

Chapter 1 : A History of the Pacific Islands - Steven Fischer - Macmillan International Higher Education

Guam's history of colonialism is the longest among the Pacific islands and Chamorros are considered one of the oldest mixed race in the Pacific. In the Spanish formally incorporated the islands to the Spanish East Indies and founded a colony on Guam as a resting place for the west-bound Manila galleons.

Colonialism in the South Pacific History: A canal across Central America had already been proposed and Tahiti was seen as a potential port of call on the sea routes to Australia and New Zealand. New Caledonia was used first as a penal colony; nickel mining only began in the s. The French annexed several other island groups near Tahiti in the s. Not wishing to be burdened with the expense of administering insignificant, far-flung colonies, Britain at first resisted pressure to officially annex other scattered South Pacific island groups, though Fiji was reluctantly taken in to establish law and order. In the Western Pacific High Commission was set up to protect British interests in the unclaimed islands. Then the emergence of imperialist Germany and construction of the Panama Canal led to a sudden rush of annexations by Britain, France, Germany, and the U. In Samoa was partitioned between Germany and the U. The last island group to be taken over was New Hebrides Vanuatu , declared a "condominium" by Britain and France in to forestall German advances. The South Pacific had become a British lake, economically dependent on Australia and New Zealand, a situation largely unchanged today. Total control of these resources passed to large European trading companies, which owned the plantations, ships, and retail stores. This colonial economy stimulated the immigration of Indian laborers to Fiji, the alienation of major tracts of native land in New Caledonia, and a drop in the indigenous populations in general by a third, not to mention the destruction of their cultures. There were fundamental differences in approach between the British and French colonial administrations in the South Pacific. While the French system installed "direct rule" by French officials appointed by the French government, the British practiced "indirect rule" with the customary chiefs Fiji or royalty Tonga retaining most of their traditional powers. Not only was this form of government cheaper, but it fostered stability. British colonial officials had more decision-making authority than their French counterparts who had to adhere to instructions received from Paris. And while the French sought to undermine local traditions in the name of assimilation, the British defended the native land tenure on which traditional life was based. Although the United States had gained a toehold in the Pacific by annexing Hawaii and the Spanish colonies Guam and the Philippines in , further expansion was frustrated by the British and Japanese. The history of the Pacific War can be found in many books. Half a million Japanese soldiers and civilians died far from their native shores. The only area covered on this website actually occupied by Japanese troops was the Solomon Islands. The Americans built airfields on islands right across the South Pacific, while their ships controlled the southern supply routes to Australia and New Zealand.

Chapter 2 : The untold story of the Pacific Islands | Working in development | The Guardian

Probably at first more by accident than design, the islands of the south Pacific are reached by people sailing or drifting from southeast Asia. The first to be settled are those immediately to the east of New Guinea and Australia - the region given in modern times the name of Melanesia, because of.

There are approximately 25, islands, atolls and islets in Oceania. The islands of Tonga, Tahiti, and Fiji are located within two of these three areas. Polynesia means "many islands," and includes within its 5 million squares miles the Kingdom of Tonga and the Territory of French Polynesia, where Tahiti is located. Samoa and Hawaii are also found in Polynesia. It was so named because of the skin color of island natives. Tonga is an archipelago of islands. Its total land area is about four times the size of Washington, D. The population in July was approximately , The majority of Tongans are of Polynesian ethnic origin. About Europeans also live on the islands. Christianity is the primary religion, with more than 30, people belonging to the Free Wesleyan Church. The monarch is the head of the church, which is the Methodist Church in the United States. Other Christian religions with significant membership include the Roman Catholic and Mormon churches. The national flag is primarily red. On the upper left quadrant of the flag is a white rectangle with a bright red cross on it. French Polynesia is a territory consisting of five archipelagos. Tahiti is the best known island in French Polynesia. The largest of the Society Islands, it measures 33 square miles 53 kilometers. French Polynesia had a population of approximately , people in July Seventy-eight percent of the population are of Polynesian ethnic origin, 12 percent are Chinese, and a small percentage are French. Fifty-four percent of French Polynesians are Protestant, 30 percent are Roman Catholic, and 16 percent belong to other denominations. Pictured in the white section of the flag is a blue, white and red ship. At the eastern end of Melanesia, near Polynesia, is the Republic of Fiji. This proximity led to a Polynesian influence on the culture. Although Fiji is an archipelago of islands, its total area is slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey. Of the population, 49 percent are of Fijian ethnic origin, 46 percent are Indian, and the remaining five percent includes other Pacific islanders, Europeans, and Chinese. Fifty-two percent of the population is Christian, with 37 percent belonging to the Methodist faith. Approximately nine percent of Fijians are Roman Catholic. Indians account for the 38 percent of the population who are Hindu. There is also a Muslim minority. English is the official language in Fiji, though Fijian and Hindustani are also spoken. The national flag is light blue. The British flag is depicted in the upper left quadrant; the Fijian shield appears on the right half. A lion on the shield holds a cocoa pod. Also pictured are stalks of sugar cane, a palm tree, bananas, and a white dove. They sailed in massive double-hulled canoes that held up to people. With no navigation instruments, the ancestors of modern Polynesians relied on wayfinding, the use of nature to navigate. The navigational course was determined by observing the stars, the sun, the wave currents, and the flight pattern of birds. The Lapita people may have reached Tonga by B. Artifacts confirm they were living on Tonga around B. Polynesians are believed to have reached Fiji by at least B. They were joined by Melanesians in B. According to archaeologists, Polynesians from Tonga and Samoa settled the Marquesas Islands 2, years ago. Polynesians in subsequent years migrated to other areas including New Zealand and Hawaii. A chief and his descendants ruled a territory that ranged in size from a village to a region. Obesity was a sign of wealth or nobility in Tonga. Within the hierarchical governing system were power struggles. These struggles sometimes resulted in war, forcing some islanders to flee and settle other islands. Cannibalism was another aspect of war, one dictated by Fijian and Tongan religions. Captured people were sacrificed to the warrior gods. The victors ate their enemies to absorb their power and to insult the deceased and his family. A less gruesome Polynesian tradition involved family and community life. The family extended to grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives, as well as the village. Family members looked after one another, respected their elders, and shared with the community. When fishermen returned with their catch, they took what they needed and left the rest for others. Polynesians were noted craftspeople who built boats without nails. They had no system of writing. Instead, history and traditions were relayed through songs, dance, poems, and stories. For centuries, Pacific Islanders believed that gods controlled their lives. Pacific Island life changed dramatically in the seventeenth century when European

