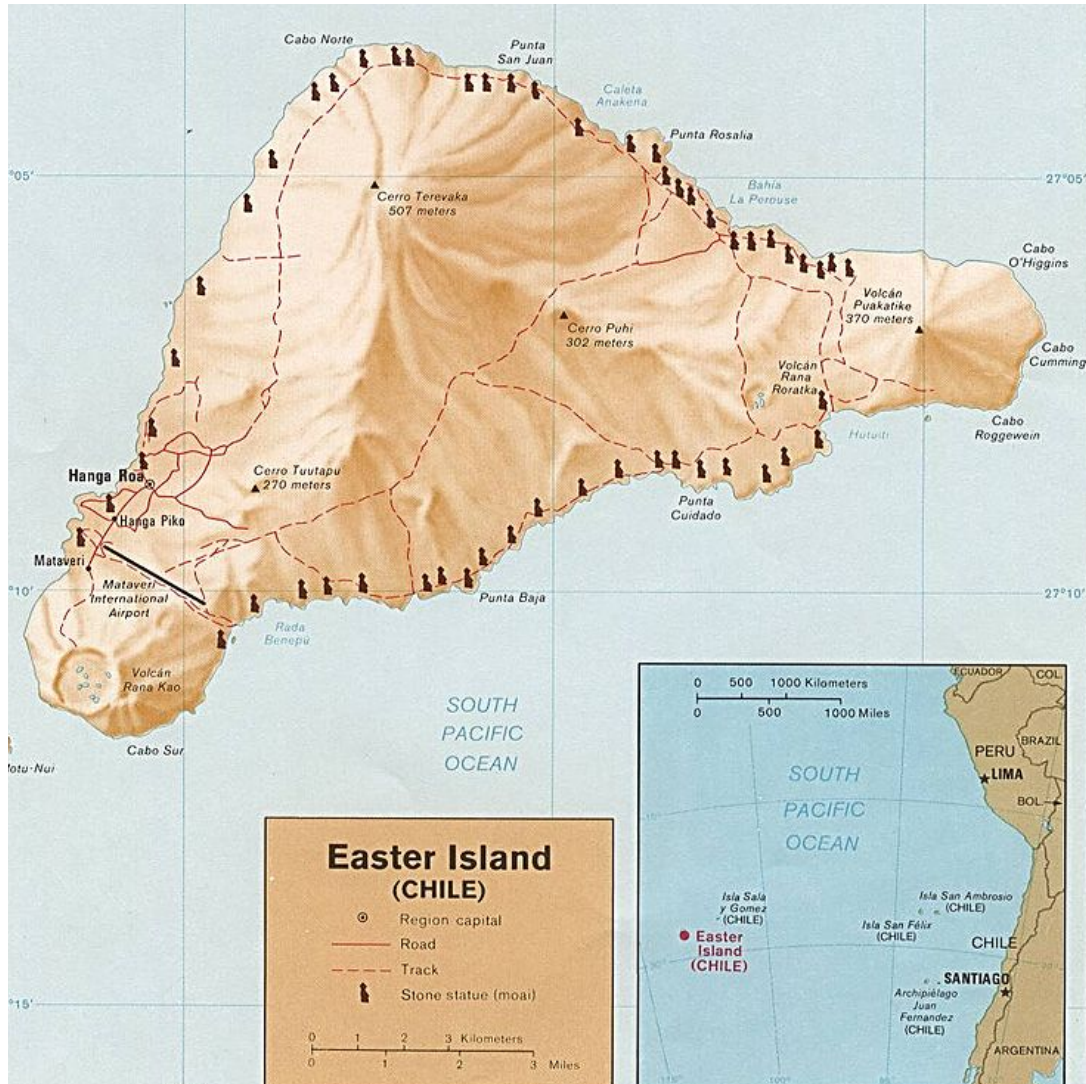


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Murier.jpg>>

*Paper Mulberry (Morus papyrifera) –
Cultivated in Manavai in Rapa Nui To Make Tapa (Barkcloth)*

Ahu and Moai. Each lineage-based clan in early Rapa Nui built an *ahu*, a temple platform. Those open-air sanctuaries served as the main locus for religious activity, but also defined the lineage's land ownership and provided a symbol of its power. Nearly all of the 313 *ahu* that exist today were built near the coast. *Ahus* were constructed at half-mile intervals around the island's coast, even atop cliffs. The period of basalt *ahu* construction began about 1000, peaked about 1200, and ended by 1500. The biggest *ahu* were 700 feet long and 13 feet high. About half

of these *ahu* platforms held *moai*, giant statues of deified ancestors of the lineage group.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Easter_Island.jpg>

Primary Moai Sites on Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

Each clan competed to construct the largest and most elegantly carved *moai* to express religious grandeur. A total of 887 *moai* have

been inventoried, indicating the early Rapanui obsession with statue construction. Nearly half (397) are in the quarry at Rano Raraku, the source of the soft volcanic tuff used for all but 55 of the moai (18 were made of red scoria, 15 of basalt, and 22 of trachyte, a white stone).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moai_at_Rano_Raraku -
Easter_Island_\(5956405378\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moai_at_Rano_Raraku_-_Easter_Island_(5956405378).jpg)>

Two of the 397 Moai at Rano Raraku Quarry, Rapa Nui

Only 164 *moai* were placed on an *ahu*. Consecrated labor from each lineage, led by specialized master craftsmen, was used to build the statues. During the five centuries of main *moai* carving (1000-1500), the average size of the statues increased. Extant *moai* range between 6 and

33 feet in height and 7 to 88 tons in weight. Transportation of the statues involved the use of wooden sledges, lubricated wooden rollers, curbstone levers, and smooth road surfaces.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ahu_Tahai.jpg>

*Pukao (Top-knots) and Eyes on a Moai –
Ahu Tahai, Restored by Archeologist William Mullo*

Near the end of the carving period, *pukao*, “top-knots” made of red scoria cylinders, were added to enhance the prestige and height of the statues. Tongariki has the island’s largest *ahu*, 720 feet long, and 15 *moai* that range between 18 and 28 feet in height and weigh an average of 40 tons.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ahu-Tongariki-2013.jpg>>

*Fifteen Standing Moai on Ahu Tongariki –
Excavated and Restored by Archeologist Claudio Cristino in the 1990s*

Cultural Crash. A disastrous Decadent Phase, 1500-1722, followed the golden age of Rapa Nui history, the *Ahu* and *Moai* Period, 1000-1500. The Rapa Nui culture collapsed into near anarchy, after the warriors (*matatoa*) displaced the chiefs (*ariki-mau*). The island suffered from social disintegration and fell into a period of endemic warfare and constant raiding (evidenced by the widespread use of *mataa*, obsidian spearheads). The Rapanui people experienced societal strain and social terror (archaeological middens show evidence of cannibalism). The

bickering warriors also toppled or destroyed most of the *moai* to show their disrespect for the former statue-based socio-religious system.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ahu_Vinapu_4.jpg>

Destroyed or Overturned Moai, Ahu Vinapu, Rapa Nui

The surest sign of the collapse of the Rapanui culture was the drastic decline in population – from an estimated 10,000 in the mid-15th century to perhaps only 2,000 in the early 18th century. Why did the Rapanui culture crash? The most convincing hypothesis is resource degradation caused by deforestation. Loss of the island's forests began in 800, and all forest was gone by 1640. The growing population had

placed continuing pressure on the forests through conversion to farmland and timbering for canoes, houses, and firewood. Deforestation led to soil erosion, leaching of soils, wind damage, and decline of streams.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rapa-Nui-Landscape.jpg>

*Typical Denuded Landscape, Puna Pau, Rapa Nui –
Recently Replanted Trees in the Foreground*

The ecological disaster was exacerbated by the rulers' social pressure to move and erect *moai* statues. The exhaustion of timber for canoes meant the end of ocean fishing and the loss of marine foods. The Rapanui desperately turned to crop intensification, which put more pressure on depleted soils. The unfortunate consequences were a

collapse of the economy, as periodic droughts led to famines, and endemic clan warfare over land, food, status, women, and revenge.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancestor_Figure_\(moai_kavakava\)_LACMA_M.2008.66.6_\(1_of_3\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancestor_Figure_(moai_kavakava)_LACMA_M.2008.66.6_(1_of_3).jpg)>

*Kavakava Wooden Carving, Emaciated Male Figure –
Los Angeles County Museum of Arts, c. 1830*

Birdman Cult. The warriors (*matatoa*) needed to legitimate their rule of Rapa Nui. They thus created a new religion based on a single creator god, Makemake, to replace the former pantheon of deified ancestors represented by *moai*. In the near anarchy following the ouster of the chiefs, two loose warlord confederacies arose – one (Tu’u)

comprised of warlords from the west, and the other (Hotu Iti) made up of warlords from the east.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Motu_Nui.jpg>

*Images of Tangata Manu (Birdman) Cult, Carved in Basalt, Orongo –
View of Motu Nui*

The warriors then instituted a bizarre cult to provide a power-sharing mechanism so that the two confederacies would not be constantly at war. It is not clear when the cult of the birdman (*tangata manu*) began, but it was in full sway when Europeans first visited Rapa Nui in the 18th century and it was last practiced in 1867. The cult was

based in subterranean stone houses in the village of Orongo on the rim of the Rano Kau crater.

Each Spring (September), servants of a limited number of powerful warlords (nominated by the priests) would swim 1.2 miles through shark-infested waters to the islet of Motu Nui. There they would wait to try to collect the first egg of the sooty tern (*Sterna fuscata*, called *manutara* by the Rapanui). The successful servant would return to Orongo with the egg and present it to his warrior master.

