

Chapter 1 : Islands of History - Marshall Sahlins - Google Books

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Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Through the years, this gateway to the new world was enlarged from its original 3. Before being designated as the site of the first Federal immigration station by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, Ellis Island had a varied history. The local Indian tribes had called it "Kioshk" or Gull Island. Due to its rich and abundant oyster beds and plentiful and profitable shad runs, it was known as Oyster Island for many generations during the Dutch and English colonial periods. In this way, Ellis Island developed from a sandy island that barely rose above the high tide mark, into a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, ammunition and ordinance depot named Fort Gibson, and finally into an immigration station. From Military Fort to National Gateway From to pre-immigration station period, Ellis Island played a mostly uneventful but still important military role in United States history. When the British occupied New York City during the duration of the Revolutionary War, its large and powerful naval fleet was able to sail unimpeded directly into New York Harbor. Therefore, it was deemed critical by the United States Government that a series of coastal fortifications in New York Harbor be constructed just prior to the War of 1812. After much legal haggling over ownership of the island, the Federal government purchased Ellis Island from New York State in 1800. The fort at Ellis Island was named Fort Gibson in honor of a brave officer killed during the War of 1812. Immigration Policy Embraces the Masses Prior to 1890, the individual states rather than the Federal government regulated immigration into the United States. Castle Garden in the Battery originally known as Castle Clinton served as the New York State immigration station from 1800 to 1855 and approximately eight million immigrants, mostly from Northern and Western Europe, passed through its doors. These early immigrants came from nations such as England, Ireland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries and constituted the first large wave of immigrants that settled and populated the United States. Throughout the 1800s and intensifying in the latter half of the 19th century, ensuing political instability, restrictive religious laws and deteriorating economic conditions in Europe began to fuel the largest mass human migration in the history of the world. It soon became apparent that Castle Garden was ill-equipped and unprepared to handle the growing numbers of immigrants arriving yearly. Unfortunately, compounding the problems of the small facility were the corruption and incompetence found to be commonplace at Castle Garden. The Federal government intervened and constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island. While the new immigration station on Ellis Island was under construction, the Barge Office at the Battery was used for the processing of immigrants. The new structure on Ellis Island, built of "Georgia pine" opened on January 1, 1890. Annie Moore, a teenaged Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers, entered history and a new country as she was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. Over the next 62 years, more than 12 million were to follow through this port of entry. Ellis Island Burns and Years of Records Lost While there were many reasons to immigrate to America, no reason could be found for what would occur only five years after the Ellis Island Immigration Station opened. During the early morning hours of June 15, 1897, a fire on Ellis Island burned the immigration station completely to the ground. Although no lives were lost, many years of Federal and State immigration records dating back to 1890 were burned along with the pine buildings that failed to protect them. The United States Treasury quickly ordered the immigration facility be replaced under one very important condition: On December 17, 1897, the new Main Building was opened and 2,000 immigrants were received that day. The great steamship companies like White Star, Red Star, Cunard and Hamburg-America played a significant role in the history of Ellis Island and immigration in general. First and second class passengers who arrived in New York Harbor were not required to undergo the inspection process at Ellis Island. Instead, these passengers underwent a cursory inspection aboard ship, the theory being that if a person could afford to purchase a first or second class ticket, they were less likely to become a public charge in America due to medical or legal reasons. The Federal government felt that these more affluent passengers would not end up in institutions, hospitals or become a burden to the state. However, first and second class

passengers were sent to Ellis Island for further inspection if they were sick or had legal problems. This scenario was far different for "steerage" or third class passengers. These immigrants traveled in crowded and often unsanitary conditions near the bottom of steamships with few amenities, often spending up to two weeks seasick in their bunks during rough Atlantic Ocean crossings. First and second class passengers would disembark, pass through Customs at the piers and were free to enter the United States. The steerage and third class passengers were transported from the pier by ferry or barge to Ellis Island where everyone would undergo a medical and legal inspection. A Record Year for New Americans During the early s, immigration officials mistakenly thought that the peak wave of immigration had already passed. Actually, immigration was on the rise, and in more people immigrated to the United States than any other year, a record that would hold for the next 80 years. Consequently, masons and carpenters were constantly struggling to enlarge and build new facilities to accommodate this greater than anticipated influx of new immigrants. Numerous suspected enemy aliens throughout the United States were brought to Ellis Island under custody. Between and , detained suspected enemy aliens were transferred from Ellis Island to other locations in order for the United States Navy with the Army Medical Department to take over the island complex for the duration of the war. During this time, regular inspection of arriving immigrants was conducted onboard ship or at the docks. Hundreds were later deported based upon the principal of guilt by association with any organizations advocating revolution against the Federal government. In , Ellis Island reopened as an immigration receiving station and , immigrants were processed that year. The inspections took place in the Registry Room or Great Hall , where doctors would briefly scan every immigrant for obvious physical ailments. Doctors at Ellis Island soon became very adept at conducting these "six second physicals. This document was used by the legal inspectors at Ellis Island to cross-examine the immigrant during the legal or primary inspection. On March 1, , the Immigration and Naturalization Service was restructured and included into three separate bureaus as part of the U. Department of Homeland Security. For more information on these three bureaus and their mission, visit their websites at the following:

Marshall Sahlins' Islands of History () is an interesting (and currently relevant) intervention in the early s academic contention over the cultural turn.