explorers discovered the islands. Another Dutch navigator, Abel Tasman, arrived in Fiji in 1642. A year later, French explorer Louis de Bougainville landed in Tahiti. He did not realize Wallis had been there and claimed the land for his country. France gained control of Tahiti in 1797 and made it a French colony in 1802. England gained control of Fiji, while Tonga remained an independent kingdom. In 1875, the Fiji islands were ceded to Britain. Christian missionaries brought more change to the islands. Missionaries eventually succeeded in converting Tahitians, but they left Tonga left in Catholic and Wesleyan missionaries also attempted to convert the Pacific Islanders. Wesleyan ministers succeeded in converting Tonga to Christianity. The missionary influence was seen in the nineteenth century when members of royalty converted. Fijian King Cokobau converted to Christianity in 1834. Such conversions ended cannibalism in the Pacific Islands. Missionaries also developed written forms of Pacific Islander languages that were previously nonexistent in the predominantly oral culture. The island nation achieved full independence on October 10, 1970. The country was designated a member of the British Commonwealth with Dominion status. Tongans proudly declare that their country was the first Polynesian kingdom, the only kingdom still remaining in the South Pacific. While the monarchy existed since the tenth century, the current dynasty was established during the nineteenth century. Power struggles in the nineteenth century led to civil war. The victorious chief took the name George when he was baptized in the Wesleyan faith, in honor of the King of England. When proclaimed the king in 1875, he became George Tupou I. Known as the father of modern Tonga, the king outlawed the worship of old gods and established a constitutional monarchy. After his death in 1893, his great-grandson, George Tupou II, ruled until 1952. George Tupou II was succeeded by his year-old daughter, Salote. Queen Salote was beloved by Tongans as an intelligent, compassionate woman concerned with issues like health and medicine. She was also well-regarded internationally. France gained control of Tahiti in 1797, making it a colony in 1802. The tropical paradise attracted numerous artists and writers. French artist Paul Gauguin moved to Tahiti in 1891 and immortalized the French Polynesians in his vivid paintings. In 1830, French Polynesia became a French overseas territory. The Tonga man accompanied a Mormon missionary returning to the United States. The missionary went back to Tonga and returned to Utah with another Tongan man in 1830. This marked the beginning of a small migration of Tongans, Tahitians and Fijians. This is especially true for Tongans, Tahitians and Fijians. Other government entities used the much broader classification of Asians and Pacific Islanders. This category covers people whose ancestors were the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. By examining both official documents and less formal accounts, a picture emerges of the settlement patterns of Pacific Islanders of Tongan, Tahitian, and Fijian ethnic ancestry. While more information is available about the Tongan experience in America, some could apply to Fijians and Tahitians. Three Fijians were admitted to the country in 1842, according to U.

A History of the Pacific Islands - traces the extraordinarily varied genealogy of all Pacific peoples, looking at their descent from Papuan tribesmen, Austronesian mariners and foreign colonists - examines the rich inheritance of the Islands as a consequence of succeeding waves of invading, then dominating peoples.