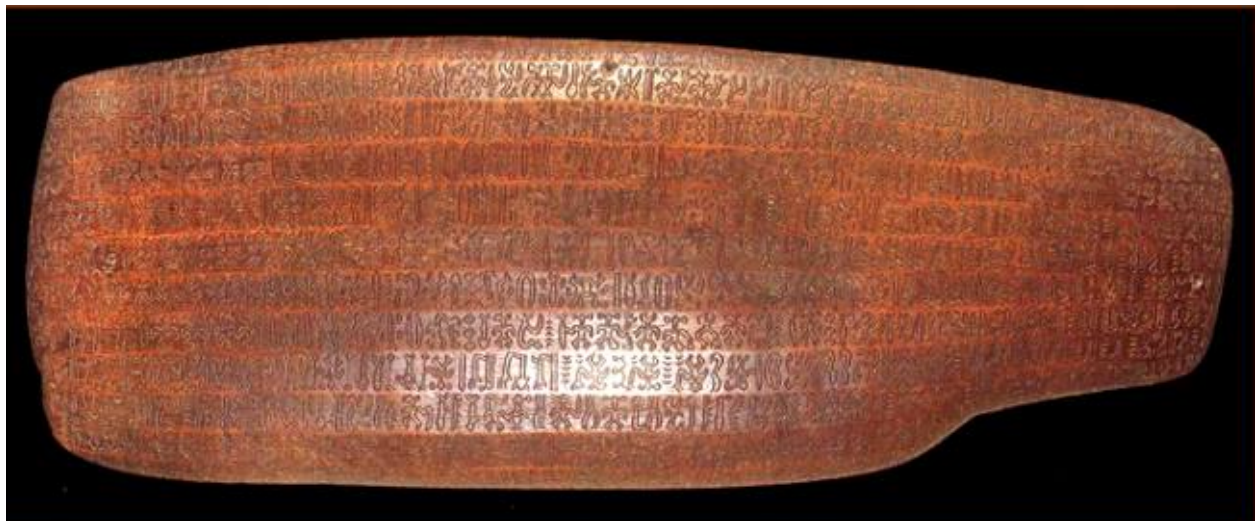


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Easter_Island_cave.jpg>

*Carved Birdman Images, Rock Art of Sooty Terns –
Ana Kai Tangata Sea Cave, Near Mataveru, Rapa Nui*

The winning warrior then would serve for one year as the representative of Makemake on Rapa Nui. He would be secluded in Ranu Raraku (if a member of the eastern confederacy) or in Anakena (if of the western group). His group could raid and plunder and command human sacrifices for the year.

The sooty tern and the birdman are also the most prominent symbols in Rapa Nui's Rongorongo script. That script contains 120 elements and 2,000 compound signs and survives on 25 museum pieces of wood that depict lunar calendars, religious texts, and creation legends.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rongorongo_B-v_Aruku-Kurenga_\(color\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rongorongo_B-v_Aruku-Kurenga_(color).jpg)>

*Rongorongo Tablet B, Aruku Kurenga, Rapa Nui –
Discovered by Catholic Priests, c. 1860, Now Housed in Rome, Italy*

Politics and Economy. The plight of Rapa Nui became worse during the first century and a half after European contact. Jacob Roggeveen, a Dutch explorer, was the first European to discover the island, and on Easter Sunday 1722 he named it Easter Island. Felipe Gonzalez y Haldó re-named the island Isla de San Carlos in 1770 and claimed it for the king of Spain. Captain James Cook visited briefly in 1774. His Tahitian navigator, Hitihiti, summed up his impression: “Bad land, good people.”



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bildhodes.jpg>>

*Moai of Easter Island –
Painting by William Hodges, Artist with Captain James Cook, 1774*

In 1862, Peruvian slavers captured 1,000 Rapanui and forced them to work in guano islands. Only 15 returned home, and they tragically introduced smallpox and started an epidemic that annihilated the population. By 1877, only 110 Rapanui people were left on Rapa Nui. Chile annexed the island in 1888 – to establish a naval station and to develop agriculture. Between 1901 and 1966, the Chilean navy ruled Easter Island. The ruling naval officers made little effort to develop it and instead leased much of the island to a sheep rancher who grazed 70,000 sheep there. But in 1952, the navy revoked the rancher's lease and there are no longer any sheep on Rapa Nui. In the mid-1960s, the residents of the island protested strongly against rule by the Chilean navy. Subsequently, in 1966 Easter Island became a municipality within Valparaiso Province. The governor of Rapa Nui is appointed by the president of Chile. The mayor and six-member municipal council are elected for four-year terms.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:General_Pinochet_junto_a_una_pascuense.jpg>

*Augusto Pinochet, Dictator of Chile (1973-1990) and Rapanui Woman –
Rapa Nui Was Under Martial Law*

Tourism began in the 1980s, and in 2003 22,000 tourists, mostly from Chile, Germany, France, and the United States, visited the island and spent \$8 million locally. By 2019, the number of tourists visiting Rapa Nui had exploded to an estimated 100,000.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TAMURE.png>>

Tourism in Rapa Nui – Rapanui Dancers, Pictured in 2011

The population of Rapa Nui has recovered to a recent level of 7,750, including about 4,650 Rapanui speakers. The life expectancy of residents of Rapa Nui is 82 years, and 90 percent are literate. Most of the island is in national parks or belongs to a government development corporation. Hence, the leading employer is the government, which receives over \$10 million in annual transfers from Chile.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Easter_island_and_south_america.jpg>

Rapa Nui (Easter Island) – Part of Chile Since 1888

Captain James Cook's Explorations of the Pacific

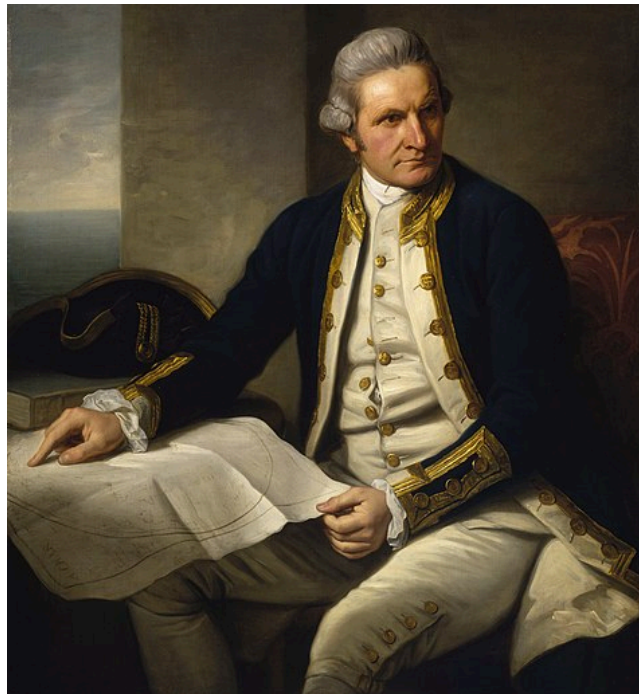
Birth of a Surveyor. James Cook was born at Marton, north Yorkshire on October 27, 1728. Cook had a modest upbringing – his father, James Senior, was a Scotsman by birth and a day laborer, and his mother, Grace, was a homemaker from Yorkshire. After attending village school, Cook moved to the Yorkshire port of Whitby and was apprenticed to John Walker, a shipowner who became Cook's mentor. Cook attended apprentice school and excelled in navigation, surveying, trigonometry, and mathematics.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:River_Esk,_Whitby.jpg>

*Whitby, Yorkshire, England, 2019 –
Where James Cook Was an Apprentice Surveyor in the 1740s*

Cook first went to sea in 1747 aboard Walker's *Freelove*, a ship that transported Tyne coal in the North Sea. He was an ambitious, self-made young man who studied while he sailed. In 1752, at age 24, he passed the examinations to become mate in the British merchant marine. Walker was immensely pleased with Cook's progress, and in 1755 he offered his protégé the captaincy of his ship, *Friendship*. But Cook instead volunteered for the Royal Navy. Cook's rapid progress continued, and in 1757 he became master of HMS *Pembroke*.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Captainjamescookportrait.jpg>>

*Captain James Cook (1728-1779) – Portrait by
Nathaniel Dance-Holland, 1775, National Maritime Museum, London*

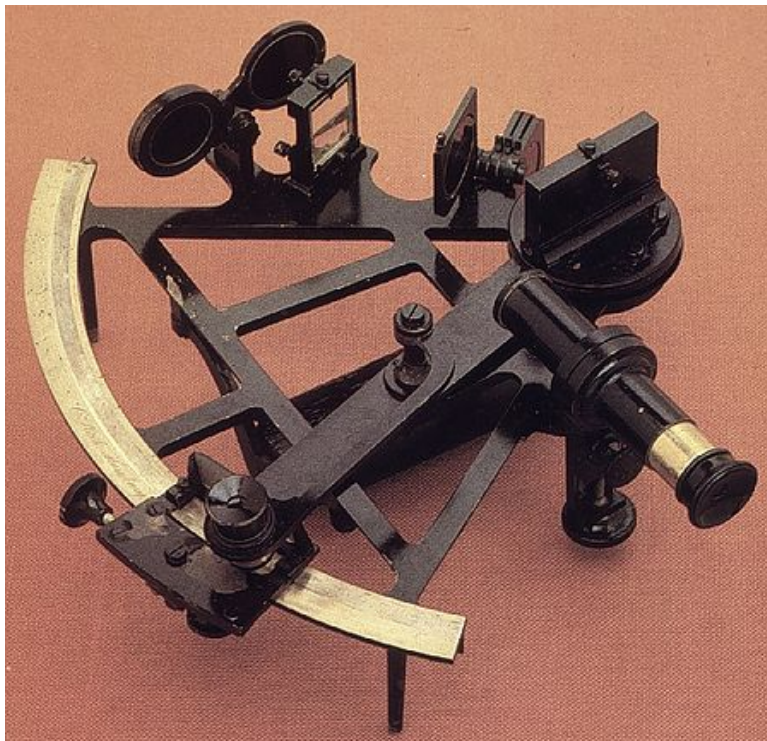
In that capacity, Cook served in the Seven Years War with France and took part in the capture of Quebec in 1759. While in Quebec, Cook demonstrated his exceptional skill in surveying, and his superiors encouraged him to make corrections in existing charts. Shortly after completing his service in that war, Cook married Elizabeth Batts in December 1762 at age 34. James and Elizabeth Cook had a successful marriage, although he was abroad during much of it.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elizabeth_Batts_Cook.jpg>

*Elizabeth Batts Cook (1742-1835) –
Portrait by William Henderson, 1830 (When Elizabeth Was Age 88)*