Approximately 80 percent successfully passed through in a matter of hours, but others could be detained for days or weeks. Many immigrants remained in New York , while others traveled by barge to railroad stations in Hoboken or Jersey City, New Jersey , on their way to destinations across the country. Ellis Island Museum of Immigration Passage of the Immigrant Quota Act of and the National Origins Act of , which limited the number and nationality of immigrants allowed into the United States, effectively ended the era of mass immigration into New York. From to its closing in , only 2. Ellis Island opened to the public in Today, visitors can tour the Ellis Island Museum of Immigration in the restored Main Arrivals Hall and trace their ancestors through millions of immigrant arrival records made available to the public in In the s, a Dutch man, Michael Paauw, acquires the island and renames it Oyster Island for the plentiful amounts of shellfish on its beaches. During the s, it is known as Gibbet Island, for its gibbet, or gallows tree, used to hang men convicted of piracy. War Department pays the state for the right to use Ellis Island to build military fortifications and store ammunition, beginning during the War of Half a decade later, Ellis Island is used as a munitions arsenal for the Union army during the Civil War. Meanwhile, the first federal immigration law, the Naturalization Act, is passed in ; it allows all white males living in the U. There is little regulation of immigration when the first great wave begins in Nearly 5 million people will arrive from northern and western Europe over the next 45 years. Castle Garden, one of the first state-run immigration depots, opens at the Battery in lower Manhattan in The Potato Famine that strikes Ireland leads to the immigration of over 1 million Irish alone in the next decade. Concurrently, large numbers of Germans flee political and economic unrest. Rapid settlement of the West begins with the passing of the Homestead Act in Attracted by the opportunity to own land, more Europeans begin to immigrate. Beginning in , the United States forbids prostitutes and criminals from entering the country. The Chinese Exclusion Act is passed in Seven hundred immigrants passed through Ellis Island that day, and nearly , followed over the course of that first year. Over the next five decades, more than 12 million people will pass through the island on their way into the United States. Though no one is killed, all Ellis Island records dating back to and the Castle Garden era are destroyed. The new fireproof facility is officially opened in December, and 2, people pass through on opening day. To prevent a similar situation from occurring again, President Theodore Roosevelt appoints a new commissioner of immigration, William Williams, who cleans house on Ellis Island in To eliminate corruption and abuse, Williams awards contracts based on merit and announces contracts will be revoked if any dishonesty is suspected. Island Two houses the hospital administration and contagious diseases ward, while Island Three holds the psychiatric ward. By , Ellis Island has grown to more than 27 acres, from an original size of only three acres. Anarchists are denied admittance into the United States as of On April 17, , an all-time daily high of 11, immigrants received is reached; that year, Ellis Island experiences its highest number of immigrants received in a single year, with 1,, arrivals. A federal law is passed excluding persons with physical and mental disabilities, as well as children arriving without adults. From , in , the total drops to 28, in Anti-immigrant sentiment increases after the U. Starting in , Ellis Island operates as a hospital for the U. Army, a way station for Navy personnel and a detention center for enemy aliens. By , the Army takes over most of Ellis Island and creates a makeshift way station to treat sick and wounded American servicemen. The literacy test is introduced at this time, and stays on the books until Those over the age of 16 who cannot read 30 to 40 test words in their native language are no longer admitted through Ellis Island. Nearly all Asian immigrants are banned. Ellis Island is used to intern immigrant radicals accused of subversive activity; many of them are deported. Harding signs the Emergency Quota Act into law in According to the new law, annual immigration from any country cannot exceed 3 percent of the total number of U. The Immigration Act of goes even further, limiting total annual immigration to , and fixing quotas of immigrants from specific countries. The buildings on Ellis Island begin to fall into neglect and abandonment. America is experiencing the end of mass immigration. By , the Great Depression