It gave me a great overview of how Austronesians spread out from Taiwan, throughout SEA and into Oceania, and slowly colonized the Pacific islands. It uses archaeological, linguistic and genetic evidence to create a convincing account of their movements, mixings and development; and I got a fairly good impression of their cultures. It could have been a little more structured; some facts are repeated several times, others in the wrong order. But it is quite The first part of this book was superb! I got almost exactly what I wanted here, and might almost have given the book five stars had it continued like this. Unfortunately, the moment Europeans enter the picture the author turns into a rabid anti-imperialist. Now, there are many good reasons to oppose imperialism in the context of Europeans in the Pacific, but his strongly held convictions concerning imperialism, capitalism, globalism and the US makes the rest of the book a quite subjective treatment of history. He starts off by assuming that all his readers take it for granted that all Europeans that ever went to the Pacific only created horrible atrocities. He writes about whalers that used natives on their ships, traders that traded arms and alcohol to the natives, and both groups creating settlements that "festered with deserters, escapees, arms traders, taverns, prostitutes and every other vice the West could import. He then contrasts this with the missionaries who, lo and behold, were not always like this! Seriously, after indirectly disparaging the whalers and the traders over dozens of pages, the author still has not informed me what specific damage they actually did. Sure, selling alcohol can cause problems anywhere, but they appear to be voluntary transactions, and any harm it causes must be at least equally blamed on the natives. Prostitution is also not the most venerable occupation ever but What specific things did the whalers do that were evil and caused harm? The fact is that most of the harm was caused by the introduction of disease and new ideas, both of which broke down the fabric of society. Both were carried by missionaries and whalers alike, and neither intended to destroy the cultures they visited -- and yet both groups did, in their own way. Of course they must be evil and only cause destruction! They are motivated by profit! And this motif continues throughout the rest of the book, and gets more and more unbearable. Almost every time the Europeans do something less than pristine, the details are left out and the incident described with sarcasm and quotation marks to signal how critical the author is of global capitalism and the WTO or whatever. There are some exceptions: And this is better than nothing, but the whole process is so counterproductive. The author keeps using loaded words to imply his moral stance, without giving us the factual information. How many were forced? How many were literally lied to? What did this entail? French Caldoches in New Caledonia are "killed" by native Kanaks; in retaliation, the Kanaks are then "massacred" and "shot in cold blood" by the Caldoches. I think I know why the author describes the two events with such different terms, but I want him to at least make a case why this is an accurate description of events, fit for a history book. The last part of the book concerns more recent events and politics, and is close to appalling. The author spends 10 pages implying that Britain, France and the US destroyed vast swathes of native land and caused massive disease and suffering through nuclear tests without the consent of the natives. I say "imply", because although the author uses terms such as "pulverized villages", "devastating" and "significant contamination", he does not actually state outright how much land was destroyed, how long it was rendered unlivable, and how many cancer cases can be connected to the blasts. This kind of ambiguous language bothers me, so I looked up the facts myself, and concluded that Britain and France caused virtually zero short- and long-term damage, while the US caused some mid-term damage to the land not the people which likely legitimately surprised them, and caused them to hand out huge amounts of money and resources in compensation. Either the author should properly argue his case for using this language, or at least mention other possible versions of events. In the last few pages, the presentation becomes surreal for a moderately objective observer. Terms such as "neocolonialism", "neo-tribal capitalism" and even a currently "Feudal Pacific" are thrown about, and again the readers are expected to absorb these conclusions

uncritically. Any mention of "capitalism" and "globalization" is expected to make us nod ruefully and mumble "yep, anytime the US touches something it goes straight to hell. If only nominally socialist countries could get powerful enough to fix everything! OF COURSE free markets only cause more suffering and exploitation; why explore what might have happened if free markets were not introduced, and what other alternatives there were? The farce reaches a climax when the author comes to the subject of global warming, one of the litmus tests for whether someone actually has a scientific mindset. There have indeed been scientists that have suggested this, but it is among the most speculative consequences of global warming that exist. Expansion of water and melting of ice will undoubtedly change the patterns of earthquakes, but to claim that there will certainly be more of them near the specific area of the Pacific Islands, and that these will certainly be more violent than they are now, as actual scientific facts, is just plain falsehood. This is almost pure speculation. And again, I know why the author writes this. And perhaps all of this even turns out to be true; but he needs to either argue strongly for his positions with scientific facts, or point out that his positions are highly controversial, and that lots of intelligent people could give really convincing accounts that completely contradict his. I could rewrite his account of global warming, using the same arguments as he does, but coming to the exact opposite conclusion. This means that neither of our accounts include interesting information. If you are a committed leftist, you will probably nod happily along the way, but you will not actually learn as many historical lessons as you should; rather, you will reinforce your current memeplex. If you are a committed rightist, or committed to the objective and unpolitical study of history, you will cringe more and more strongly, until you throw the book away in frustration at the end. But the first third of the book is great! I wish it was just a tiny bit more structured, but if you want a good account of the pre-contact Pacific, I heartily recommend this book. The first third of it.

Chapter 4 : A History of the Pacific Islands: Passages Through Tropical Time - Deryck Scarr - Google Books

Environmental history of the Pacific Islands: a Bibliography The Pacific Ocean (from the Spanish Pacífico, meaning peaceful) is the world's largest body of water and covers a third of the Earth's surface.