Between 1763 and 1766, Cook was the surveyor of Newfoundland, and he meticulously charted its 6,000-mile coastline. Cook combined a running survey at sea with a more accurate survey on land, taking precise soundings. He thereby earned a reputation as the best surveyor in the Royal Navy.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sextant.jpg>>

Sextant, 1890s – Similar to the Sextants Used by Captain James Cook

First Circumnavigation. In 1768, the British Admiralty and the Royal Society (a highly influential group that promoted science) launched an expedition to the Pacific. The public purpose was to

observe a transit of the planet of Venus in June 1769 on Tahiti
(discovered for Europeans in 1767 by Samuel Wallis) to help measure
the distances between the Earth, Venus, and the sun and thus to aid
navigational estimates of longitude. The two secret purposes were to
establish whether New Zealand was the northern extremity of Terra
Australis Incognita (the great southern continent) and to discover and
claim for England as much new land as possible.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Atlas_Ortelius_KB_PPN369376781-001av-001br.jpg>

Carte Ortelius – Map Showing Terra Australis, Antwerp, 1570

The Navy appointed James Cook to command the expedition and promoted him to lieutenant RN. Cook was chosen because he was the Navy's best surveyor, had recently published a well-received article on an eclipse of the sun, was known to be discreet and sensible, and was available. The *Endeavour*, a North Sea design built in Whitby, was chosen as the ship for the voyage.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Webber_-_Portrait_of_Captain_James_Cook_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg>

*Captain James Cook – Portrait by John Webber, 1776,
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa*

The expedition's accomplishments exceeded the Admiralty's orders. Cook and his men successfully observed the transit of Venus in

Tahiti, and they discovered and made superb charts of the other Society Islands. They circled, charted, and claimed the north and south islands of New Zealand and proved that those islands were not part of a great southern continent. Cook next decided to chart and claim the unexplored eastern coast of New Holland (Australia). The *Endeavour* barely survived a grounding on the Great Barrier Reef and the treacherous Endeavour Strait.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emanuel_Phillips_Fox_Captain_Cook_Botany_Bay.jpg>

*Landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay, 1770 –
Painting by Emanuel Phillips Fox, 1902,
National Gallery of Victoria, Australia*

Cook took most pride in the excellent discipline he maintained on the *Endeavour* and in his ability to control scurvy (caused by vitamin C deficiency). Cook returned to England in July 1771 to wide acclaim.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cook%27sFirstVoyage54.png>>

*Captain James Cook's First Circumnavigation of the World –
Aboard the Endeavour, 1768-1771*

Cook in Tahiti. James Cook visited Tahiti four times – during April-August 1769, August-September 1773, April-June 1774, and August-December 1777 – and spent twelve months there, four months during each of his three voyages to the Pacific. Cook was both fascinated and frustrated by the island and its people.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hodges,_Resolution_and_Adventure_in_Matavai_Bay.jpg>

*HMS Resolution and HMS Adventure in Matavai Bay, Tahiti, 1773 –
Painting by William Hodges, Royal Museums, Greenwich, UK, 1776*

Cook and his ship crews engaged in much trade with the Tahitians, which they perceived as an exchange of gifts. Although a wide range of items was traded, the most important trade good for the Tahitians was nails (used for woodworking) and for the British was food (pigs, breadfruit, and coconuts). Cook at first tried to limit trade to a few selected men (to keep the value of British nails high), but that effort quickly failed in the trading melee. Each side misunderstood the property rights of the other. The British accused the Tahitians of theft,

although the British helped themselves to local wood, fish, and fruit without permission.

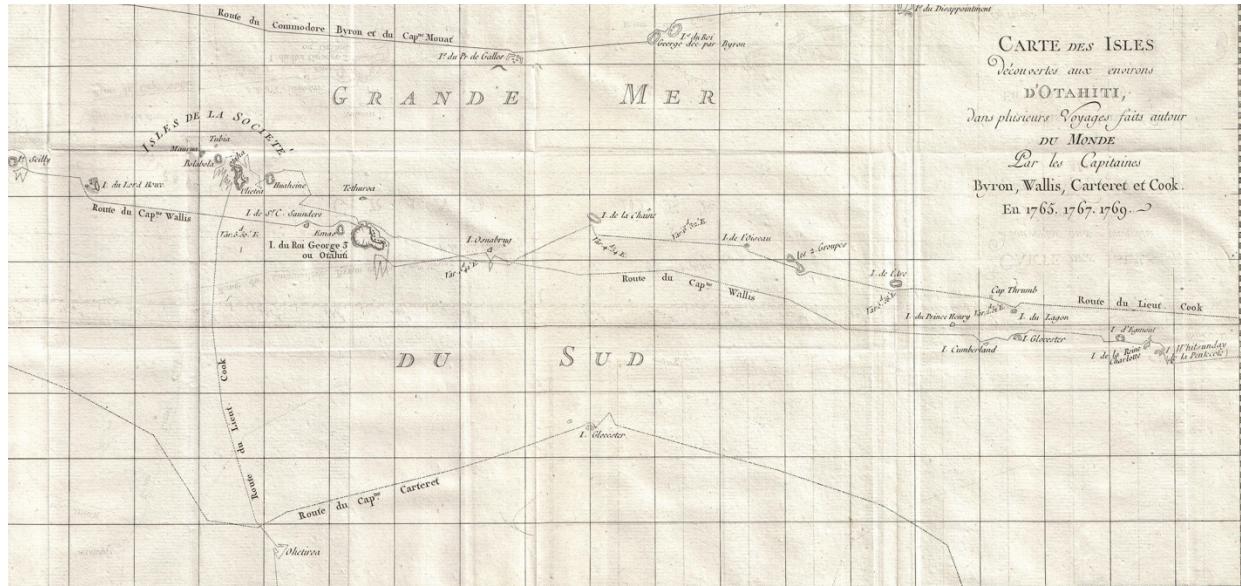


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleveley_the_Younger,_Views_of_the_South_Seas_\(No._3_of_4\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleveley_the_Younger,_Views_of_the_South_Seas_(No._3_of_4).jpg)>

Captain Cook's Ships in Matavai Bay, Tahiti – Painting by John Cleveley the Younger, Carpenter on HMS Resolution, 1777

During his first visit, Cook explored, charted, and claimed land for the English crown. He charted Tahiti (clockwise, starting from his base at Matavai Bay) and discovered that the island was divided at its isthmus into two separate regions – Tahiti-nui (Great Tahiti) in the north and Tahiti-iti (Little Tahiti) in the south – each with its own chiefs and temples. Cook sailed west to the Leeward Islands (Raiatea, Borabora,

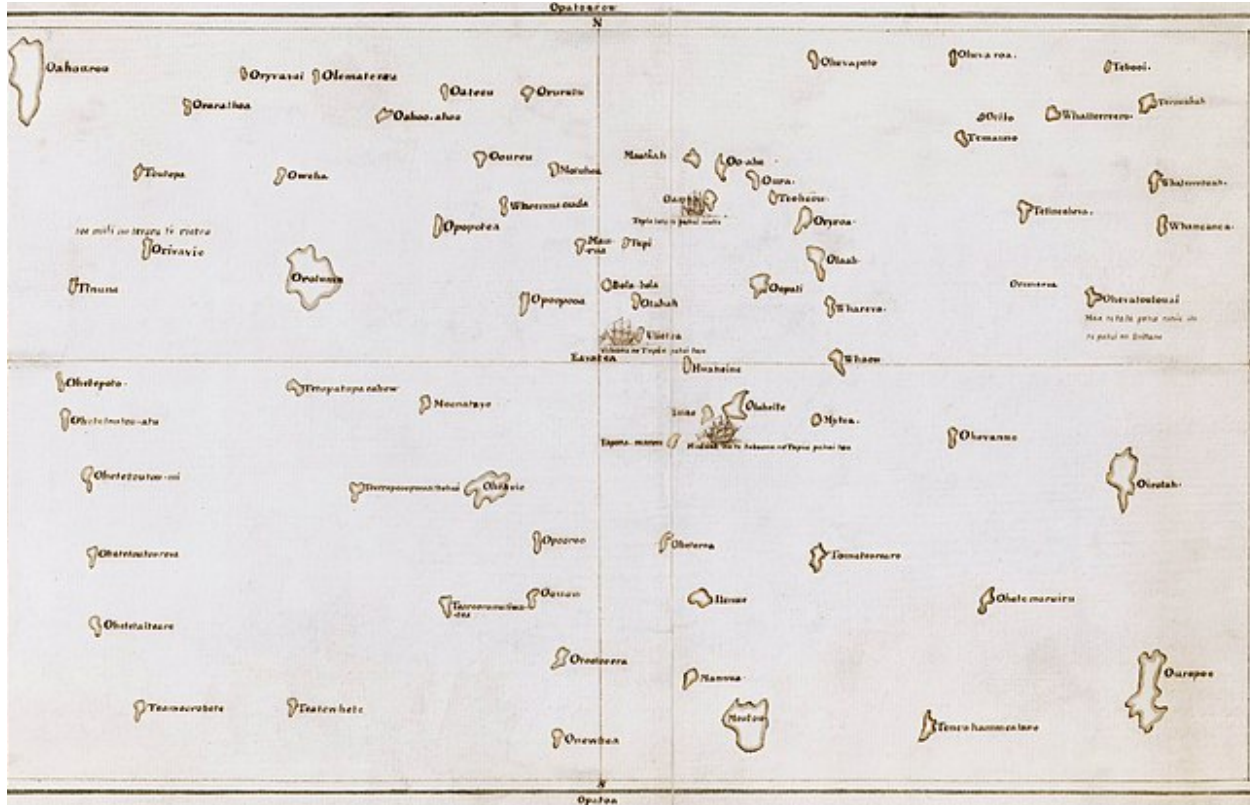
Huahine, and Tahaa), exchanged elaborate gifts with their rulers, and raised the Union Jack to claim them all.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1769_Cook_Map_of_Tahiti,_the_Society_Islands,_and_the_Vicinity_-_Geographicus_-_OtahitiDecouverts-cook-1769.jpg>