has taken hold in the U. Coast Guard has taken over most of Ellis Island, using it for office and storage space. The passage of the Internal Security Act of 1950 excludes arriving immigrants with previous links to communist and fascist organizations. With this, Ellis Island experiences a brief resurgence in activity. Renovations and repairs are made in an effort to accommodate detainees, who sometimes number 1, at a time. The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952, also known as the McCarran-Walter Act, combined with a liberalized detention policy, causes the number of detainees on the island to plummet to fewer than 30 people. All 33 structures on Ellis Island are officially closed in November. In March, the federal government declares the island surplus property; it is subsequently placed under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration. Ellis Island opens to the public in 1954, featuring hour-long guided tours of the Main Arrivals Building. During this year, more than 50,000 people visit the island. Also in 1954, President Johnson signs the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1954, also known as the Hart-Celler Act, which abolishes the earlier quota system based on national origin and establishes the foundations for modern U.S. immigration. The act allows more individuals from third-world countries to enter the U.S. By 1954, when the restoration begins, the annual number of visitors to Ellis Island has reached 70,000. Since 1954, some 30 million visitors have visited Ellis Island to trace the steps of their ancestors. Meanwhile, immigration into the United States continues, mostly by land routes through Canada and Mexico. Illegal immigration becomes a constant source of political debate throughout the 1960s and 1970s. More than 3 million aliens receive amnesty through the Immigration Reform Act in 1986, but an economic recession in the early 1980s is accompanied by a resurgence of anti-immigrant feeling. The Supreme Court rules that New Jersey has authority over the south side of Ellis Island, or the section composed of the landfill added after 1954. The policies put into effect by the Immigration Act of 1952 have greatly changed the face of the American population by the end of the 20th century. Whereas in the 1950s, more than half of all immigrants were Europeans and just 6 percent were Asians, by the 1980s only 16 percent are Europeans and 31 percent are Asians, and the percentages of Latino and African immigrants also jump significantly. Between 1980 and 1990, the highest number of immigrants 4. Korea, the Dominican Republic, India, Cuba and Vietnam are also leading sources of immigrants, each sending between 100,000 and 200,000 over this period. The center allows visitors to search through millions of immigrant arrival records for information on individual people who passed through Ellis Island on their way into the United States. The records include the original manifests, given to passengers onboard ships and showing names and other information, as well as information about the history and background of the ships that arrived in New York Harbor bearing hopeful immigrants to the New World. Debates continue over how America should confront the effects of soaring immigration rates throughout the 1980s. Annie traveled to New York with her two younger brothers on steerage aboard the S.S. After being processed, the children were reunited with their parents, who were already living in New York. Beware the Buttonhook Men Doctors checked those passing through Ellis Island for more than 60 diseases and disabilities that might disqualify them from entry into the United States. Those suspected of being afflicted with a disease or disability were marked with chalk and detained for closer examination. All immigrants were checked closely for trachoma, a contagious eye condition that caused more detainments and deportations than any other ailment. Dining at Ellis Island Food was plentiful at Ellis Island, despite various opinions as to its quality. A typical meal served in the dining hall might include beef stew, potatoes, bread and herring a very cheap fish; or baked beans and stewed prunes. Immigrants were introduced to new foods, such as bananas, sandwiches and ice cream, as well as unfamiliar preparations. To meet the special dietary requirements of Jewish immigrants, a kosher kitchen was built in 1954. In addition to the free meals served, independent concessions sold packaged food that immigrants often bought to eat while they waited or take with them when they left the island. Famous Names Many famous figures passed through Ellis Island, some leaving their original names behind on their entry into the U.S. Israel Beilin better known as composer Irving Berlin arrived in 1912; Angelo Siciliano, who arrived in 1913, later achieved fame as the bodybuilder Charles Atlas. Some were already famous when they arrived, such as Carl Jung or Sigmund Freud both in 1909, while some, like Charles Chaplin would make their name in the New World. Born in New York in 1907 to immigrants of Italian and Jewish ancestry, La Guardia lived for a time in Hungary and worked at the American consulates in Budapest and other cities. From his experience at Ellis Island, La Guardia came to believe that many of the deportations for so-called mental illness were unjustified, often due to communication problems or to the

ignorance of doctors doing the inspections. He was coming to the streets of New York.

Chapter 3 : History & Culture - Channel Islands National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

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.

I read this several times while writing my dissertation, and decided to revisit after a recent vacation to Hawaii. What makes this so good is that Sahlins takes on big themes and deals with them in a relatively small compass. His argument, of course, is somewhat dated--to those days when structure and agency were seemingly at odds. He won, by helping solve the problem, so it can sometimes seem irrelevant. But it is still refreshing to visit. Interesting Excellent, and in many ways a model monograph. Interestingly, his arguments significantly overlap with the symbolic interactionists, a group of sociologists at Chicago, where Sahlins taught in the anthropology department, but he does not cite them at all. He does, however turn often to French historians--no surprise given their interest in social structures. Sahlins was trying to reconcile anthropology, which had recently become bedazzled by structuralism, with history. Structuralists argued that structures--myths, institutions, traditions--organized everyday life. But this made society so static, the question became, How does history ever happen. Sahlins and others argued that the answer was in quotidian life. Every time an action happened, the meanings created by structures were at risk--when ideas met the messy real world, they could be forced to change. The first paragraph of the book, in particular, is tough slogging. The first actual chapter deals with the reception of Captain Cook in Waimea, Hawaii, and the easy way that the female Islanders made sex available to the European men, sometimes almost forcing it. Sahlins argues that sex was more than a way of solidifying structural relations, the way it had been shown in anthropology for the previous decades, but of creating new social structures--thus the women and the men who sometimes urged them on were not just playing a role, but creating a new order one that would bring down traditional Hawaiian society. Not as focused on the Hawaiian Islands, the next chapter argues that this view of anthropology can be reconciled with notions of historical change. The third chapter, as called out in its last sentence, is a recasting of Durkheimian anthropology and Weber, too, it would seem. Sahlins argues that central to the idea of kingship in Hawaii is usurpation--one gains legitimacy exactly because one is an outside who overrules the current kings. Which is of course important to the central chapter, the next one, on the death of Cook. Everyone involved, then, had to use the structures they new to address an unusual and unexpected circumstance. In this case, the Hawaiians killed their god--after all, this was a way of legitimizing power. All of these interactions, Sahlins points out in the final chapter, put structural categories at risk, and eventually changed them. Women on the boats ate with men, which had been forbidden or tabu , but did not suffer--those who did not contract venereal disease even prospered; commoners also challenged divine power--which Sahlins had earlier shown was very strong in Hawaii--through their contact with the European visitors--thus, again, altering the history of the Hawaiian Islands.

Chapter 4 : Easter Island - HISTORY

Marshall Sahlins centers these essays on islands—Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand—whose histories have intersected with European history. But he is also concerned with the insular thinking in Western scholarship that creates false dichotomies between past and present, between structure and event, between the individual and society.

