

History of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea's ancient inhabitants are believed to arrive there about 50-60 thousand years ago during an Ice Age period in Southeast Asia. The sea was lower and distances between islands were shorter. It used to be known as New Guinea. It was one of the first land masses after Africa and Eurasia which was to be populated by modern humans, its first migration took place about the same time as Australia, putting it alongside one of the world's oldest continuous cultures.

Agriculture in New Guinea was independently developed the highlands around 7,000 BC. It is one of the world's few original plant domestication zones. Headhunting and cannibalism were once common in many sections of what is now known as Papua New Guinea. By the early 1950s, open cannibalism had all but vanished due to administrative and missionary efforts.



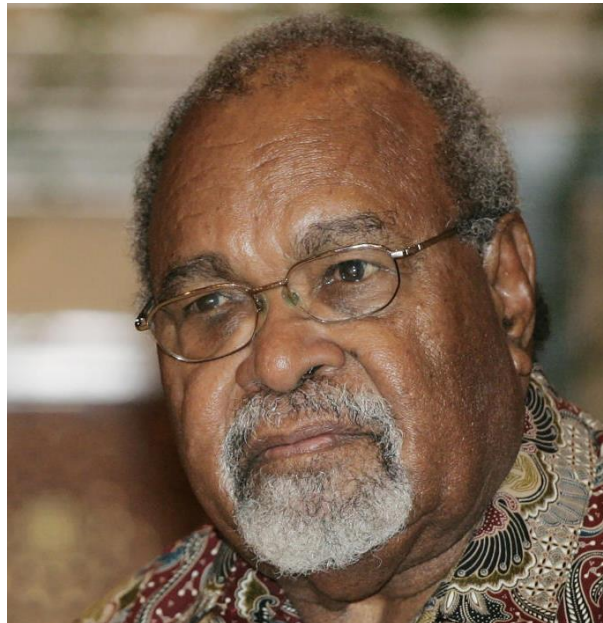
In the early 16th century, a group of Portuguese and Spanish navigators cruising in the South Pacific were likely the first Europeans to see Papua New Guinea. Don Jorge de Meneses, a Portuguese adventurer, is credited with discovering Papua New Guinea's main island in roughly 1526-1527.



In 1884, German New Guinea was formed from the northern part of Papua New Guinea. Godeffroy's of Hamburg, the Pacific's largest trading concern, began dealing for copra in the New Guinea Islands in response to Europe's expanding demand for coconut oil. In 1884, Germany formally assumed control of the island's northeast part and entrusted its administration to a chartered company. The German imperial government took direct control of the territory in 1899, and it became known as German New Guinea after that. German New Guinea was captured by Australian forces in 1914, and it remained under Australian military rule until 1921.

In 1920, the British Government assumed a mandate from the League of Nations to manage the Territory of New Guinea on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Australian government was in charge of the mandate until it was suspended in December 1941 due to the Japanese invasion. Following the Japanese surrender in 1945, civil government in Papua and New Guinea was restored, and the Papua New Guinea Provisional Administration Act, 1945-46, merged Papua and New Guinea into an administrative union to form Papua New Guinea.

Following elections in 1972, a government was formed, led by Chief Minister Michael Somare, who promised to lead the country to self-governance and subsequently independence. Papua New Guinea gained independence on September 16, 1975, after becoming self-governing on December 1, 1973. On 10 October 1975, the country became a member of the United Nations (UN) as a result of Security Council Resolution 375 and General Assembly Resolution 3368



The majority of people in Papua New Guinea are nominally Christian. There are more than two-fifths of the population who are Protestant; Lutherans make up the majority, but there are also some Anglicans and a growing number of Pentecostals. Another one-fifth of the population is Roman Catholic. Seventh-day Adventism is becoming more prevalent, and there are also a few Bahs and Muslims in the area. Despite the apparent inroads made by imported religions, many people still hold traditional religious beliefs, and magic, spells, and sorcery rituals are still frequently practiced.



<https://www.papuanewguinea.travel/history>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Papua-New-Guinea>