*Captain James Cook's Map of Tahiti, the Society Islands, and Vicinity,
1769 – Geographicus Fine Antique Maps*

Cook was very impressed with the Polynesian methods of navigation. Tupaia, a Raiatean who served as Cook's guide and translator, was a superb navigator. He could read open seas well, and he drew a chart containing 130 Polynesian islands, including New Zealand, Tonga, the Cooks, and the Marquesas.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tupaia%27s_map,_c._1769.jpg

Map of Polynesia Drawn from Memory by Tupaia, Cook's Raiatean Guide and Translator, c. 1769 – British Library, London

Second Circumnavigation. One year to the day after returning from his first circumnavigation of the world, on July 13, 1772 James Cook embarked on his second. On that journey, Cook had two ships, the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*, both, like the *Endeavour*, constructed in Fishburn's yard in Whitby. The primary goal of Cook's second voyage

was to settle the speculative existence of Terra Australis Incognita, the great southern continent – and to claim it for Britain if it existed.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Terraaustralis.jpg>>

*Map of the Hypothetical Continent, Terra Australis Incognita –
Drawn by Jan Janssonius, Dutch Cartographer, Amsterdam, 1657*

Cook also was to preempt French possession of possible new Pacific islands. A third purpose was to test John Harrison's newly invented chronometer and to see whether it would measure longitude better than lunar observations.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harrison%27s_Chronometer_H5.JPG>

John Harrison's Chronometer H5, Similar to the One Tested by James Cook on His Second Circumnavigation – Science Museum, London

Cook's second circumnavigation was even more impressive than his first. He again met his assigned goals and more. Cook proved that no habitable, north-lying continent existed in the southern Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans. Between November 1772 and March 1773, Cook sailed for four months below 60 degrees South latitude without sighting land between Africa and New Zealand. In January 1774, he reached a furthest south of 71 degrees South latitude.

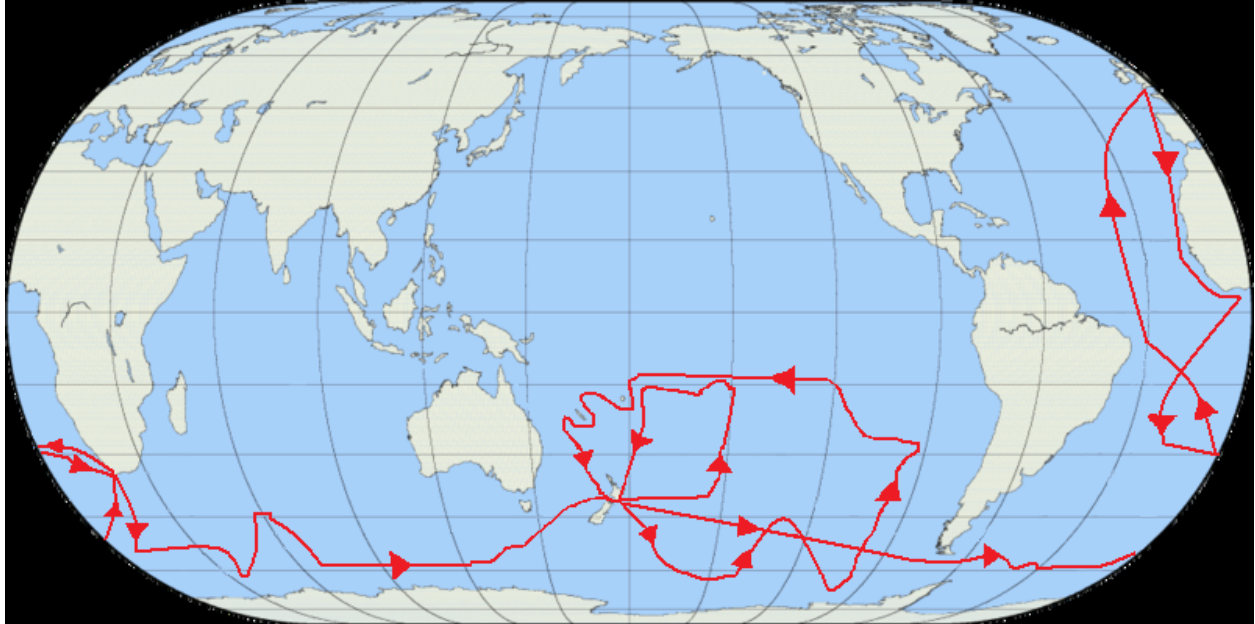


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cook_in_Antarctica.jpg>

The Ice Islands, Seen the Ninth of January, 1773 – Painting by William Hodges, Artist on Captain James Cook’s Second Circumnavigation

Cook was the first to cross the Antarctic Circle, and he did it three times. He also discovered and claimed several islands in the Tuamotus, Australs, Cooks, and Marquesas as well as New Hebrides, New Caledonia, and Norfolk in Melanesia and South Georgia in the South Atlantic. Cook confirmed the value of Harrison’s chronometer, and he provided further evidence that antiscorbutic food (sauerkraut and broth) and ship cleanliness will control scurvy and other diseases. After

returning to England in July 1775, Cook was promoted to post-captain by King George III and elected overwhelmingly to the Royal Society.

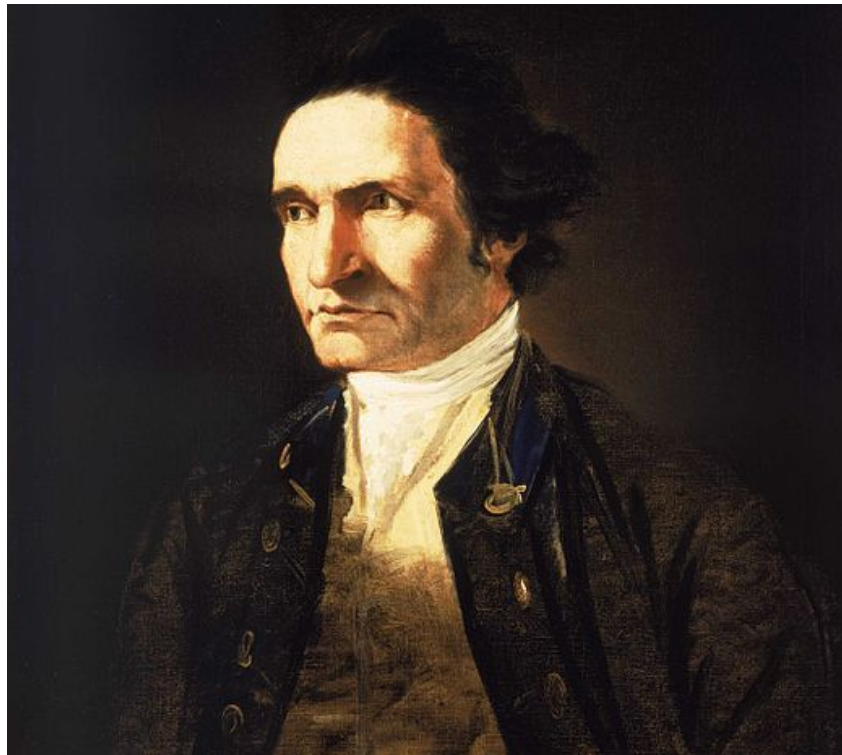


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cook%27sSecondVoyage53.png>>

*Captain James Cook's Second Circumnavigation of the World –
Aboard the Resolution, 1772-1775*

Third Circumnavigation. Even before Captain James Cook returned home from his second voyage, plans had begun for a third trip to the Pacific. The British government hoped to find a Northwest Passage, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through northern Canada. It offered a prize of £20,000 to be shared by the captain and crew of the successful ship. Cook, at first, was excluded from

consideration of leadership because he had spent six of the past seven years sailing abroad in meritorious service. But in early 1776, the Admiralty and the Royal Society began to pressure Cook to command the new venture, and he quickly accepted.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:James_Cook%27s_portrait_by_William_Hodges.jpg>

*Captain James Cook, Portrayed by William Hodges, 1775 –
Before His Third Voyage, 1776-1779*

The public cover for the voyage was the need to transport Mai (a Tahitian whom Cook had brought to England on his second trip and who had charmed English society) back to Tahiti. Cook sailed from England

in June 1776, commanding the *Resolution* and *Discovery*. After his arrival in Queen Charlotte Sound, New Zealand in early 1777, Cook's leadership style inexplicably shifted – from compassion to brutality. When he failed to avenge Maori cannibalism, he lost his crew's respect.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HodgesA_View_of_Cape_Stephens_in_Cook%27s_Straits_New_Zealand_with_Waterspout_1776.jpg>

*A View of Cape Stephens in Cook's Straits (New Zealand) with Waterspout (On Cook's Third Voyage) –
Painting by William Hodges, 1776*

Cook showed a violent temper, and he doubled the rate of crew floggings (relative to his first two voyages). He also began to mistreat and abuse local people, beating thieves and capturing and ransoming

high chiefs. In both Tonga and Raiatea, vengeful Polynesians made unsuccessful attempts on his life.

Although Cook failed to find the Northwest Passage, his ships reached a furthest north of 70 degrees North (above Alaska).