Damage to infrastructure on Guadalcanal resulted, disrupting transportation, commerce, and agriculture, and many enterprises were forced out of business. The earthquakes and tsunami caused further economic setbacks. Tourism has been developed but is not a major source of income. Its other export products are derived from plantation crops: China and Australia are the major recipients. The chief imports are machinery, fuels, manufactured goods, and food, and Australia, Singapore, and China are the main suppliers. The islands have significant reserves of bauxite on Rennell Island and phosphates on Bellona, and some gold has been extracted on Guadalcanal. Manufacturing primarily involves the processing of coconut and other vegetable oils and of cocoa. Traditional handicrafts, including woodwork, shell inlay, mats, baskets, and shell jewelry, are made both for the tourist market and for export. The Solomon Islands dollar is the official currency; indigenous currencies such as shell money from Malaita and red-feather money from Santa Cruz are also made for use in customary transactions. The principal airport is Honiara International Airport, although there are several airfields throughout the islands that may also serve as international points of entry. The government-owned Solomon Airlines provides domestic and regional air service. Ports handling overseas cargoes include Honiara, Tulagi the former capital, and Gizo Harbour. Interisland shipping is operated both privately and by the government. Government and society Solomon Islands is a constitutional monarchy, with the British monarch, represented by a governor-general, serving as the formal head of state. Still, the country, a member of the Commonwealth, is independent, and the governor-general is appointed on the advice of the unicameral National Parliament. The governor-general, who serves a term of up to five years, must be a citizen of Solomon Islands. Members of the Parliament are elected by universal adult suffrage and serve for four years unless Parliament is dissolved sooner. Executive power is exercised by a prime minister elected by and from Parliament and a cabinet appointed by the governor-general from among the members of Parliament on the recommendation of the prime minister. Although political parties exist in name, their organization and discipline tend to be loose. The prime minister rarely commands a clear majority in Parliament, and so governments are usually formed of a coalition of parties or factions. Local government councils control matters regarding transportation, economic development, health, and education. Education is not compulsory. Schools are run both by the national and provincial governments and by various churches. Many secondary schools provide practical training in fields such as agriculture and development studies. There are several teacher-training schools and a technical institute, as well as a campus of the University of the South Pacific in Honiara. Some students attend universities overseas, especially in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. There is a hospital at Honiara. Cultural life Much of traditional culture endures. Crafts are promoted by the Solomon Islands National Museum, established in Honiara, and dances and music are regularly performed. An indigenous literary movement developed in the late 20th century; the writing is in English and mostly published in Solomon Islands. For a more detailed discussion of the culture of Solomon Islands, see Melanesian culture. Traditionally dressed dancers in Honiara, Sol. For a discussion of the history of Solomon Islands in its broader, regional context, see Pacific Islands. Marines landing on Guadalcanal, August Material dating to about bce has also been excavated at Vatulum Cave Guadalcanal, on Santa Ana Island, and on the outlying islands of Anuta and Tikopia. Subsequently, unjustified rumours led to the belief that he had not only found gold there but had also discovered where the biblical king Solomon obtained the gold for his temple in Jerusalem. Geographers came to doubt the existence of the group, and it was not until the late 18th century, after further sightings by French and English navigators, that the Solomons were accurately charted. Roman Catholic missionaries failed to establish a settlement in the s but did so in Anglican missionaries, who had been taking islanders to New Zealand for training since the s, began to settle in the Solomons in the s. Other missions arrived later. By the late 19th century the islands were being exploited for labour to work the

plantations of Fiji and other islands and of Queensland, Austl. About 30,000 labourers were recruited between 1860 and 1870. To protect their own interests, Germany and Britain divided the Solomons between them in 1874; but in 1899 Germany transferred the northern islands, except for Buka and Bougainville, to Britain which had already claimed the southern islands in return for recognition of German claims in Western Samoa now Samoa and parts of Africa. The British Solomon Islands Protectorate was declared in 1893, partly in response to abuses associated with labour recruitment and partly to regulate contacts between islanders and European settlers, but mainly to forestall a threat of annexation by France. Colonial rule began in 1896. Although generally humane, administrators were more concerned with promoting the interests of European traders and planters than those of the islanders, and islanders were punished harshly for offenses against colonial law and order. The murder of government tax collectors by members of the Kwaio ethnic group on Malaita in 1900 was answered with a savage punitive expedition, backed by an Australian warship, that burned and looted villages and killed many of the Kwaio. With the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese began occupying the protectorate early in 1942, but their advance farther southward was stopped by U.S. forces. Fighting in the Solomons over the next 15 months was some of the most bitter in the Pacific; the long Battle of Guadalcanal was one of the crucial conflicts of the Pacific war. Throughout the campaign the U.S. Navy played a major role. Another result of the war was to stimulate political consciousness among the islanders and so inspire a nationalist movement known as Maasina Rule, which lasted from 1945 to 1950. Subsequently, in response to the worldwide movement for decolonization, the Solomons set out on the path of constitutional development. The country was formally renamed Solomon Islands in 1978, and independence was attained on July 7, 1978. Peter Kenilorea, who had helped lead Solomon Islands to independence, became its first prime minister in 1981 and served a second term from 1985 to 1988. Later that year New Zealand and Australian forces arrived, and a peace accord was signed. Although sporadic violence continued, efforts began to rebuild the heavily damaged country. Foreign aid was secured to repair the extensive property and infrastructure damage. Hugh Michael Laracy Sophie Foster Economic and political instability continued through the next several years. After the general election, antigovernment riots broke out and parts of Honiara were burned and looted; the new prime minister, Snyder Rini, resigned after eight days in office and was replaced by Manasseh Sogavare, who opposed the presence of RAMSI. After Sogavare lost a no-confidence vote in 2000, Derek Sikua became prime minister. Consideration of a new constitution was ongoing; it would address provincial and ethnic tensions by changing the governmental structure to that of a federation of states. Parliamentary elections were held in August 2001, and Danny Philip, the leader of a parliamentary coalition, was elected prime minister. Philip stated that constitutional reform would be a priority of his administration. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

