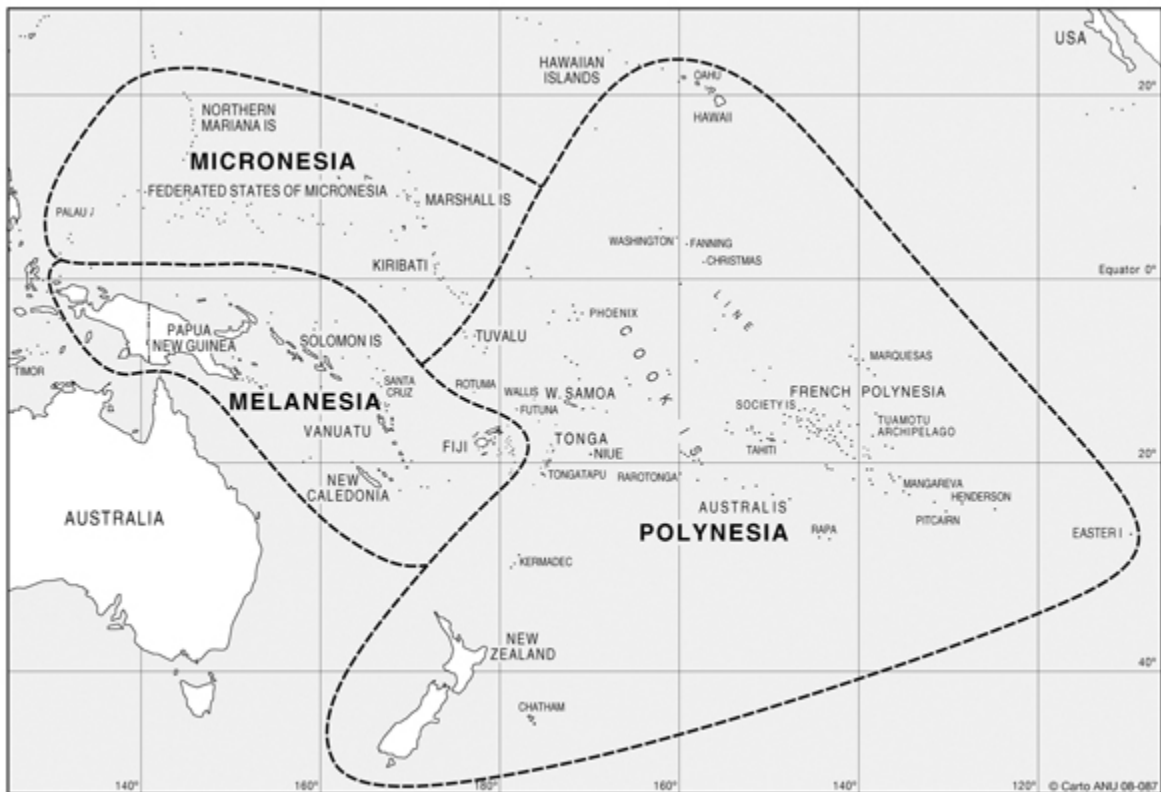
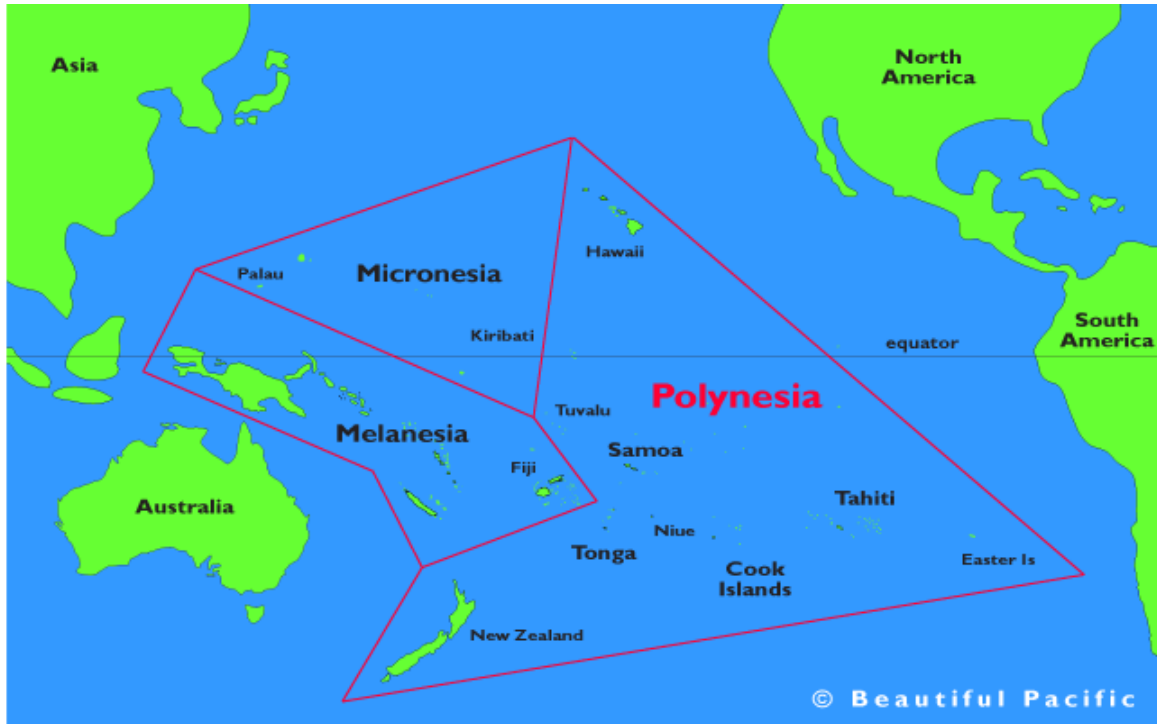