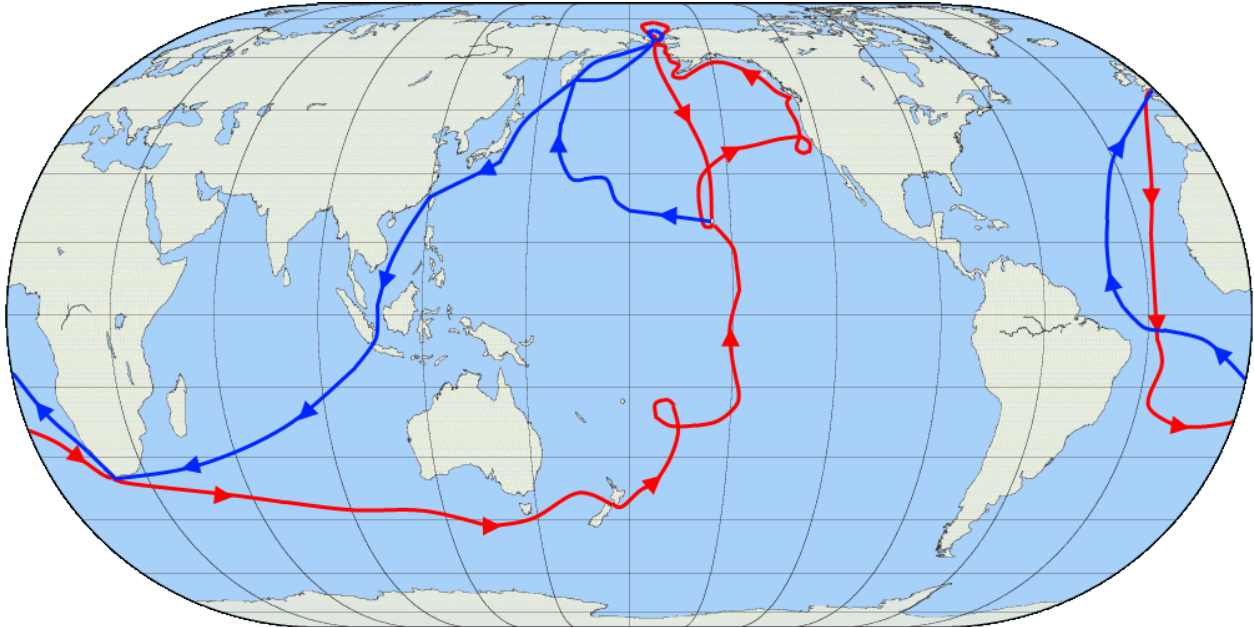


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sea_otter_cropped.jpg>

Sea Otter (Enhydra lutris) – Cook’s Crew Returned to England with Knowledge of Its Valuable Pelts and Wide Range in the Northern Pacific

On this third voyage, Cook discovered Mangaia, Tubuai, and Atui in the Austral Islands, Christmas Island, and the Hawaiian Islands and

advanced knowledge of the natural history of Polynesia, the Northwest Coast of North America, and Alaska.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cook%27sThirdVoyage58.png>>

*Captain James Cook's Third Circumnavigation of the World –
Aboard the Resolution and Discovery, 1776-1780*

Death of Lono. In January 1778, when Captain James Cook discovered the Hawaiian Islands, they contained the most highly developed polity in Oceania. The population of the islands was 250,000, and the Polynesian residents enjoyed a rich culture based on irrigated taro and fishponds. About half the people lived on the main island of

Hawaii and were ruled by Kalaniopuu, a powerful king. His rival, Kahekili, a high chief from Maui, ruled over the other half of the Hawaiians.

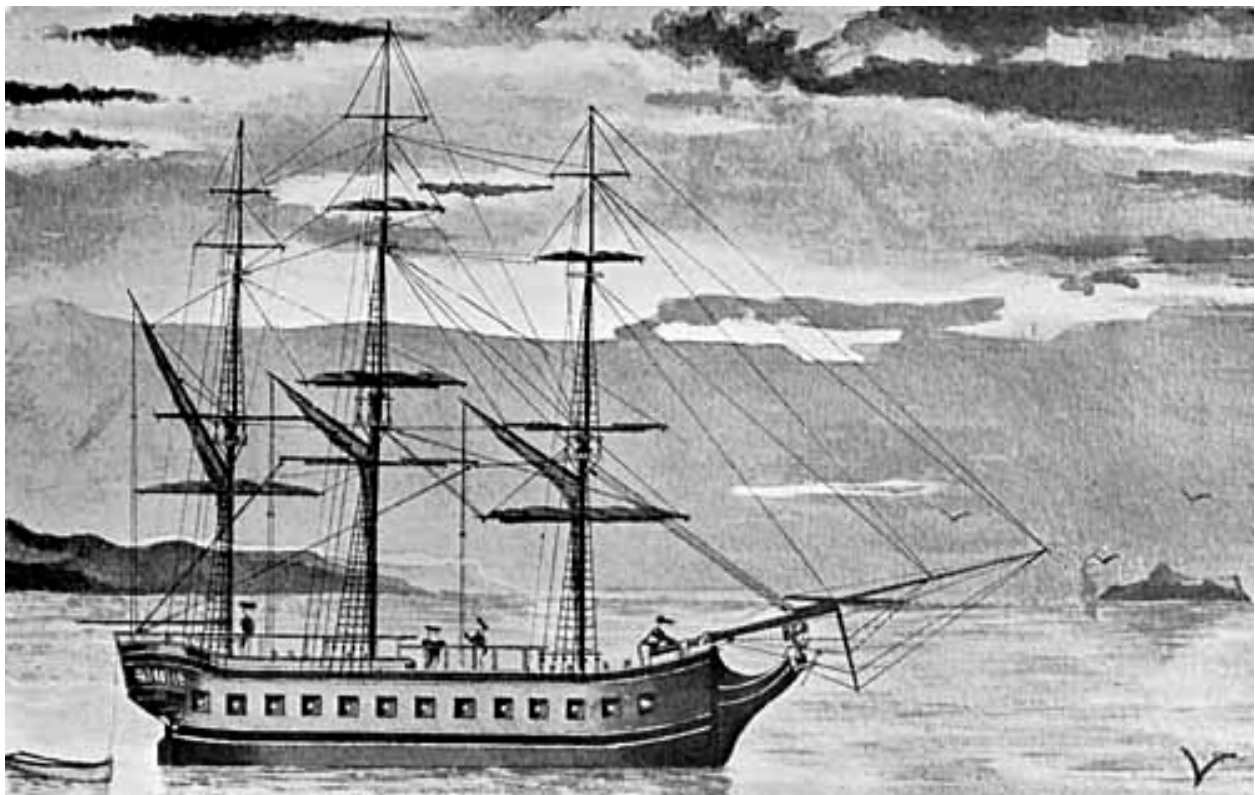


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:H000104-Feather_Cape.jpg>

*Kalaniopuu's Feather Cloak, Presented to Captain James Cook, 1778 –
Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia*

Cook returned to Hawaii in November 1778, after his unsuccessful venture in Alaska. He arrived at the start of the Makahiki festival, an annual rite in which the Hawaiians believed that their fertility god, Lono, would return to bring them peace, prosperity, and fertility. The festival

was celebrated with hula dancing and lovemaking. Most of the Hawaiians mistook Cook for Lono, and they treated him lavishly with sacred gifts. King Kalaniopuu exchanged names with Cook, which signified that Cook would receive some of the king's *mana* (power). Cook and his men departed Kealahou Bay in February 1779. But the *Resolution* lost its foremast, and so they returned to Hawaii to replace it.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Resolution_ship.jpg>

*HMS Resolution, Captain James Cook's Ship on His Third Voyage –
Pictured in James Cook, The Circumnavigator by John Murray, 1907*

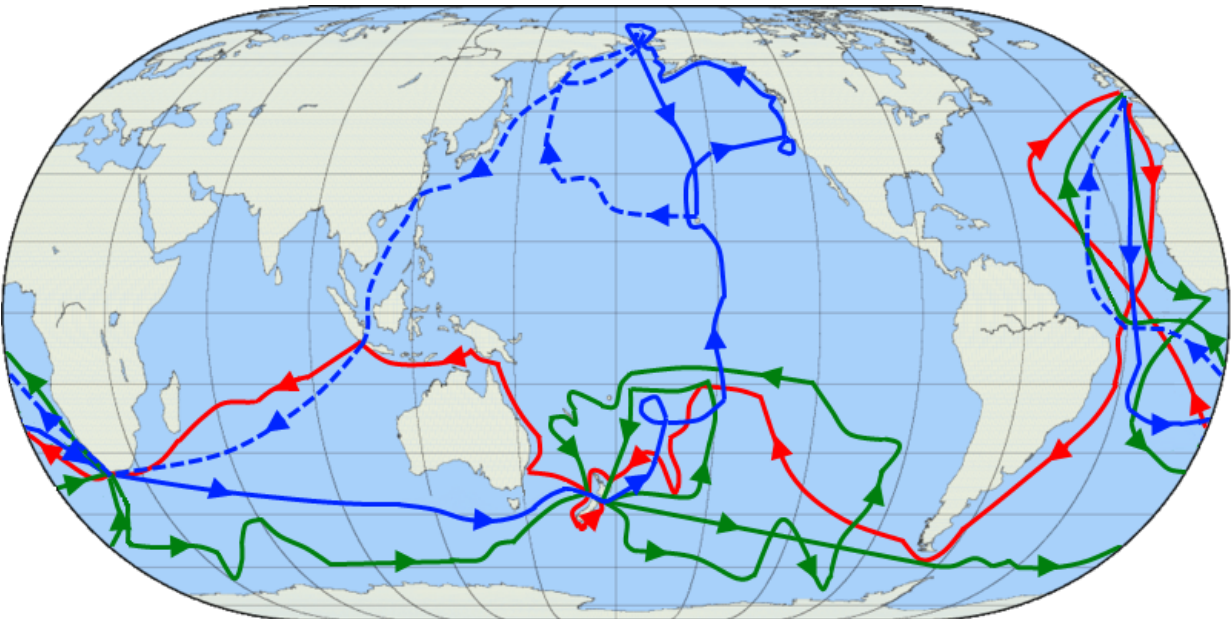
Makahiki had ended, and their reception was extremely cool. Quarrels and thievery broke out. When the Hawaiians stole the ship's cutter (lifeboat), Cook tried to take King Kalaniopuu hostage on the *Resolution*. His people revolted and attacked. Cook's men panicked, and his marines retreated, leaving him defenseless on the shore. The Hawaiians killed Cook, ritually distributed his body, and later returned some pieces of it for burial at sea.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleveley_the_Younger,_Views_of_the_South_S
eas_\(No._4_of_4\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleveley_the_Younger,_Views_of_the_South_S eas_(No._4_of_4).jpg)>

*British Marines Left Captain Cook On Shore, Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii
February 1779 – Painting by John Cleveley the Younger, c. 1788*

Cook's death was caused by a breakdown in his leadership and the Hawaiians' desire for revenge. But to them, it was not the death of Lono, who would return each year to ensure their fertility.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cook_Three_Voyages_59.png>