Over that period they left unambiguous evidence that their activity caused many species of birds to become extinct. Settlers had reached every habitable island by the 2nd millennium ce. Since the arrival of Europeans in the early 16th century, the cultures, populations, and economies of the Pacific Islands have been transformed to varying extents, at first by contact with passing explorers and then, from the late 18th century, by the influence of more permanent visitors such as castaways, beachcombers, missionaries, and traders. During the 19th and 20th centuries, settlers flowed in, labourers immigrated or were brought in from other countries predominantly India and China, and European administrators arrived. Missionaries and immigrants still make up significant segments of the population on the islands today, although European governments, with the exception of that of France, have entirely withdrawn from the region. Historical documents for the region are chiefly of European origin and are therefore the products of people who may not accurately have depicted cultures different from their own—cultures they perceived and understood only imperfectly. This distortion can be corrected to some extent by using the findings of social anthropology and the oral traditions of the Pacific Island people, but these sources may describe the past inaccurately because they serve contemporary purposes; they do not record the past for its own sake. But the main historiographic challenge provided by the region is its diversity. Some 10, islands scattered across a wide expanse of ocean, a variety of cultures, hundreds of mutually unintelligible languages, and diverse historical experiences make generalizations difficult. The arts of the region are treated in separate articles; see Oceanic art and architecture; Oceanic music and dance; and Oceanic literature. The influence of physical geography Because of the distances involved, contact between islands has never been easy. The large continental islands of Melanesia have widely varied landscapes, climates, and soil types; moreover, their rugged terrain has facilitated social isolation. The smaller volcanic high islands have greater homogeneity and easily support life well above the subsistence level. The physical environment did not determine the kinds of society that developed, but it did limit them. The large islands of Melanesia set the stage for profound cultural differences between people of the coast and those of the interior, particularly those in the more isolated valleys. Thus, Melanesia became characterized by many small groups of people, divided from each other by language and custom. There was little political and social organization, because most families and communities expended their energies on gathering food and other basic necessities. The high volcanic islands of Polynesia offered no such barriers to social and political unity. Their fertility allowed elaborate social, religious, and political rituals to develop. These geographic and cultural contrasts between the Pacific Islands, which were obvious to early European visitors, concealed a similarity: Whether the society was small, with leadership a matter of acquiring influence rather than hereditary position, or larger, with chiefs who were looked on with awe and treated with reverence, every gift or service had to be reciprocated. The apparent differences between the islanders were regarded as evidence of separate waves of ethnically different people out of Southeast Asia. A discredited variant theory traced the Polynesians to South America. More recent research suggests that the differences arose within the islands themselves, through the intermixture of an original settlement of non-Austronesian-language speakers see Papuan languages from Southeast Asia with a later wave of Austronesian speakers see Austronesian languages. The earlier wave of settlement occurred in Melanesia at least 33, years ago and probably, since New Guinea and Australia were then linked by land, at dates contemporaneous with Australian dates of settlement, extending back some 40, years or more. Secure dates in the interior of New Guinea approach 30, years ago. However, more sites must be uncovered to increase the level of certainty. Linguists have used a chronology of sound changes to trace the time and place of dispersion of language groups, but a considerable number of the languages of Oceania are as yet unstudied and unclassified. Geneticists have conducted studies in order to establish connections between contemporary human groups, thereby revealing past migrations, but systematic sampling has not yet been carried out. The later Austronesian speakers, members of the prehistoric

Lapita culture , which produced the well-known pottery known as Lapita ware, established themselves in the Bismarck Archipelago about 4, years ago. They then spread to Fiji , Tonga , and Samoa, which have been regarded as the Polynesian homeland. Newer evidence, however, has led to disagreement among prehistorians about the Lapita cultural complex: There is also disagreement about the speed with which the Lapita culture , distinctively linked with the Polynesians, moved from Southeast Asia through Melanesia into Fiji and thence to eastern Polynesia. The Marianas were probably settled about bce. It is possible that the Marquesas were settled as early as the 2nd century bce, rather than ce, a date at which settlements may have occurred in Hawaii. The Society Islands were occupied by at least the 9th century ce. Lapita pottery, reconstructed two-dimensional anthropomorphic design, c. Green At the time of European contact, Oceanian societies had developed a technology based on stone, bone, and shell objects, and they cultivated tubers and tree fruits, most of which were of Southeast Asian origin. Genetic research has shown that some of the cultigens were native to wider areas, including New Guinea. The most notable exception was the sweet potato , which had spread from South America through most of Polynesia in pre-European times but only marginally into Melanesia. There were three main groups of domesticated animals: The coastal people had developed fishing techniques and considerable skills as sailors. Navigation between the closer islands was well developed, and regular trade may have occurred between several islands. Some skills were lost; pottery , for example, disappeared in Samoa and the Marquesas shortly after initial settlement. European exploration The 16th and 17th centuries The world of the Pacific Islands was not a static one, but changes were slow compared with those that attended European contact. After his death in the Philippines, his expedition encountered some of the Carolines. These northern islands were further explored by the Spaniards as they established a galley trade between Manila , in the Philippines , and Acapulco , in western Mexico. In the former set out from Peru to discover the great southern continent that was believed to exist in the South Pacific. He reached the Solomons but failed to find them again on his second journey, during which he died. But with the voyage of Torres, the Spanish effort was ended. Oceanic voyages of Ferdinand Magellan and his crew, " Thereafter, the Dutch , who were already established in Indonesia , entered the Pacific. They too looked for a southern continent. The Dutch were primarily interested in commerce; they found none. Tasman thought that New Zealand was part of the great southern continent. The effect of these visitors on Oceania was transitory. The Europeans stayed for periods of at most a few months. The 18th century During the early 18th century, the extent of Oceania was further revealed. In the Dutch admiral Jacob Roggeveen crossed the Pacific from east to west on a voyage of exploration that also had commercial objectives. He reached Easter Island , more of the Tuamotu Archipelago, the northern islands of the Society group, and some of the Samoan islands. Courtesy of the American Geographical Society These voyages were not essentially different from earlier ones, but they too foreshadowed the scientific interest of the later 18th century. Further study was delayed by European wars. But in the English admiral John Byron grandfather of poet Lord George Gordon Byron , who was sent by the British Admiralty in search of the supposed southern continent, visited more of the Tuamotus and the southern Gilberts. In Samuel Wallis and Philip Carteret followed, but their ships were separated as they entered the Pacific. The interest their journeys created was in part responsible for the instructions given to the greatest of all 18th-century explorers of Oceania, James Cook. After three voyages he left others little to do but fill in occasional details of Oceania. Cook was sent "71 to observe the transit of the planet Venus at Tahiti in and then to search for the great southern continent. He reached some of the Society Islands, but he also circumnavigated New Zealand, and he defined the limits of eastern Australia. During his second voyage "75 , he proved that there was no southern continent, but he also charted further lands in Oceania: During his third voyage "79 , which was mainly concerned with the North Pacific, he located some of the Tongan group, Christmas Island Kiritimati Atoll , and the Sandwich Islands Hawaii , where he was killed in He had completed the main work of exploration with an exactitude previously unknown. Although his contacts with islanders were not essentially different from those of his predecessors, his relations with them were nevertheless more prolonged and more humane. His exploration of eastern Australia, through the account of his naturalist, Joseph Banks , was of great importance in Oceania because it led to the founding of towns on the Australian coast, relatively close to the islands. Page 1 of 3.

