

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI
LESSON NOTES

School: Penang Sangam High School

Year/Level: 13C

Subject: History

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| Strand | Change and Continuity in the Pacific and Beyond |
| Sub Strand | Decolonization |
| Content Learning Outcome | <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Understand the term decolonisation and its nature in specific case studies.ii. Discuss the involvement of the UN in the process of decolonisation in the various pacific islands. |

Week:11

Causes

- i. Printing Press established by Ta'isi O.F Nelson a businessman, and member of the legislative assembly, began to openly criticise Richardson Administration.
- ii. Prime Minister of New Zealand did not take serious consideration of the list of grievances on behalf of the Samoan and the local Europeans.
- iii. Creation of the Mau Movement "Samoans for the Samoans"
- iv. Deportation of Mau leaders by the oppressors.

Retaliation strategies

- i. A peaceful, orderly program of non-cooperation with the NZ Administration.
- ii. Villages ignored government visiting officials
- iii. Disputant parties ignored the courts
- iv. Children attending into government schools stayed home.
- v. Public health was disregarded.
- vi. Taxes were diverted to the Mau Movement.
- vii. Mau colours, purple and white was worn by supporters as a uniform in their public processions and meetings.
- viii. Many volunteered to be arrested by the 400 marines called in by the administration to put down the Mau Movement.

Results

- i. Commercial developments were abandoned.
- ii. Appointment of the Royal Commission to inquire into the complaints against the Administration.

Confrontation

- i. 25th of December, -----, violence broke out during a procession marched through Apia to welcome Gurr and Smythe, from exile. Local youths had some confrontation with the police and resulted to the death of one soldier. The police were armed with machine guns, in which they open fired at the crowd after a scuffle broke out. Total casualties were eleven altogether alongside Tupua Tamasese and three other chiefs. By now the response was clear the Mau's objectives finally to declare complete self-government for Samoa.
- Early 1930's the administration declared Mau a seditious organisation.
 - New Zealand sent their Marines forces, into the villages smashing, furniture and terrorising old people, women and children.
 - Men fled and hide onto the mountains and continued resistance without guns and food.

- Women took up the campaign led by Tupua Tamasese widow (aka Rosabel Edith Nelson) and organised a *Malaga* travel tour spreading the word of resistance to other outer islands.
- Mau continued to strengthen their national administration and travelled throughout Samoa appointing district leaders, village wardens and village agricultural committees.
- Nelson got arrested with seditious charges sentenced to eight months imprisonment in New Zealand.

Towards Independence

- Newly elected New Zealand Prime Minister M.J Savage in 1936, promised a more cooperative attitude towards Samoa.
- Ta'isi Nelson was released.
- Goodwill visit to Samoa on the basis of new relationship between NZ and Samoa.
- Proposal for the administrations of Samoa, all was taken away had been restored.
- Repealed of the Ordinance example the power to banish the Samoans and deprive them of their titles, an increase of the number of Samoans in the Legislative Council from two to four. Selection of new fono of faipule. The Appointment of new associated judge to the High Court for cases involving the Samoans. A program to employ more Samoans and local Europeans in the Public Service.
- The way was opened up for self-rule.
- Mau leaders were recognised in the new Administration.
- Mau was now in control.

i. Decolonisation Process on the Cook Islands. (pg 158)

This is a short description of the decolonization process in the Cook Islands by David Stone. It appeared in The Journal of Pacific History in 1965.

- The Cook Islands became a test case whether the United Nations would be able to apply the 1960 Declaration on Colonialism, which would give the legal rights for controlled territory to obtain complete independence.
- New Zealand was looking after Cook Islands then and invited UN to send a mission to the Cooks to gather information and determine if the Cooks could look after themselves.
- This instance it clearly shown the UN was committed in the decolonisation process in non-self-governing territory.
- The new Cook Islands Premier impressed the Special Committee and the U.N which confirmed that an act of free expressed self-determination had taken place in the Cooks.
- Afterwards the General Assembly in December recognised that full potential self-government had been attained and formally released New Zealand from Cook Islands.
- The decolonisation stage was completed when the Legislative Assembly chose internal self-government.
- In 1964 with the help of the Advisers the Assembly amended and approved the constitution Bill that came into effect in 1965.

Decolonisation of Nauru

Here is a description by the historian, Barrie Macdonald, In Pursuit of the Sacred Trust: Trusteeship and Independence in Nauru, Barrie Macdonald, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, IT.

- In Nauru the road towards independence was a bit difficult because the focus was not only sovereignty and political status but also on the ownership and exploitation of the phosphate deposits.
- From the Nauruan point of view, the struggle for freedom from external powers led to the emergence of an unchallenged leader Hammer DeRoburt who brought some hope to his people. The struggle got intense when the people knew about the power of the United Nations. Also the

people understood they would for once control their own resource if the United Nations stands alongside.

- The people had increasing demand for local government s to protect and safeguard them especially the long term problem of the future of the Nauruan people would be solved through a resettlement programme.
- First step towards the creation of the local government was the election on 1956 that installed Hammer DeRoburt as Head Chief as the Chairman of the Nauruan Local Government Council in 1956.
- DeRoburt as an intelligent and forceful leader also who had won the confidence of his people brought about new heights of developments that led to Nauruan independence and also Nauru’s political history.
- On the 15th of October 1968, the offer of unconditional independence was finally made.
- After the independence, there are number of factors that the Nauruan government and the people should resolve.
- Most importantly the presence of the phosphate and the arrangements to avoid any stage of its exploitation.
- Not only the phosphate slightly made independence a bit difficult but it served an advantage to the local government. Simply the Nauruan government has some economic potential to survive on which is the phosphate.

Activity

1. Discuss the process of decolonisation in Samoa, Cook Islands and Nauru

2. List the Head of States and Head of Government of the three countries since Independence.

3. List the first four countries in the South Pacific that gained independence in the early 1960’s and 1970’s.

4. Describe what is stated about the Territory in Article 73 of the U.N. Charter.