Three Circumnavigations of Captain James Cook – First (1768-1771, Red), Second (1772-1775, Green), Third (1776-1779, Blue)

Time Line for Polynesia

40,000-50,000 BCE	ancestors of Aborigines and Papuans migrated into Sahul
35,000 BCE	coasts of Sahul continent settled
10,000 BCE	non-desert parts of Sahul continent settled
7000 BCE	agriculture first practiced in New Guinea – taro, <i>Australimusa</i> bananas, yams, sugarcane, breadfruit, <i>Canarium</i> almonds
6000 BCE	end of last Ice Age – sea level rose – divided Sahul continent into Australia, New Guinea
3000 BCE-1000 CE	The Austronesian Diaspora from Taiwan
3000 BCE	Malayo-Polynesian (Austronesian) people settled Southeast Asia from Taiwan – Philippines (3000 BCE) – Borneo, Sulawesi (2500) – Malaya, Java, Sumatra (2000)
1500 BCE	migration of Austronesian-speaking farmers from Java and Sumatra into New Guinea and Near Oceania – dogs, pigs, chickens, coconuts, Lapita red pottery
1500-1400 BCE	Lapita culture spread throughout Near Oceania – fusion of Austronesian and Papuan cultures, languages, and genes
1200-1000 BCE	Lapita culture dispersed into Remote Oceania – south to Vanuatu, New Caledonia – east to Fiji, Lau Islands, Tonga, Samoa

1200-1000 BCE	Polynesian Settlement of Western Polynesia – Lapita peoples and food package – Proto-Polynesian language – Polynesian cultural norms (<i>mana</i> , <i>tapu</i> , <i>tupuna</i> , and <i>kava</i>)
200 BCE-1000 CE	Polynesian Settlement of Eastern Polynesia – Cook, Society, Tuamotu Islands – Austral, Mangareva, Marquesa Islands – taro, yams, breadfruit, coconuts, bananas, chickens, pigs
200 BCE-600 CE	Polynesian Settlement of Tuvalu, Eastern Micronesia, and Northern Micronesia
c. 300 CE	Rapa Nui (Easter Island) was occupied by Polynesians from Mangareva
c. 400	Hawaii was occupied by Polynesians from the Marquesas
c. 1000	Aotearoa (New Zealand) was occupied by Polynesians from the southern Cooks
c. 1000-1500	Ahu and Moai Period, Rapa Nui (Easter Island) – biggest <i>ahu</i> (platforms) were 700 feet long and 13 feet high – half held <i>moai</i> , giant statues of deified ancestors
c. 1100-1400	continuous Polynesian settlement in Pitcairn and Henderson Islands
late 15 th century	Mangareva suffered an ecological collapse – ended trade lifeline for Polynesian inhabitants on Pitcairn and Henderson

1500-1722	Decadent Period, Rapa Nui – near anarchy – endemic warfare, constant raiding – societal strain – deforestation – cultural collapse – population fell from 10,000 to 2,000
1606	Pedro Fernandes de Quirós, Spanish explorer – first non-Polynesian to visit Henderson, Ducie Islands (Pitcairn group)
1616	Jacob Le Maire and Willem Schouten, Dutch explorers – first non-Polynesians to visit Tonga
1642-1643	Abel Tasman, Dutch explorer, sailed across northern New Guinea – first non-Polynesian to visit Fiji, New Zealand, and Tasmania
1722	Jacob Roggeveen, Dutch explorer – first non-Polynesian to visit Samoa and Easter Island (Rapa Nui)
1728	James Cook (1728-1778) was born at Marton, north Yorkshire, England
1757	Captain James Cook became master of HMS <i>Pembroke</i> , Royal Navy
1759	Captain James Cook served in the Seven Years War with France – took part in the capture of Quebec
1762	Captain James Cook married Elizabeth Batts (1742-1835)

1763-1766	Captain James Cook charted 6,000-mile coastline of Newfoundland – earned reputation as best surveyor in Royal Navy
1767	Samuel Wallis, British explorer – first non-Polynesian to visit Tahiti
1767	Philip Carteret (1733-1796), British explorer – discovered and named Pitcairn Island
1768	Louis Bougainville, French explorer – sailed into Tahiti – wrote <i>Voyage Around the World</i> (1771)
1768-1771	Captain James Cook’s first circumnavigation – aboard the <i>Endeavour</i>
1769	Captain Cook visited Tahiti – took successful transit of the planet Venus – charted and claimed Tahiti, Leeward Islands
1769-1770	Captain Cook circled, charted, and claimed the north and south islands of New Zealand – proved they were not part of a great southern continent
1770	Captain Cook explored the east coast of Australia (New Holland) – barely survived a grounding on the Great Barrier Reef
1770	Felipe Gonzalez y Haldo, Spanish explorer – re-named Rapa Nui as Isla de San Carlos – claimed it for Spain
1772-1775	Captain Cook’s second circumnavigation – aboard the <i>Resolution</i> and the <i>Adventure</i> – proved that no

continent lay in the southern Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans

- 1774 Captain Cook reached a furthest south position of 71 degrees South latitude
- 1774 Captain Cook discovered and named New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Norfolk – visited Rapa Nui – tested Harrison’s chronometer
- 1776-1779 Captain Cook’s third circumnavigation – aboard the *Resolution* and *Discovery* – search for Northwest Passage, west-to-east
- 1777 Captain Cook discovered and named Kiritimati (Christmas) Island, Line Islands
- 1778 Captain Cook failed to find the Northwest Passage – reached a furthest north of 70 degrees North latitude (above Alaska)
- 1778 Captain Cook returned to Hawaii – Makahiki festival – Cook mistaken as Lono, fertility god – treated with sacred gifts
- 1779 Captain Cook tried to take King Kalaniopuu hostage – British marines left him ashore, defenseless – Hawaiians killed him
- 1787-1789 *Bounty* expedition – led by William Bligh – breadfruit to Jamaica – chart Torres Strait
- 1789 William Bligh, on the *Bounty* – visited Tahiti to collect breadfruit plantings

1789	Fletcher Christian led the mutiny on the <i>Bounty</i> – 25 mutineers sought refuge island
1790	9 <i>Bounty</i> mutineers arrived in Pitcairn Island – divided cultivable land into equal shares
1791	Edward Edwards, British commander of the <i>Pandora</i> – discovered, named Ducie Island – captured 14 <i>Bounty</i> mutineers on Tahiti
1791-1793	William Bligh led his second British expedition to Tahiti – transferred breadfruit seedlings to the West Indies
1797-1815	missionaries from the London Missionary Society – converted most Tahitians to Protestantism
1798	Edmund Fanning, American whaler, discovered and named Tabuaeran (Fanning) and Teraina (Washington) Islands
19 th century	trade cycles in Western Polynesia – sandalwood (1800-1820), sea slugs (1820-1850), whaling (1820-1860), coconut oil (from 1855)
1800-1829	John Adams – sole surviving <i>Bounty</i> mutineer on Pitcairn Island – patriarch of the island until his death in 1829
1819	James Henderson, British explorer – discovered Henderson and Oeno Islands
1831	British government relocated all Pitcairners to Tahiti – 65 survivors returned to Pitcairn

1838	Britain annexed Pitcairn Island as a British colony – to preempt France
1840s-1850s	American and British whalers operated in the southern Gilbert Islands (today's Kiribati) – introduced devastating diseases
1842	France declared a Protectorate in Tahiti and the Marquesas – established the capital of French Polynesia in Papeete in 1843
1845-1893	King Tupou I unified and ruled Tonga – absolute monarchy
1856	Godeffroy und Sohn Company, German trading firm – set up Pacific headquarters in Apia, Samoa – paved way for colonization
1856	British officials moved all 194 Pitcairn Islanders to uninhabited Norfolk Island
1856	Paper of Cession – British deeded nearly all of Norfolk Island to Pitcairn Islanders
1859-1864	40 Pitcairners returned to Pitcairn Island from Norfolk Island – repopulated Pitcairn
1860-1900	traders blackbirded I-Kiribati laborers – indentured service contracts for work on plantations in Queensland, Fiji, Peru
1862	Peruvian slavers captured 1,000 Rapanui – forced work in guano islands – 15 returned home, introduced smallpox – devastation

1867	end of Birdman Cult in Rapa Nui – annual ruling competition between two warlord groups – find egg of sooty tern on Motu Nui
1874-1970	Britain colonized Fiji – self-styled king, Cakobau, sought British help
1879	Arthur Gordon, British Governor of Fiji, imported indentured laborers from India – produced sugar, Colonial Refining Company
1880s-1900	France colonized Tahiti and Gambier Islands (1881), Leeward Islands (1888), and Tuamotu and Austral Islands (1900)
1882-1914	24 French governors ruled French Polynesia
1886	Britain and Germany signed a convention – divided Micronesia into spheres of interest
1888	Chile annexed Rapa Nui – naval station – leased most of the island to a sheep rancher
1892	Britain established the Gilbert and Ellice Protectorate
1899-present	US colonized eastern Samoa (Tutuila and Manua) – governed paternalistically by US Navy (1899-1951)
1899-1914	Germany colonized western Samoa (Savaii and Upolu)

1900-1970	Britain established a protectorate over Tonga – constitutional monarchy – king retained nominal sovereignty
1902	Britain annexed the three uninhabited islands of the Pitcairn group – Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno
1908-1966	phosphate mining on Makatea – economic base of French Polynesia – one-fourth of export earnings and government income
1914-1962	New Zealand governed Western Samoa
1914-1918	World War One – Japan joined the Allies, took control of German-held Micronesia – Australia took German-held northeastern New Guinea
1916	Britain created the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony – added Banaba (Ocean) Island (1916), Fanning and Washington Islands (1916), Christmas Island (1919), and the Phoenix Islands (1937)
1922	Japan received a League of Nations mandate to govern Micronesia (Nanyo) – former German colony
1937-1945	Japan invaded China – conquered large parts of eastern China – but could not defeat Nationalists in west or Communists in north
1941-1945	Japan fought and lost World War II in the Pacific – early successes in Southeast Asia, Melanesia – Allies formed Pacific corridor of air bases to bomb Japan and win the war