Klawiter – AP World History
A Concise History of Oceania

Regional Overview/Reference Maps



Post-Classical: 600 CE – 1450 CE

- Oceanic people spread to Polynesia, hitting Hawaii 300 CE and finally New Zealand c. 700 CE
- eliminated much of native animal species and introduced “transported” plants and animals:
 - taro, yams, bananas, breadfruit
 - pigs, chickens, dogs, rats
 - sweet potatoes especially important in New Zealand
 - trade networks flourished between islands like Hawaii, Tahiti, and the Marquesas
- use of fire to clear forests to make room for transported plants
- some islanders maintained population control through infanticide, abortion, etc.
- sometimes they destroyed the environment and would have to relocate or face catastrophe
 - For example: Easter Islanders arrived c. 400s CE
 - by 1600 nearly all trees had been cut, many to create rolling logs for their statues
 - resource shortages led the 7,000 inhabitants into violence, leaving only about 2,000 in the early seventeenth century
- most societies were chiefdoms with polytheistic religious traditions

Early Modern Era: 1450-1750

- Europeans began to crisscross the Pacific starting in the sixteenth century thanks to explorers like Magellan
- Jesuits and sailors hit some of the islands and they unknowingly brought smallpox and flu to islands like Guam in Micronesia, leaving a death rate among indigenous peoples as high as 90%, but in general there was not an exchange in the Pacific equivalent to that of the Atlantic system

Modern Era: 1750 - 1900

- Captain Cook’s voyages were the first to cause major historical shifts in Oceania
 - Cook had a “chronometer” that helped him determine longitude, which made his voyages precise, so he could return again and again
 - Cook in the late eighteenth century helped provide geographic information necessary for Europeans to map the Pacific Ocean regions of Melanesia and Polynesia
 - Cook took a deep interest in culture and customs of Hawaii, where he lost his life in an outburst of violence between his crew and native peoples
- Such voyages brought devastating depopulation from disease transmission
- Islanders were “blackbirded,” or seized to be laborers on whaling ships or moved to cash crop fields
- Europeans brought new animals and plants and further altered the environment:
 - cattle in Hawaii grew into a nuisance, trampling the earth and eating all vegetation in site
 - goats were put on islands as food for traveling sailors, and they exploded in numbers
 - weeds carried by Europeans thrived in this changing ecosystem
 - rats were possibly the worst, which killed massive numbers of birds and ate seeds that were key for forests
 - rabbits and deer tore up Australia and New Zealand
 - corn, squash, and other foreign crops planted by humans eliminated indigenous crops
 - whalers and sealers in New Zealand showed hardly any restraint (whale bones helped make European corsets, oil for grease and lamps, and ambergris was used for perfume)
 - deforestation occurred due to the demand for timber and clearing for grazing animals like sheep
- After the American Revolution, Britain began to send its non-death-sentence criminals to the punishment of “transportation” to penal colonies in Australia
 - there they did hard labor building roads and buildings
- Australia and New Zealand became settler colonies where Brits displaced natives, who perished from conflict and disease
- In the age of Imperialism, Pacific islands became a source of competition among European powers as they claimed the land for coaling stations, cash crops, minerals, guano, etc.
- Indentured servants from East, South, and Southeast Asia populated cash crop and mining centers by turn of the century
- Chinese and other migrants flooded into Australia in their Gold Rush in the 1850s/1860s, prompting the White Australian discrimination policy, similar to the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act
- U.S. sugar growers launched a coup against Hawaii’s Queen Liliuokalani and then orchestrated the process of annexation, which American completed in the 1890s

Contemporary Era: 1900 - Present

- ANZAC troops used by British against Turks in WWI
- Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, U.S. island-hopping against Japanese forces across the Pacific
- Some Pacific islands (like Bikini atoll) were used for nuclear testing during the Cold War by U.S.
- White Australia Policy was repealed by the late twentieth century
- filming of *Survivor* at several of these islands. ☺

Based on information from:

1. "Of Rats and Men: A Synoptic Environmental History of the Island Pacific" by J.R. McNeill
<http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/journals/jwh/jwh052p299.pdf>

2. *Traditions and Encounters* by Bentley et al.