A Brief History of the Hawaiian Islands 1, years ago: Polynesians arrive in Hawaii after navigating the ocean using only the stars to guide them. Captain James Cook lands at Waimea Bay on the island of Kauai, becoming the first European to make contact with the Hawaiian Islands.

Your preferences have been updated. What began as a fishing outpost for Amerindians has changed hands between the Spanish and Dutch throughout the centuries, and is now a diverse constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. During the Pre-Ceramic period, BC - AD, this seminomadic tribe fished, hunted, and gathered food, depending mostly on the sea for survival. They created tools out of roughly flaked stones and shells, and lived in small family groups in the coastal areas known today as Malmok and Palm Beach. In the beginning of the Ceramic period, - AD, these Indians established five large villages and started producing corn and yucca. Scaled-down versions of two of these Amerindian villages, as well as a representation of an Amerindian dwelling, can be seen at the Archaeological Museum of Aruba. The museum also houses the remains of ceramic urns, coarse pottery, and jewelry made by the Caquetios, with some of the artifact fragments dating back to AD. Rock drawings and carvings created by the Caquetios have withstood the test of time, and you can see them for yourself at Fontein Cave in Arikok National Park and at the Ayo Rock Formation. These paintings suggest that the Caquetio Indians may have come to the island after fleeing attacks from the Carib Indians, who are indigenous to the northern part of South America. The Caquetio Indians were still on the island when it was discovered by Spanish explorers. Due to the relatively low rainfall on the island, the colonizers did not believe that Aruba was a good place for plantations or crop growing. In , the Spaniards enslaved many of the Caquetio Indians and sent them to Hispaniola to work on plantations and in mines. Some Indians returned to Aruba in and were recruited as laborers for cattle and horse breeding operations. Approximately nine years after Alonso de Ojeda landed on Aruba, the Spanish Crown appointed him as the first governor of the island. Aruba stayed under Spanish control for years. The Dutch recruited the Caquetio people to build farms and raise cattle for meat that would be sold and shipped to other islands. During the Napoleonic Wars, the British invaded and took control of Aruba, but the Netherlands took it back in Aruba officially became part of the Netherlands Antilles in Status Aparte Aruba seceded from the Netherlands Antilles in , a victory much fought for by political activist and local hero Betico Croes. Initially, the plan for Aruba was to become fully independent. However, in , Aruba decided to indefinitely postpone this plan, and in , the petition for full independence was completely repealed. Foreign affairs and national defense for Aruba are still controlled by the Kingdom, but all internal affairs—including laws, policies, and currency—are controlled by the Aruban government. Aruba is a true melting pot, with over 90 nationalities represented in its population of over , residents. Some of this diversity can be seen in the number of languages that the average Aruban can speak, usually including Dutch, the native language of Papiamentu, English, and Spanish. The Aruban people enjoy a healthy economy, and due to the tourism industry and an excellent education system, Aruba enjoys a very low unemployment rate.

Chapter 6 : Ellis Island - HISTORY

Orkney is internationally recognised for its exceptionally well-preserved Neolithic archaeology. The chronology of the Orcadian Neolithic is, however, relatively poorly defined.

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-19th 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 about 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 Niue 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.

Chapter 7 : Island - Wikipedia

Ellis Island is a historical site that opened in as an immigration station, a purpose it served for more than 60 years until it closed in Located at the mouth of Hudson River between.