- 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor (December) – buy time to establish a defensive perimeter – hoped Nazi Germany would win in Europe and US would not fight a long war in Pacific
- 1942-1945 Polynesia was outside of zone of combat – US built staging bases in Fiji and Samoa – New Zealand had military facilities in Tonga
- 1942 Japan invaded and controlled Ocean and Tarawa Islands in Micronesia
- 1943-1945 Allies won victories across central Pacific – Tarawa (1943) – Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan (1944) – Iwo Jima, Okinawa (1945)
- 1943-1945 Allies won island-hopping victories across southern Pacific – Bougainville (1943) – northern New Guinea, Leyte (1944) – Luzon (1945)
- 1943 US constructed air transport stations on Christmas Island (Line Islands) and Canton Island (Phoenix Islands) and a military base on Borabora (Society Islands)
- 1943 Battle of Tarawa – began Allied counter-offensive against Japan – 4,700 Japanese and 3,300 Allied troops died in battle
- 1945 Allied bombers fire-bombed Tokyo (March) – caused 100,000 deaths

1945	US President Harry Truman chose to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August) – caused 200,000 deaths
1945	Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender (August) – Allies' victory over Japan resulted from superior production capability and better military strategy
1946-1963	US staged 213 atmospheric explosions of nuclear weapons in the Pacific region
1957-1962	UK exploded 21 nuclear devices in the Pacific region
1962-2007	Malietao Tanumafili, Paramount Chief and Head of State (President-for-life) of Western Samoa (Samoa since 1997)
1962	Charles de Gaulle, President of France – nuclear testing on Mururoa and Fangataufa, Gambier Islands – set up Centre d'Experimentation du Pacifique (CEP)
1965	Reuben Uatiao, first prominent politician in the Gilbert and Ellice Colony, formed the Gilbertese National Party – promoted greater local representation of Gilbertese
1965-2006	King Tupou IV, ruler of Tonga
1966	Rapa Nui (Easter Island) became a municipality in Valparaiso Province, Chile

1966-1996	France conducted 193 tests of nuclear weapons in the Pacific – 46 atmospheric blasts – 147 underground explosions (137 at Mururoa, 10 at Fangataufa)
1970-1992	Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister of Fiji
1978	Ellice Islands became the independent country of Tuvalu – Polynesian population
1979	Britain granted independence to Republic of Kiribati – 34 islands – Gilbert Islands (17), Phoenix Islands (8), Line Islands (8), Banaba (1)
1979-1991	Ieremia Tabai, President (Beretitenti) of Kiribati
1983	Government of Kiribati purchased Tabuaeran and Teraina Islands from Burns Philp for \$1 million
1984	Alliance of Taiwan Aborigines formed –lobby for self-government, aboriginal land rights, and better political representation
1985	Rarotonga Treaty – most Pacific nations declared a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone – France ignored that declaration
1987-1999	Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji
1991-2005	Gaston Flosse, President of French Polynesia
2003-2016	Anote Tong, President (Beretitenti) of Kiribati
2006-2012	King Siaosi Tupou V, ruler of Tonga

2007-present	Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji
2007-2017	Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Eft, Head of State of Samoa
2012-present	‘Aho’eitu Tupou VI, ruler of Tonga
2014-present	Édouard Fritch, President of French Polynesia
2016-present	Taneti Maamau, President (Beretitenti) of Kiribati
2017-present	Tuimalealifano Va’aletoa Sualauvi II, Head of State of Samoa
2019	average per capita income in French Polynesia was \$22,000 – the highest in Polynesia
2019	Fiji ranked 93 rd of 189 countries in the United Nation’s Human Development Index
2019	Tonga ranked 104 th of 189 countries in the United Nation’s Human Development Index
2019	Samoa ranked 111 th of 189 countries in the United Nation’s Human Development Index
2019	Kiribati ranked 134 th of 189 countries in the United Nation’s Human Development Index

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Sites Visited in Polynesia

The World Less Traveled by Private Jet

Stanford Travel/Study Program

January 24-February 16, 2013

Airplane-based, Aboard a TCS and Starquest Expeditions Jet

Papeete, Tahiti, Windward Society Islands, French Polynesia

Our first destination was Papeete, Tahiti, the largest city and primary port of French Polynesia. The French navy began the colonization of French Polynesia in 1842 when it conquered the Marquesas Islands. Fearing British retaliation, France next forced Tahitian Queen Pomare to agree to a French protectorate over Tahiti and Moorea. France desired naval and whaling stations in the Pacific and greater control of coconut oil exports. Papeete, largely a European creation, became the French administrative center. Today, Papeete is the capital of French Polynesia, still a part of France. This small city of 135,000 residents thrives on tourism and transfers from France. It houses half of the total population of French Polynesia (270,000), who have a per capita income of \$19,000.

Our group spent a delightful day in Papeete. We visited the Museum of Tahiti and Its Islands, which contained a nicely complete collection of displays on Tahitian natural and cultural history and a special exhibition on Tahitian dance costumes. During a bus tour around the somewhat drab city of Papeete, we visited the large city food market and saw the Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Territorial Assembly (in the buildings of the former Pomare palace). We drove out of town to visit the Marae Arahurahu, a site of worship for the Polynesian people. The marae (outdoor temple) is an active place of worship. Although most Tahitians are nominally Christians, many continue to practice their traditional religion as well as Christianity.

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**A Cruise in the South Pacific,
Aboard the *Seabourn Odyssey*
Seabourn Cruise Line
January 16-February 9, 2012**

Vaitape, Borabora, Leeward Society Islands, French Polynesia

The first leg of our cruise took us westward from Tahiti to Borabora, one of the six islands in the Leeward Island group in the Society Islands. Borabora was renowned in the 18th century for its powerful warriors who ruled the Leewards and threatened much larger Tahiti. During World War II, 5,600 American troops manned a supply base on Borabora for the main battlefronts in the western Pacific. Borabora is a beautiful, craggy, volcanic island. The 8,000 Polynesians and French living on Borabora are worried about the future of their destination resorts in a stagnant global economy. In the past three years, five of Borabora's fourteen luxury hotels, including the Club Med facility, have closed. Vaitape, the island's only sizeable town, is clearly feeling the affects of the downturn in tourism. Only the shops selling black pearls appeared to be prospering.

Avatiu and Avarua, Rarotanga, Southern Cook Islands

About 60 percent of the 15,000 inhabitants of the Cook Islands live on Rarotanga, a circular, 67-square-mile island in the southern part of the Cook chain. The Cook Islands are named for Captain James Cook, the most prolific explorer of the 18th century, who discovered many of those islands in the 1770s and claimed them for Great Britain. Britain planted the Union Jack in the Cooks in 1888 and then transferred sovereignty over them to New Zealand, a Dominion within the British Empire, in 1901. The *Seabourn Odyssey* anchored off the north shore of Rarotanga, and we went ashore in tender boats and docked at Avatiu. We walked along the coast, enjoying the scenic fringing reef. In the neighboring

small town of Avarua, we visited a fascinating little museum, within the town's library, which had superb photos and exhibits of Cook Island history and culture.

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A Cruise in Polynesia, Aboard the *Silver Shadow*

Silversea Cruises

March 23-April 11, 2009

Ship-based, Aboard the *Silver Shadow*

Uturoa, Raiatea, Leeward Society Islands, French Polynesia

Our second port of call was Uturoa, the largest town on Raiatea, another volcanic island in Leeward French Polynesia. About 11,000 Polynesians, French, and Chinese live on Raiatea, and most of them inhabit Uturoa and work in tourism. Prior to French annexation in 1888, Raiatea was the religious and cultural center of the Society Islands. The most sacred and largest pre-Christian temple (*marae*) was at Taputapuatea on an 8-acre site in southern Raiatea. All *marae* in Polynesia must contain one stone from Taputapuatea. Sandra and I explored Uturoa and visited its bustling food market. Uturoa is the supply center for all of the Leeward Islands, and its supermarkets were overflowing with fresh produce and packaged goods. But the very high prices reflected Raiatea's remote location. Ordinary French wine was priced at \$60 a bottle and cereal at \$7 a box.

Apia, Independent Samoa

The Polynesian culture developed in Samoa (and in Tonga and Fiji) during the millennium starting about 1000 BCE and then spread into Eastern Polynesia between 200 BCE and 600 CE. For several centuries, the Polynesians of Samoa prospered on the Polynesian food package – breadfruit, taro, bananas, coconuts, chickens, pigs, and dogs. By 1500, Samoa had become a vassal state of the powerful Polynesian kingdom of

Tonga, and Samoa remained a Tongan possession for three centuries. During the European scramble for imperial gains in the late 19th century, Germany colonized the western islands of Samoa. After Germany's defeat in World War I, all German colonies became League of Nations mandates. New Zealand then governed Western Samoa for 50 years. Western Samoa was the first Pacific island state to gain full independence (1962).

Today, the 185,000 residents in Independent Samoa (a title the island country chose to distinguish itself from American Samoa to the east) survive on tourism and foreign aid (mostly from New Zealand). In addition to the welcoming Polynesian people and the attractive beaches and mountain scenery, Independent Samoa features the timeless Aggie Grey's Hotel in Apia and Vailima, the former residence of Robert Louis Stevenson and his family. Most of the Samoans are devout Christians, practicing a variety of Catholic and Protestant faiths. Sandra and I escorted a shore excursion to Piula Theological College and Cave Pool, located 30 miles east of Apia, the capital and port. We swam in the brisk pool water, underneath a high cave. En route back to the ship, docked in Apia, we visited a village *fale* (pavilion) and the central food market of Apia.

Suva and Lautoka, Fiji

Fiji was the cradle of the Polynesian culture in the millennium beginning about 1000 BCE. Later in-migrations of Melanesian people have caused analysts to classify Fiji as part of Melanesia rather than of Polynesia. Interaction with European traders and missionaries, which started about 1800, introduced European diseases and caused Fiji's population to decline from 200,000 (in 1800) to 80,000 (in 1900). Fiji also suffered social and political dislocation, leading to endemic civil wars in the 19th century. Fiji was colonized by Great Britain in 1874. Britain then brought in indentured Indian laborers to work on newly formed sugar plantations. The interests of native Fijians and Indian citizens of Fiji often have conflicted. Since gaining independence in 1970, Fiji has had

three coups (in 1987, 2000, and 2006) and it is currently ruled by a military dictator, Frank Bainimarama.