Chapter 5 : A History of the Pacific Islands - Ian C. Campbell - Google Books

This is a very well-written introduction to South Pacific history, with the additional bonus of the author rejecting the 'politically correct' bias of more recent works which tend to demonize Europeans and sanctify the 'natives'.

Enjoy the Famous Daily Migration by sea in the south Pacific: The first to be settled are those immediately to the east of New Guinea and Australia - the region given in modern times the name of Melanesia, because of the dark skins of the inhabitants from the Greek melas black and nesos island. The pottery of the early settlers links them with the people of the Moluccas. In around BC seafarers make the longest step so far in this process and reach Fiji, a group of islands intermediate between Melanesia and Polynesia. The Pacific islanders develop a twin-hulled sailing canoe which is an extremely effective sea-going vessel. In boats of this kind they continue the process of spreading eastwards through Polynesia Greek polus many, nesos island. The first staging posts are Tonga and Samoa. But colonists are likely to have arrived considerably earlier than this, since by the 1st century BC humans have reached the much more inaccessible Marquesas Islands. The final thrust, to the most remote island groups of the Pacific, takes place from the Marquesas. This is accomplished in about AD They must have been carved over a long period, for there are about of them, between 10 and 20 feet high, with the largest weighing some 50 tons. They may have been created at any time between the first arrival of people on the island, probably in about, and the visit of the Dutch in the 18th century. The huge investment of labour in these production-line figures is an extreme example of the religious compulsion behind much primitive art. The statues consist of massive heads, each on a sketchily carved top half of a body. The heads all have the same features - prominent noses, square jaws, deep-set eyes and long spaniel ears. Probably representing ancestors, they are designed to stand facing inland on ceremonial burial platforms, where the dead are exposed and their bones subsequently interred. The material of the sculptures is an easily worked stone, formed originally of compressed ash, cut from Rano-raraku - one of the three extinct volcanoes on the island. It is evident from the quarry on Rano-raraku that the figures are carved in the round from the rock face, and are not cut loose until nearly complete. The islanders have no metal, so the work is done with stone chisels - several of which have been found at the site. Local tradition says that the statues are dragged to their destinations around the island, using rope from indigenous hemp and with round pebbles to serve as rollers. Often they make unexpected landfall, raising hopes of unknown territories rich in gold, silver or spice. Interest is maintained in the early 17th century when Dutch ships, sailing to and from the Moluccas , sight stretches of the western Australian coast. Are these places perhaps connected to the southern land? He chooses for the purpose an experienced navigator, Abel Tasman, who is instructed to sail far south in the Indian Ocean and then to strike east, hoping to discover whether there is an open passage to South America. In the process he may also perhaps discover Terra Australis. Tasman leaves Batavia in August He sails to Mauritius before continuing south and then east. He first makes landfall in November. Not until is the island renamed Tasmania, in honour of its discoverer. Keeping to the southern coast of this large island, Tasman continues eastwards. In December he reaches New Zealand. Sailing northeast along the coast of both South and North Island, he concludes that this must be the northwest corner of Terra Australis. Tasman discovers Tonga in January , and the Fiji islands in February. He then continues northwest, passing north of New Guinea and returning to Batavia in June. Remarkably, in his ten-month voyage, Tasman has sailed all the way round the real Terra Australis without noticing it. It will be another century before the continent of Australia is properly discovered and charted. Discovery of the Pacific islands: Dutch, French and English vessels undertake voyages of discovery, gradually filling in the map. Islands are regularly discovered during the century. The discovery of the islands by Europeans coincides with and contributes to a romantic theme developing in European literary fashion in the second half of the 18th century. The islanders, untouched by any outside influence, are for the most part warm, friendly and open - a famous characteristic of the Pacific region even today. They have a brilliant tradition of wood carving. They appear to live elegant and relatively gentle lives. They are, in other words, exactly what a certain school of romantic thought, associated in particular with Jean Jacques Rousseau , might expect them to be - noble savages, uncorrupted by the evils of civilization. The

islanders also soon attract the eager attention of another very different group of Europeans - a new breed of English missionaries, committed to taking the Protestant faith to savages as yet unaware of the truth. A spate of missionary societies are founded in London in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The first to arrive in the Pacific is the London Missionary Society, with an expedition to Tahiti in 1796. The islands become a favourite region for gospel work, well before the similar effort in Africa. And as in Africa, the missionary presence proves a prelude to the entire region being divided up between the colonial powers later in the 19th century. This History is as yet incomplete.

