

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
WORKSHEET 3. HISTORY .YEAR 13. WEEK 9

WEEK 9

Media Analysis

Interpretations in respond to West Papuan case

- Some historians' interpreted events in West Papua under the Indonesian government would conclude West Papua as a **colony** or **an autonomous province** of Indonesia or **a new nation in the making**.
- Some observers referred back to 1969 "the act of Free Choice" but undermined/neglected the fact Dutch decolonisation programs from 1945 to 1960.
- Journalist say Western Papuan resistance movement were all "**losing their fight for freedom**"

Existence in West Papua

- Indonesia was under a new leadership (from President Sukarno to Suharto and a series of other presidents in recent times)
- Indonesia plays new role in Asian and global politics which is supported economically by a very rich mining company Mironron Freeport mine project (Grasberg)
- West Papua also been transformed by militarisation – Now a large army presence with the Indonesian army (TNI) plus the anti-insurgency squards *Kopassus* and *Densus 88*.
- Continuous transmigration of Javanese settlers to New Guinea now forming more than 50% of the population.
- **Transmigration** was a scheme created by the Indonesian government to ease overpopulation in the capital of Java by moving people from the "core" area to the less populated areas of Indonesia (known as the "periphery")
- **Political Manipulation:** creating two provinces and then a third and with rumours of being further divided into seven provinces.

Future Autonomy and Independence

West Papuans : are calling through several domestic and international campaign for

- A referendum on future status
- Autonomy
- Self-determination (a form of increased local government)
- Sovereignty (full independence)
- Freedom from colonial rule

Since 1960's onwards it is clear a long term solution preferred by the indigenous people was for the colonial powers to leave and after decolonisation for people to rule themselves and their own.

This was confirmed by the **UN Resolution 1514 on 14 December 1960**, regarding the rights of the colonial subjects to gain independence.

West Papua has not found a long term solution, however Indonesia might grant autonomy, within Indonesia, or might divide up West Papua into seven small provinces to prevent a single nation emerging.

This has been criticised as a "divide and rule" strategy against the Papuans.

Questions that can be asked " will West Papua be colonised and what is actually happening inside West Papua?"

Problem: **Firstly**, West Papua is strictly controlled by Indonesia. **Secondly**, everywhere people are living tense and fearful lives under the rule of the violent and unaccountable Indonesian military and police. Some locals have mentioned it as the "slow motion genocide".

International communities could follow events more closely today because there is a world – wide interest in the fate of indigenous peoples through broad base platforms like Blogs, Facebook groups and websites that keeps us well informed.

Activity

Decolonisation is an unfinished project in the Pacific!

1. In 1969 why did the Current Affairs Bulletin choose these words in the title; "a problem settled"? Choose one answer:
() Because the world agreed with the Act of Free choice

- () Because Indonesian was firmly in military control
- () Because Papuans had voted for being part of Indonesia

2. In 1969, why did the Current Affairs Bulletin choose these words in the title; “a problem ... postponed”?

- () Because Postponed meant there would be more rebellion and protest by Papuans
- () Because Postponed meant the vote was corrupt or illegal
- () Because Postponed meant the world might not agree with Indonesian control

3. Look at the events of 15th August to November 1962. If you knew about these events what conclusion would you make about the situation in West Papua? Answer in one sentence:

4. Look at the events of January to February 1963. If you knew about these events what conclusion would you make about the situation in West Papua? Answer in one sentence.

5. Look at the events of April to August 1969. If you knew about these events what conclusion would you make about the situation in West Papua? Answer in one sentence.