Sandra and I toured Suva by taxi. We entered the impressive but empty Parliament House (Parliament is now suspended), visited a nearby village that has saved its century-old artifacts (weapons, tools, and photos) and arranged a beautiful display of indigenous plants and flowers, and enjoyed the excellent (though eclectic) historical and cultural displays at the Fiji Museum. I was thrilled to photograph an exquisite piece of three-millennia-old, red Lapita pottery, the highpoint of the museum's collection. The *Silver Shadow* sailed on to Lautoka, Fiji's second largest town and leading sugar-refining center and port. We braved the pouring rain to walk around the multi-racial town (inhabited by Melanesian, Indian, Polynesian, and Chinese Fijians) and visit Lautoka's impressively clean, diverse central food market.

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Around the World Expedition, By Private Jet

TCS Expeditions

December 28, 2004-January 19, 2005

Airplane-based

Easter Island (Rapa Nui), Chile

Easter Island (Rapa Nui) is a remote Polynesian island located 2,300 miles west of Chile. By 1500, the Golden Age of Easter Island history, when the *ahu* religious platforms and monumental *moai* statues were constructed, was over. Easter Island entered its Decadent Phase, and the warriors overthrew the all-powerful kings, shared power, and introduced the bizarre Birdman Cult to provide religious legitimacy. In the middle of the 18th century, European explorers visiting Easter Island found a devastated land. The island had suffered a cultural collapse, because of deforestation and misuse of its resource base, and its population had declined from a maximum of about 15,000 to around 2,000.

The Polynesian population of Easter Island was nearly wiped out in the 1860s by Peruvian slavers and a small pox epidemic. Chile claimed Easter Island in 1888 and largely neglected it for nearly a century. Today, there are about 1,000 Rapanui (Polynesian) plus 2,000 Chilean people on the island. Almost all have a high standard of living, approximating that of the mainland Chileans. Expanding tourism and government transfers from mainland Chile have rejuvenated Easter Island. The future of this fascinating island looks very bright as Rapanui and Chilean leaders work together to expand tourism and maintain ecological balances.

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A Cruise Exploring French Polynesia, the Pitcairn Islands, and Easter Island

Clipper Cruise Line

October 1-16, 2004

Ship-based, Aboard the *Clipper Odyssey*

Rangiroa, Fakarava, Raroia, Puka Rua, and Matureivavao, Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia

Our cruise on the *Clipper Odyssey* was divided into four segments – the Society Islands, the Tuamotu Islands, the Pitcairn Islands, and Easter Island. None of these islands is independent. The first two are French, the third is English, and the last is Chilean. We spent five idyllic days island-hopping from west to east in the Tuamotu Islands, an archipelago that swings across the central part of French Polynesia. We visited Rangiroa, Fakarava, Raroia, Puka Rua, and Matureivavao, all small coral-reefed atolls. Each day followed a standard pattern. We began with a visit to each island's main village (except on Matureivavao, which is uninhabited), where we were royally feted with Polynesian songs, dances, foods, crafts, and cultural demonstrations (which ranged from splitting coconuts to hurling spears at a raised coconut target).

Sometimes we were treated to renditions of local legends at a *marae*, a raised, stone temple site of ancient religious and political significance.

The musical instruments invariably were guitars and other wooden stringed instruments that were strung like mandolins but tuned like ukeleles (so that I could play them!). The dances were akin to the Hawaiian hula, in which the hands do the talking (if only the male visitors would watch the hands). After the conclusions of these charming local festivities, we would spend the remainder of the day snorkeling – from the beach, or, more typically, from Zodiacs anchored near the edge of the coral reef. Most of my colleagues on the expedition staff were snorkeling instructors and marine biologists, and we had lots of instruction on understanding and identifying types of coral and species of fish. We swam with and saw innumerable sea creatures, including butterfly and parrot fish, octopi, sea cucumbers, and sharks.

Pitcairn Islands, United Kingdom

We sailed on to spend four days in the Pitcairn Islands group. We were not able to land on uninhabited Oeno atoll, because of adverse tidal conditions. (We could have gotten the Zodiacs in and landed passengers early in the morning, but we would not have been able to bring the passengers back a few hours later.) For me, our visit to Pitcairn Island on October 9 was the high point of the trip. King Neptune gave us relatively favorable weather and sea conditions. The Pitcairners picked us up in their aluminum long boats and transferred us ashore in an exciting ride in pitching seas. Only about 50 people, most of them direct descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers, reside on Pitcairn. The island currently is facing an enormous challenge. Seven men – half of the adult male population – are on trial for child molestation that allegedly occurred during the past three decades. The Pitcairners must overcome the societal trauma and the loss of manpower if the men on trial are convicted.

We arrived on Pitcairn on a Saturday (their sabbath, since most Pitcairners are Seventh Day Adventists), and the trial was in recess. The Pitcairners were incredibly gracious and welcoming to us. Steve Christian (a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian), his wife, Olive, and their family hosted a wonderful fish-and-chips lunch at their home. They fed all one hundred of us from one huge wahoo fish. Throughout the day, the Pitcairners were extremely generous with their time and insights into what it is like to reside on a remote, two-square-mile island that is 800 miles from the nearest airport. We spent the afternoon mixing with the Pitcairners and hiking around the island to observe the diverse views and gorgeous flowers. It will be fascinating to see whether the Pitcairners will be able to recover from their current trauma and continue the tradition of more than two centuries of permanent residence on Pitcairn Island.

On the following day, we visited Henderson Island, a raised coral reef (*makatea*), walked the coral sand beach, and observed exotic bird and plant life at this UNESCO world heritage site. We were disappointed when high seas prevented our landing on Ducie atoll, the fourth island in the Pitcairns group. The unusually high seas stayed with us during our three-day passage from the Pitcairns to Easter Island.

Orongo and Tahai, Easter Island (Rapa Nui), Chile

Easter Island (Rapa Nui) is one of the most fascinating cultural places in the world. We first visited the volcano, Rano Kau, the second oldest and largest crater on Rapa Nui. Orongo lies on the southern slope of Rano Kau. Orongo was the site of the birdman cult (*tangata manu*) ceremonies, which were held during and after the Decadent Phase of Rapanui history (1500-1722) and last practiced in 1867. The birdman cult provided a way for the two warlord confederacies, eastern and western, to share power on Rapa Nui. The island had fallen into endemic warfare after the warriors (*matatoa*) overthrew the paramount chief system about 1500 CE.

The warriors invented a monotheistic religion, centered on the creator god, Makemake. Each Spring (September), representatives of a few selected warlords competed to bring the first egg of the sooty tern from the islet of Motu Nui to Orongo. The race involved crawling down a 1000-foot cliff from Orongo to the sea, swimming 1.25 miles in shark-infested waters to Motu Nui, and waiting for the sooty terns to begin laying eggs. The winning servant would swim back to the main island, ascend the cliff, and present the unbroken sooty tern egg to his master, the winning warlord. That winner then would serve as the representative of Makemake on Rapa Nui for one year and have the power to plunder and command human sacrifices during that time. The late William Mulloy, a leading archaeologist in Rapa Nui, restored the Orongo site in 1974.

We next visited the *ahu* complex, Tahai, which Mulloy restored in 1968. That complex contains three separate *ahu* – Ahu Ko Te Riku, Ahu Vai Ure, and Ahu Tahai. These three *ahus* provide a good example of how each lineage-based clan on Rapa Nui built an *ahu* (temple platform) as a site for religious ceremony and as a marker of the lineage's land ownership and power. A total of 313 *ahu* have been identified in Rapa Nui. The tour continued on to Ahu Akivi, an important site that Mulloy restored in 1960. This *ahu* (outdoor temple) features seven elegant *moai*. According to Rapanui legend, these seven statues represent the seven scouts sent to Rapa Nui by the founder-king, Hotu Matu'a, before he and his entourage migrated to the island, perhaps in the fourth century.

Ahu Akihanga, Rano Raraku, Ahu Tongariki, and Anakena, Easter Island (Rapa Nui), Chile

On the following day, we continued our exploration of fascinating Rapa Nui. We visited Ahu Akihanga, the open-air temple of the paramount chief (*ariki-mau* or king). According to Rapanui legend, the bones of the first Rapanui king, Hotu Matu'a, are buried at this sacred site. We next went to the volcanic crater of Rano Raraku, an important site in

both the Golden Age (1000-1500) of Rapanui culture and the Decadent Phase of Rapa Nui history (1500-1722). The southern edge of the crater served as the principal quarry site for 832 of the 887 *moai* (giant statues of deified ancestors) that have been inventoried on Rapa Nui. Nearly half (397) of those statues are still in the quarry at Rano Raraku, many only partly finished. During the Decadent Phase, Rano Raraku was the residence of the birdman when the eastern confederacy of warlords won the race for the first egg of the sooty tern.

Our tour proceeded to Ahu Tongariki, the largest (720 feet long and 13 feet high) and most magnificent in Rapa Nui. The fifteen *moai* on Ahu Tongariki range in height between 18 and 28 feet and weigh an average of 40 tons each. In 1960, a tsunami destroyed this site and swept some of the statues as much as 100 yards inland. Between 1992 and 1995, the statues were re-erected in a project led by Claudio Cristino (a Chilean archeologist and Rapa Nui expert) and funded by Japanese aid. The fifteen *moai* now once again look inward from the sea to protect the Rapanui people.

The tour continued to Anakena, the beach site on northern Rapa Nui, where the legendary paramount chief, Hotu Matu'a, is thought to have first landed when he and his groups of followers founded the Rapanui kingdom and culture. Ahu Nau Nau at Anakena was partially restored in 1978 by Sergio Rapu, a Rapa Nui archaeologist. Some of the *moai* there are replete with *pukao* (top-knots made of red scoria cylinders) and eyes (made of white coral and red scoria). We completed a thorough investigation of Rapa Nui with a visit to the Englert Museum, which houses a small but valuable collection of Rapanui artifacts.

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