See Article History Alternative Titles: It consists of some of the easternmost islands of Micronesia. The Marshalls are composed of more than 1, island s and islets in two parallel chains of coral atoll sâ€”the Ratak, or Sunrise, to the east and the Ralik, or Sunset, to the west. The chains lie about miles km apart and extend some miles northwest to southeast. Government offices are located in the town of Delap-Uliga-Djarrit, named for three islands that were once separated but were later joined by landfill. Land None of the 29 low-lying coral atolls and the five coral islands in the Marshall group rises to more than 20 feet six metres above high tide. The islands are coral caps set on the rims of submerged volcanoes rising from the ocean floor. The island units of the Marshalls are scattered over about , square miles of the Pacific. The largest atoll in the group and in the world is Kwajalein , which has a land area of only six square miles but surrounds a square-mile lagoon. Map of the Pacific Islands. Annual precipitation varies from 20 to 30 inches to mm in the north to inches in the southern atolls. The wettest months are October and November. Several of the northern atolls are uninhabited owing to insufficient rainfall. Most of the Marshall Islands are true atolls, consisting of an irregular, oval-shaped coral reef surrounding a lagoon; the islets lie along the coral reef. The islands and islets of the Ratak chain tend to be more heavily wooded than those of the Ralik. Coconut and pandanus palms and breadfruit trees are the principal vegetation. Soils are generally sandy and low in fertility. People The native people of the Marshalls, the Marshallese, are Micronesians. The most populous atolls are Majuro and Kwajalein, which offers employment at the U. The rest of the population lives in traditional villages on the outer islands away from the two urban centres. Ethnic composition Marshall Islands: American missionaries arrived in the Marshalls in the s, introducing Christianity to the population. Today the Marshallese are predominantly Christian. The Marshallese and English languages are spoken, but only a minority are fluent in the latter. Employment and modern amenities at both Majuro and Kwajalein serve as magnets that draw people to the two urban centres. On the outer islands, subsistence farming , fishing , and the raising of pigs and poultry are the principal economic activities. Coconut, pandanus, breadfruit, and taro are the major food crops. The production of copra is the chief source of income for the outer islands. The principal import is processed foods. Other major imports include machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, and fuels, primarily from the United States, Japan, and Australia. Transportation among the atolls and islands is by boat or air. Government-owned ships make scheduled trips among the islands. Several commercial cargo lines also serve the islands. Majuro has a commercial dock complex, and many of the atolls have good anchorage within their lagoons. Majuro and Kwajalein have international airports, and domestic and regional flights link some of the other atolls and islands. Government and society Under the constitution adopted in , the government consists of a president elected by a unicameral, member parliament known as the Nitijela. The Council of Iroij Chiefs has mainly a consultative function, concerned with traditional laws and customs. Hospitals on Majuro and Ebeye part of Kwajalein Atoll and dispensaries on other islands provide health care. There are primary schools, both public and church-run, on the inhabited islands and islets. Majuro and Jaluit atolls each have a public secondary school. Majuro is also the site of the College of the Marshall Islands , which grants certificates and associate degrees in a variety of programs. History The Marshall Islands were settled initially around the beginning of the Christian era by Micronesians who may have been influenced by early Polynesian Lapita culture. Radiocarbon dates from earth-oven charcoal samples that were excavated in Laura village on Majuro yielded dates of about 30 bce and 50 ce. The early Marshall Islanders were skilled navigators and made long canoe voyages among the atolls. The British naval captains John Marshall and Thomas Gilbert partially explored the Marshalls in , but much of the mapping was done by Russian expeditions under Adam Johann Krusenstern and Otto von Kotzebue and Germany established a coaling station on Jaluit Atoll by treaty with island chiefs and in , by agreement with Great Britain, established a protectorate over the Marshalls. Japan seized the islands in and later after administered them as a League of Nations mandate. After

their populations were removed to other atolls, Bikini and Enewetak served as an official testing ground for U.S. nuclear weapons. The tests stopped in 1954 and cleanup efforts began in the late 1950s. During the initial resettlement of the Bikinians, however, their atoll was found to be too contaminated for permanent habitation, and by the late 1950s the people had to be evacuated once again. The Enewetak people were returned to their homeland, and a program to monitor Bikini was put in place. The Compact of Free Association, which formed the republic and brought internal self-government, was approved by the voters in 1979. It requires that the United States remain responsible for defense and external security and that it provide financial assistance for the republic. The compact entitles the United States to use the missile testing range on Kwajalein Atoll, and provides for the republic to become fully independent and to alter its status with the United States at any time, subject to approval of the residents through plebiscites. The United States agreed to set up a separate fund for the people of the four atolls and established an open-ended fund to cover personal injury claims among the islanders; it also agreed to set up a joint U.S.-Micronesia fund. A further agreement set up a fund to improve living conditions on Ebeye island, where all Micronesians working on the Kwajalein missile range and base resided.

Chapter 8 : Aruba History - Get the Facts on Aruba's History

Solomon Islands: Solomon Islands, country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia. The country comprises most of the Solomons chain, with the exception of Buka and Bougainville, two islands at the northwestern end that form an autonomous.