History of the Pacific Islands marks the first time in forty years that a balanced and succinct introduction to the peoples of the Pacific islands has been made available to students, travellers, and scholars.

Share via Email The Pacific Islands may look like paradise, but years of mismanagement and poor policy have led to ecological and energy calamities across the region. No children play in the water – unusual in the Pacific islands, where a childhood spent splashing in the ocean is an age-old rite. Over 50, people crowd into 2, acres, a population density twice as high as that of New York. Although the Pacific islands are well-known as the first casualties of climate change, a tale less often told is of the environmental and energy crisis at home. Years of mismanagement and poor policy have led to ecological and energy calamities across the region. Until this year no Pacific island country had an official trade policy. Few have national energy strategies. In many countries a lack of planning meant that the default policy was to exploit natural resources at an unsustainable rate. In the Solomon Islands, natural forests have been logged so uncontrollably that exports are expected to cease by around 2020. Local communities have long relied on logging as their only source of income and it has been one of only a handful of viable exports since independence. Mining has a particularly bad record in the Pacific. A watershed moment came in when BHP, the former owner of the Ok Tedi gold and copper mine in Papua New Guinea, admitted that the mine caused "major environmental damage". Up to 80m tonnes of contaminated waste were discharged into the river each year, displacing 50, people downstream and killing or poisoning fish as well as damaging staple crops. The key to this new realisation must be an improvement in governance. The word has come to be associated with corruption, and this undoubtedly needs to be tackled. But governance also needs to be understood more broadly – as the ability of local people to control and shape their economies and environments. The already tiny governments of the Pacific islands have long been told that good economics means shrinking the state and lowering public expenditure. But this has diminished the ability of these countries to manage public affairs, depriving them of the resources to limit the exploitation of natural habitats, to manage waste or to build efficient energy infrastructures. Some international agencies have been complicit in this anti-state message, encouraging the idea that market forces will generate economic prosperity and that the private sector will look after the environment. The Asian Development Bank, for example, conducted structural adjustment programmes across the region in the late 1980s that led to swinging public-sector cuts, trade liberalisation and privatisation. Donors need to acknowledge that ecological management requires a strong state, and that governments need to be allowed to learn from their mistakes. Aid has often encouraged dependency, with policymakers often deferring to donors instead of making their own decisions. Donors have often failed to stump up promised funds, breeding uncertainty. Critical though the global warming agenda is, it has also encouraged the perception that environment equals climate change, when domestic challenges are equally if not more important. In Vanuatu the lack of an energy policy means that French monopoly Suez Unelco still has 40 years left on its concession agreement. Energy prices remain among the highest in the world and the country continues to rely heavily on imported diesel although some coconut oil is used as fuel instead of exported. Suez Unelco has indicated that it may refuse to act as supplier-of-last-resort to any company generating its own wind or solar power. Yet despite their mixed records, foreign companies and international agencies are beginning to wake up to the regional crisis in the making – and given the meagre resources of Pacific states, the international community must play a critical role. Regional organisations like the Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme, based in Samoa, have begun turning their attention to improved energy efficiency. The World Bank increasingly emphasises the importance of good governance in mining and energy usage, and the message is spreading in the region, supported by a host of international organisations. The International Council on Mining and Metals, an industry group comprising of 21 major mining and metals companies as well as 35 national and regional mining associations, aims to encourage due diligence on social and environmental issues. Work includes social and economic development, environment and climate change, health and safety and recycling. The Framework for Responsible Mining is a joint initiative of NGOs, retailers, investors, insurers, and technical

experts working in the minerals sector outlining environmental, human rights, and social issues associated with mining. The framework recommends no-go zones for mining; develops criteria for environmentally responsible mining; tries to ensure that mines benefit affected communities; and puts in place principles of good governance. Earthworks is a US-based non-profit organisation which aims to protect communities and the environment from the impacts of irresponsible mineral and energy development. Its strategy aims to improve corporate and government behaviour whilst aiming to improve the benefits to communities and the environment. The initiative for responsible mining assurance involves mining companies, downstream users of mining products such as jewellers, non-government organisations, communities and workers to put in place standards and verification of good practice in mining. In the initiative will start certifying mine sites. Global climate change is threatening the very existence of many of the islands. Unless they put domestic and international resources to good use, the Pacific islands risk drowning in an energy and environmental crisis with its origins closer to home. Dr Daniel Gay is a political economist specialising in trade policy. You can find his blog here , and follow him on Twitter dangay This content is brought to you by Guardian Professional. To get more articles like this direct to your inbox, sign up free to become a member of the Global Development Professionals Network Topics.

