

Strand	Time, Continuity and Change
Sub strand	History of Fiji
Content Learning Outcome	Role of the Fijian administration after cession.

Introduction

<u>Administration under the Native Affairs Ordinance 1876</u>	<u>Administration under the Fijian Affairs Ordinance 1945</u>
<p>Governor</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Council of Chiefs</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Native Regulation Board (Adviser on Native Affairs)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Province (Roko)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>District (Buli)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Village (Turaga-ni-koro)</p>	<p>Fijian Affairs Board (Secretary of Fijian Affairs)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>District Commissioner</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Roko & District Officers</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Buli</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Turaga-ni-koro</p>

- As you can see in the diagram above, little changes were made in the system to keep at pace with modern times. Adviser on Native Affairs got his title changed to Secretary of Fijian/i-Taukei Affairs and Native Regulation Board was replaced by Fijian Affairs Board.
- 3 districts were formed – Northern, Southern and Eastern Districts each under a European District Commissioner, who was assisted by a Roko in charge of each of the 13 provinces.
- This chain of responsibility was clearly laid from the Secretary of Fijian/i-Taukei Affairs to the Turaga-ni-koro.

DUTIES:

District Commissioner:

- ✓ They helped in checking accounts.
- ✓ Assisted the iTaukei magistrates
- ✓ Helped in the management of schools
- ✓ Acted as supervisors and advisers in many aspects of Fiji administration.

The Roko (Provincial Chief):

- ✓ The Roko were the senior iTaukei administrators in each province.
- ✓ Most of the Roko were of chiefly status.
- ✓ The Roko had charge of provincial revenue, and were to see that all records were properly kept and that the iTaukei regulations were observed.
- ✓ In general, they were responsible for the social and economic life of the province.

The Buli (District Chief):

- ✓ The Bulis were mainly responsible for collecting provincial rates.
- ✓ Enforcing iTaukei regulations and implementing the program of work within the districts.
- ✓ Responsible to see that records of births and death were accurately kept.
- ✓ Main link between the villages and the Fiji Administration.

The Turaga Ni Koro (Village Headman):

- ✓ The most junior official was the Turaga-niKoro, the village headman.
- ✓ He was to be responsible to see that the iTaukei regulations and the program of work were carried out.
- ✓ He was the mainstay of the system, as he was the person who finally puts the government decision into action.

Review Questions:

1. Identify two changes made to the administration under the Fijian Affairs Ordinance of 1945 compared to the administration under the Native Affairs Ordinance of 1876.
2. State main role of the Roko (Provincial Chief) and Buli (District Chief).
3. Why was the Turanga Ni Koro regarded as the ‘mainstay of the system’?

Sangam SKM College - Nadi

Lesson Notes- Week 2

Subject: Social Science

Year: 10

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DUTIES

The Fijian Affairs Board

- ✓ The Fijian Affairs Board was designed to be the link between the Legislative Council, Council of Chiefs and the Executive Council.
- ✓ The board's duty was to make recommendation to the Governor for the benefit of the iTaukei.
- ✓ It made laws (called iTaukei affairs regulations after 1948) which were to deal generally with all aspect of iTaukei life.

The Council of Chiefs

- ✓ The Council of Chiefs had existed since Gordon's time and was reorganized in 1945.
- ✓ The council's duties were to make recommendations and proposals for the benefit of the iTaukei people and to give advice relating to the iTaukei people. It was required to meet at least once every two years.

The Provincial Councils

- ✓ These councils were to carry out the business of the Fiji administration in the provinces.
- ✓ The councils could make by-laws for carrying out the iTaukei Regulations and for the levying of rates in the province.
- ✓ Any by-laws they made had to have approval of the iTaukei Affairs Board.

The Tikina Councils

- ✓ The councils could make orders to be obeyed by all the inhabitants of the Tikina and could draw up programs of work for communal services as directed by the Provincial Council.

Review Questions:

1. Why was the Fijian Affairs Board designed?
2. State two roles of the Provincial Council.
3. What was the function of the Tikina Council?

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OPERATION OF THE FIJIAN ADMINISTRATION

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brought the i-Taukeis to be under the control of their own chiefs. • Retained ownership of their customary land. • Promoted subsistence economy through their traditional village way life which preserved traditional values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated the i-Taukei from engaging in commercial enterprises. • Other ethnic communities such as the Chinese and Indians were able to surpass in the standards of living due to exposure to the capitalist economic system which the i-Taukeis were denied. • Created different sets of laws to be followed by i-Taukei under their own Administration.

CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ Between 1944-45, Ratu Sir Lalabalavu Sukuna realized the need for changes.



Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna, a Fijian chief, soldier and statesman, a forerunner of the post-independence leadership of Fiji

Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna:

- ✓ was the man responsible for the changes during this time.
- ✓ believed that the **purpose** of the Fijian Administration was **to train chiefs and the people in the ways of the government so they can take their place in a democratic society.**
- ✓ was the secretary for Fijian Affairs 1945.

Review Questions:

1. State one advantage and one disadvantage of the Fijian Administration to the i-Taukeis.
2. According to Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna what was the purpose the Fijian Administration?
3. Who was the Secretary for the Fijian Affairs in the year 1945?