July 22, Patmos, Greece A tiny, mountainous speck in the Aegean Sea, the square-mile island of Patmos is where, according to Christian tradition, St. John was exiled in A. Ten centuries later, in , a monk built a monastery on the island dedicated to the saint. This established Patmos as a pilgrimage site and a center of Greek Orthodox learning, which it remains to this day. John is said to have received his revelations from God, and the nearby medieval settlement of Chora—a World Heritage site. But in medieval times, the island, 32 miles west of Niigata Prefecture in the Sea of Japan, was a place of banishment for those who had fallen out of favor with the rulers of the day. More than 70 people—notably aristocrats and artists—were exiled here, beginning in A. Other exiles included the Emperor Juntoku, who attempted a coup against the Kamakura shogunate in , and the monk Nichiren in , who preached a radical form of Buddhism. The convict, whose identity was concealed behind what was most likely a black velvet mask, was brought to the island in , during the reign of Louis XIV, and locked up in the Royal Fort, then a state prison. His barren cell can still be seen. Later, he was moved to the Bastille, where he died in at around age But over the centuries, they have been the subjects of much speculation. The Royal Fort continued to be used as a prison until the 20th century. He lived alone on the rugged square-mile island, miles off Valparaiso, Chile, for more than four years, subsisting on fish, lobster, goats and seals, until he was rescued by a passing ship in February Isle Royale, Isle St. Napoleon III established the penal colony in , and some 80, French convicts—criminals, spies and political prisoners—would be sent there before it officially closed in Prisoners who failed to meet daily work quotas in the timber camps were denied food. An estimated 50, inmates died. The most famous of several well-known prisoners was Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, who, wrongly convicted of treason, spent four and a half years there in solitary confinement, from to The space agency purchased the three offshore islands, which were under the launch trajectory, and in the s decided to preserve many of the prison buildings as a cultural heritage site. Located seven miles offshore of Cape Town across wind-whipped Table Bay, Robben Island has been a place of exile for most of the past years. Helena Located in the middle of the South Atlantic, 1, miles from Angola and 1, miles from Brazil, the island of St. Helena is among the most remote places on earth. This detail was not lost on the British, who sent Napoleon into exile here following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in Napoleon passed the time reading, gardening and dictating his memoirs. He was free to go wherever he wanted on the property, but had to be accompanied by a guard for outside excursions. Napoleon died on St. Helena in at age Today, the rocky, square-mile island pop. Political dissidents were sent there under the military dictatorships of Omar Torrijos and Manuel Noriega. Human-rights groups frequently reported on the harsh conditions of the penal colony, including incidents of torture and murder. The penal colony was shut down in Since the island was never developed, it boasts vast tracts of virgin tropical rainforest, mangrove swamps, pristine beaches and species found nowhere else in the world. Isla Coiba is also among the last places in Panama where scarlet macaws and crested eagles still exist in the wild. In , Coiba National Park—which includes the island, 37 smaller islands and the waters surrounding them—was designated a Unesco World Heritage site. Some prisoners—hardened criminals and political dissidents—were incarcerated there under extremely harsh conditions. Guards ordered them to build a wall out of lava rocks brought from a distant crater—a wall that served no purpose. A number of prisoners, slaving under the hot equatorial sun, are thought to have died during its construction. Today the wall is all that remains of the penal colony and is known as the Muro de las Lagrimas, the Wall of Tears. It was used as a prison by the early Dutch and British, as a leper colony and mental hospital between and , and as a political prison for non-white opponents of the apartheid regime from to No criminal was ever sentenced directly to Alcatraz. A total of 1, people were incarcerated there in its nearly three decades of operation, including Al Capone; Doc Barker, of the Ma Barker gang; Robert Stroud, a. Of the 34 people who tried, most were recaptured or killed. During the rest of the

decade, Native Americans occupied the island twice, claiming their right to it under an treaty. The second occupation ended in with their removal by federal marshals. In , Alcatraz became part of the new Golden Gate National Recreation Area and today receives more than a million visitors a year. An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated that St. John wrote the Book of Revelations. He wrote the Book of Revelation. Thanks to our many commenters for identifying the error.

Chapter 9 : History of the USVI | United States Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority

Smith's Island and Mormon Island both lie in the inner harbor of the Port of Los Angeles. Except they're not really islands at all. Both are peninsulas that once were free-standing islands.

Brief History of the islands of Malta and Gozo Author: Thus it has always been at the cross-roads of the trading and warring routes of this land-locked sea. Malta is chiefly composed of limestone with no hills higher than metres and no rivers. On the South-West side it is guarded by high cliffs whilst on the North-East side the shore is indented with sheltered harbours. These proved to be very attractive to the sailors and navigators that sailed the Mediterranean. The origin of Maltese history goes back to some years BC, when some people from the neighbouring island of Sicily, who could see the island lying on the horizon, decided to cross the narrow waters to investigate. This obviously could not have happened unless these people had skills in sailing or rowing some form of craft which was large enough to carry with them their belongings, which included such animals as sheep, goats and cattle, as well as seeds like wheat and barley. These people settled on the island and sheltered in the many caves which exist there. They cultivated the land, growing wheat and barley and practised animal husbandry. Around BC they started to build large buildings the like of which were not to be found anywhere else. They kept in touch with their cousins in Sicily obtaining from them obsidian and flint with which they could make tools to help them work the stones. These buildings, of which there are fifteen, are spread across the island. They are the oldest existing megalithic structures known to man - places like Hagar Qim, Mnajdra, Tarxien, etc. This Neolithic period about 4000 years, when, for no explicable reason, it ended abruptly. Nobody knows what happened, but famine, over population and disease could have been possible causes. Around 800 BC Phoenicia started to expand her empire. The Phoenicians were traders and great mariners who sailed their ships along the shores of the Mediterranean. They sailed to England where they traded tin. It is said that they circumnavigated the continent of Africa. They settled on the North coast of Africa and established a city called Carthage. They also settled on the West coast of Sicily and in Malta. Their stay in Malta was to last for years. Conceivably the roots of the Maltese language derive from this Phoenician period. The Phoenicians also introduced glass making and weaving and built temples where they could worship their gods. Meanwhile, the city of Carthage grew in size and strength and eventually carved out an empire which covered the North African coast to the west of Carthage, and included Spain, Sardinia, Western Sicily and Malta. The Carthaginians got into difficulties with the Greeks in Eastern Sicily and with the arrival of Rome on the political scene during the 3rd century BC it was inevitable that the two nations would wage war for mastery of the area. Three wars, known as the Punic Wars, were fought from 264 to 146 BC ending with the fall of Carthage, and with Rome becoming supreme in the Central and Western Mediterranean. Malta became part of the Roman Empire during the 2nd Punic War c. 218 BC. One event of great importance to the Maltese took place in AD 58, when St. Paul, who was on his way to Rome as a prisoner, was shipwrecked on the Island. He stayed for three months during which time he introduced Christianity to the people. The Maltese take great pride in saying that they were one of the first nations to accept Christianity as their faith - but that is another story. We now enter a dark period in Maltese history, the period from AD 649 to 1091. No records exist as to what happened during that time. Before long his followers spread across North Africa into Spain and across the Pyrenees. They invaded and captured Palermo in AD 831 and in 870 they invaded Malta. Once again Malta came in contact with a new and vigorous Semitic people. Unfortunately, very little documentation relating to the two centuries of Arab rule in Malta survives today. Indeed, Arab influence in Malta lasted much longer, since the Normans, who invaded in 1091 and took over the island from the Arabs, were indeed enlightened people and they tolerated the presence of the Arabs in the island. In fact, Count Roger never garrisoned the islands. Arab influence remained more or less unrestricted till about 1249, when the Muslims were finally expelled. The chief legacy of the Arab occupation in Malta must be the Maltese language itself, which has many elements of Arabic. Legends about the coming of Count Roger and the Normans to Malta are numerous, but most probably unfounded. Count Roger is said to have given Malta her flag based on the Hauteville colours. He is reputed to have re-Christianised the Maltese, established churches, re-appointed a bishop and even expelled the Arabs. All of