Chapter 7 : Colonialism in the South Pacific

The Pacific Ocean, approximately one third of the earth's surface, is the setting for a world of islands which were originally occupied by people who achieved the greatest feats of maritime navigation in all human history.

History of Easter Island Easter Island is one of the youngest inhabited territories on Earth, and for most of the History of Easter Island it was the most isolated inhabited territory on Earth. Its inhabitants, the Rapanui , have endured famines and big push factors, epidemics, civil war, slave raids and colonialism; have seen their population crash on more than one occasion, and created a cultural legacy that has brought their fame out of all proportion to their numbers. Similarly, the northern islands were also settled from the east, with some of the northern islands possibly having had later interactions with Western Polynesia. Up until relatively recently there was continuous contact between both lands where back and forth migration and trade took place. History of Fiji The history of Fiji dates back to ancient times. There are many theories as to how the Fijian race came into existence. Around BC Fiji was settled by melaneasion seafarers. Around 1000 BC Moturiki Island was settled. By BC, Polynesian seafarers had reached Fiji and intermarried with the Melanesian inhabitants, giving rise to the modern Fijian people. According to native oral legends Fijians were also descendants of a nomadic tribe from Tanganika Tanzania. Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands[edit] Main article: History of Guam The history of Guam involves phases including the early arrival of people known today as the ancient Chamorros , the development of "pre-contact" society, Spanish colonization, and the present American rule of the island. Archaeologists using carbon-dating have broken Pre-Contact Guam i. Chamorro history into three periods: The original inhabitants of Guam are believed to be descendants of Indigenous Taiwanese People originating from the high mountains of Taiwan as early as 4, BC, having linguistic and cultural similarities to Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. In the Spanish formally incorporated the islands to the Spanish East Indies and founded a colony on Guam as a resting place for the west-bound Manila galleons. The territory was ceded by Spain more than two centuries later, when in the United States took over the islands following the Spanish-American War. The chamorro culture has evolved much since European contact and has been much influenced by Spanish and American colonization. Although the original culture no longer exists, it is now being revived with contemporary alternatives and similarities in styles with all the other pacific islands. History of Hawaii Hawaiian history is inextricably tied into a larger Polynesian phenomenon. The many island cultures within the Polynesian Triangle share similar languages derived from a proto-Malayo-Polynesian language used in Southeast Asia 5, years ago. Polynesians also share cultural traditions, such as religion, social organization, myths, and material culture. Anthropologists believe that all Polynesians have descended from a South Pacific proto-culture created by an Austronesian Malayo-Polynesian people that had migrated from Southeast Asia. Others believe that there was only a single, extended period of settlement. History of Indonesia In the history of Indonesia, Austronesian people , who form the majority of the modern population, migrated to South East Asia from Taiwan. Ideal agricultural conditions, and the mastering of wet-field rice cultivation as early as the 8th century BC, [6] allowed villages, towns, and small kingdoms to flourish by the 1st century AD. However, archaeological evidence indicates that people were living on the islands of Japan as early as the upper paleolithic period. History of Kiribati In the history of Kiribati, the islands which now form the Republic of Kiribati have been inhabited for at least seven hundred years, and possibly much longer. The initial Micronesian population, which remains the overwhelming majority today, was visited by Polynesian and Melanesian invaders before the first European sailors "discovered" the islands in the 16th century. For much of the subsequent period, the main island chain, the Gilbert Islands , was ruled as part of the British Empire. The country gained its independence in and has since been known as Kiribati. History of Malaysia History of Malaysia is the written past of a country in South East Asia whose strategic sea-lane position brought trade and foreign influences that fundamentally influenced its history. Hindu India, the Islamic Middle East and Christian Europe to its west, and China and Japan to the north-east were major influences brought by shipping routes passing through the region. Malaysian history is also intertwined with that of neighbouring Indonesia , Singapore , Philippines , Brunei and Thailand. This trade and foreign cultures brought the area

great wealth and diversity, but has also domination and colonialism. The history of Malaysia is one of successive phases of outside influence, followed by the mid-20th century establishment of independence from foreign colonial powers.

New Caledonia[edit] In the history of New Caledonia, the diverse group of people that settled over the Melanesian archipelagos are known as the Lapita. The Lapita were highly skilled navigators and agriculturists with influence over a large area of the Pacific. From about the 11th century Polynesians also arrived and mixed with the populations of the archipelago. Europeans first sighted New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands in the late 18th century. During the same voyage he also named the islands to the north of New Caledonia the New Hebrides now Vanuatu, after the islands north of Scotland. From the late 18th century, the country was regularly visited by explorers and other sailors, missionaries, traders and adventurers. There was extensive European and some Asian settlement throughout the rest of the century. From the 1950s the economy was highly regulated and an extensive welfare state was developed. In the 1980s the economy was largely deregulated and a number of socially liberal policies, such as decriminalisation of homosexuality, were put in place. Foreign policy, which had previously consisted mostly of following Britain or the United States, became more independent. Subsequent governments have generally maintained these policies, although tempering the free market ethos somewhat.