this is doubtful. The so-called Norman Period lasted till and though the Normans left many treasures and architecture in Sicily, hardly any relics of this period exist in Malta. Following the death of King Roger II in , a series of political struggles ensued. William the Good died childless in and a dispute arose over his successor. However, the Pope had other ideas. Fearing the penetration of the Germans in Sicily and Southern Italy, the church threw its support with Tancred. He was crowned king in . The Arabs were finally expelled from Sicily and Malta after an uprising in . Following the death of Frederick II in , the Hohenstaufen dynasty declined very rapidly. Sixteen years of plots and counterplots eventually brought a new master to Malta. Although the period of Angevin rule over Malta was short-lived , it is from this point onward that Malta shifted into the European scheme of government and administration. Because of high taxation, moves were made in Sicily to restore the island to Aragon, the rightful heirs to the crown of Sicily. Things came to a head in with the Sicilian uprising against the French, known as the Sicilian Vespers, which led to a bloody massacre of the French. The Aragonese period in Malta was to last for years. During that time the Maltese people suffered the indignity of having their island handed from one noble to another as a fief for various services rendered to the king. These individuals increased taxation which led to local unrest amongst the people. Malta remained at the mercy of these powerful Sicilian magnates, like the Alagonas and the Moncadas. It was not till that the local council for Malta and Gozo, the Universita, made a strong petition to the crown for the islands to be restored to direct rule by the King. In , King Alfonso granted the Maltese islands and all the revenue from them to Don Antonio Cardona in exchange for a loan of 30, gold florins. The Maltese disagreed with this arrangement. After five years they finally rebelled. The Maltese bought back the island for 30, florins. They also insisted on radical reforms including one that said that the islands were never to be ceded again by the crown. Alfonso agreed to these reforms and finally ratified them in a Royal Charter in . Their daughter Joanna married Philip Archduke of Austria. The Order of St. John came to Malta after the loss of Rhodes in . They had been in Rhodes since . Before that they were in the Holy Land where the Order was established in by Blessed Gerard to look after the pilgrims and the crusaders. The main enemy now was Turkey. The Ottomans were the dread of the Christian powers bordering the Mediterranean and the Balkans. Malta was becoming of supreme strategic importance for the control of the Mediterranean against the alarming growth of Muslim power. In the Turks made an unexpected attack on Malta and Gozo, taking many prisoners. The attack that followed in was more serious, for they ransacked Gozo and made off with prisoners. The Order was convinced that they must prepare the defences of the island for a bigger invasion. Soon afterwards, in , a great Turkish armada appeared off the coast of Malta, starting what is now called The Great Siege of Malta, which was to last for four long months. When it was finally raised on the 7th September of the same year, many knights and Maltese had lost their lives, as did many Turks. After the siege a new city was built, called Valletta in honour of the Grand Master who led the Order through the siege. This was to be a modern, fortified city, and eventually a city of culture and commerce. The city grew and so did the wealth of the Order. The threat of Turkish invasion was ever present. In the Turkish fleet was defeated by the Christian powers, including the Order, led by Don Juan of Austria at the battle of Lepanto. In the years that followed, Valletta became an impregnable fortress, housing imposing palaces and churches. It also became a flourishing centre for trade and learning. Successive Grandmasters initiated grand projects, such as the building of many fortifications, aqueducts and a university, where the teaching of anatomy and surgery took place. As time went by, however, the Order began to decline. The haughtiness and despotism of some of the Grandmasters upset the Maltese, leading to the famous Rebellion of the Priests, led by Mannarino in during the magistracy of Ximenes de Texada. The situation in Europe at the time was explosive. In he invaded Malta and expelled the Order. Thus ended years of rule by the Order of St. French rule in Malta lasted only two years. The Maltese rebelled within three months of their arrival, besieging them in Valletta, from where, with the help of the British, they were finally ousted in . The British occupied the island and for the next fifteen years the fate of Malta was undecided. The Maltese did not want the knights back and Britain was quite undecided as to whether it wanted to stay in Malta, but equally Britain did not want either the French or the Russians, who had their eyes on Malta for quite a while, to occupy the islands.