Niue Island[edit] The history of the Niue Island can be traced back to 1,000 years when the Polynesian settlers came here. Traces of Pukapulan dialect are still there in the native language which is based on the Samoan and Tongan language. The Polynesian settlers were rather isolated as there was very little inter-island trade and the existence of the limestone island was in itself very difficult due to lack of rivers and cultivable soil. The modern history of Niue can be traced back to the 1770s with the arrival of Captain James Cook. Cook described the island as "Savage Island" in his records as the natives were not very welcoming to strangers. This was in complete contrast to the Tongans he described as "The Friendly Islands". Captain Cook tried to set his foot thrice on the island but was repulsed each of the three times. The natives at that time were quite hostile to strangers. Christianity was brought to the island by Peniamina in the year when he got converted during his stay at Samoa. The islanders were completely converted to Christianity by the end of the 19th century. Colonization took place thereafter and the island was declared as a part of the British Empire. The island country became independent in 1970 but still has a free association agreement with New Zealand and many of its citizens have become citizens of New Zealand. Now the Island country has a democracy and is governed by a legislative assembly consisting of 20 members. Niue is the smallest democracy in the world.

Papua New Guinea[edit] Main article: The written history began when European navigators first sighted New Guinea in the early part of the 16th century. Portuguese explorers first arrived from the west and later Spanish navigators from the east, after crossing the Pacific. Archaeological evidence indicates that humans arrived on New Guinea at least 60,000 years ago, probably by sea from Southeast Asia during an ice age period when the sea was lower and distances between islands shorter. For an overview of the geological history of the continent of which New Guinea is a part, see Australia & New Guinea. Although the first arrivals were hunter-gatherers, early evidence shows that people managed the forest environment to provide food. There are indications that gardening was being practised at the same time that agriculture was developing in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

History of the Philippines In the beginning of the history of the Philippines, the arrival of the first humans via land bridges at least 30,000 years ago. Due to influence from the Cholas and states they had cultural influence over, Indianized Hindu kingdoms arose in the early Medieval period and the Islamic Sultanate of Brunei extended its rule over parts of Mindanao by the late 15th century. The first visit from Western explorers is the arrival of a Spanish expedition led by the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who arrived on Homonhon Island, southeast of Samar on 16 March 1521.

History of Samoa and Archaeology in Samoa In the History of Samoa, contact with Europeans began in the early 18th century but did not intensify until the arrival of the English. In 1770, Dutchman Jacob Roggeveen was the first European to sight the islands. Missionaries and traders arrived in the 1830s. Halfway through the 19th century, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States all claimed parts of the kingdom of Samoa, and established trade posts. In 1917, Western Samoa became the first Pacific Island nation to gain political independence.

History of the Solomon Islands The human history of the Solomon Islands begins with the first settlement at least 30,000 years ago from New Guinea. They represented the furthest expansion of humans into the

Pacific Ocean until the expansion of Austronesian-language speakers through the area around BCE, bringing new agricultural and maritime technology. Most of the languages spoken today in the Solomon Islands derive from this era, but some thirty languages of the pre-Austronesian settlers survive see East Papuan languages. In and Spain again sent several expeditions to find the islands and establish a colony, though these were unsuccessful. Later, Dutch, French and British navigators visited the islands; their reception was often hostile. Tahiti[edit] In the history of Tahiti , Tahiti is estimated to have been settled by Polynesians between CE and coming from Tonga and Samoa , although some estimates place the date earlier. The fertile island soil combined with fishing provided ample food for the population. Although the first European sighting of the islands was by a Spanish ship in , Spain made no effort to trade with or colonize the island. Samuel Wallis , an English sea captain, sighted Tahiti on 18 June , and is considered the first European visitor to the island. The perceived relaxation and contented nature of the local people and the characterization of the island as a paradise much impressed early European visitors, planting the seed for a romanticization by the West that endures to this day. History of Taiwan In the history of Taiwan, Aboriginal peoples ancestors are believed to have been living on the islands for approximately 8, years before major Han Chinese immigration began in the 17th century. Today, the bulk of the contemporary Taiwanese Aborigine population reside in the mountains and the cities. The issue of an ethnic identity unconnected to the Asian mainland has become one thread in the discourse regarding the political identity of Taiwan. Oral history traces local traditions and genealogies back several hundred years. The three atolls functioned largely independently while maintaining social and linguistic cohesion. Tokelauan society was governed by chiefly clans , and there were occasional inter-atoll skirmishes and wars as well as inter-marriage. Fakaofu, the "chiefly island," [17] held some dominance over Atafu and Nukunonu. Life on the atolls was subsistence-based, with reliance on fish and coconut. Tonga became known as the Tongan Empire through extensive trading and its influence over parts of the Pacific e. The Europeans arrived in the 17th century which was followed after a couple hundred years by a single unified Tongan kingdom. Archaeological dating places Tonga as the oldest known site in Polynesia for the distinctive Lapita ceramic ware, at " years before present.

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Though most of its students are from the Pacific islands, it also welcomes students from other countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America. PIU is a place where a student can experience the multi-cultural variety of the global community in a small school environment.

Chapter 9 : A History of the Pacific Islands by I.C. Campbell

It too was sold to the Germans, annexed by Japan and later became part of the US-managed Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands after World War II. Independence came to Palau in and it has had a compact of free association with the US since (Barbour,).