The Origin of the Pacific Island People

The greater Pacific region, traditionally called Oceania, consists of three cultural areas: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Melanesia, in the southwest Pacific, contains the large islands of New Guinea, the Solomons, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. Micronesia, the area north of Melanesia, consists primarily of small scattered islands. Polynesia is the central Pacific area in the great triangle defined by Hawaii, Easter Island, and New Zealand. Before the arrival of Europeans, the islands in the two largest cultural areas, Polynesia and Micronesia, together contained a population estimated at 700,000.

广义上太平洋地区，通常被称为大洋洲，由三部分文化区域组成，Me，Mi和Po。位于大西洋的东南的的Me，包括NewGui，Solo，Van和NewCal的大岛。Mi在Me的北边，主要包含了一些零散的小岛屿。Po是太平洋中的由Ha，Eas和NewZea组成的三角形区域的中心。在欧洲人到达之前，岛上主要的两种大型文化区域，Po和Mi拥有大概700000原住民。

Pacific：和平的，太平洋的

scatter：散开，分散

estimated：大概的，估计的

Speculation on the origin of these Pacific islanders began as soon as outsiders encountered them, in the absence of solid linguistic, archaeological, and biological data, many fanciful and mutually exclusive theories were devised. Pacific islanders are variously thought to have come from North America, South America, Egypt, Israel, and India, as well as Southeast Asia. Many older theories implicitly deprecated the navigational abilities and overall cultural creativity of the Pacific islanders. For example, British anthropologists G.Elliot Smith and W.J.Perry assumed that only Egyptians would have been skilled enough to navigate and colonize the Pacific. They inferred that the Egyptians even crossed the Pacific to found the great civilizations of the New World (North and South America). In 1947 Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl drifted on a balsa-log raft westward with the winds and currents across the Pacific from South America to prove his theory that Pacific islanders were Native Americans (also called American Indians). Later Heyerdahl suggested that the Pacific was peopled by three migrations: by Native Americans from the Pacific Northwest of North America drifting to Hawaii, by Peruvians drifting to Easter Island, and by Melanesians. In 1969 he crossed the Atlantic in an Egyptian-style reed boat to prove Egyptian influences in the Americas. Contrary to these theorists, the overwhelming evidence of physical anthropology, linguistics, and archaeology shows that the Pacific islanders came from Southeast Asia and were skilled enough as navigators to sail against the prevailing winds and currents.

据推测这些岛屿最初的居住者开始是外来者偶尔发现他们的时候，在缺少严格的语言，考古和生物学的数据，许多不现实的，相互矛盾的理论被提出了。岛上居民大多被认为来自北美，南美，埃及，以色列，还有东南亚。许多旧的理论都含蓄地反对岛上居民的航海技能和文化创造力。比如英国人类学家GS和WJ认为只有埃及人才能够有能力航海和殖民这些岛屿。他们还提及到埃及人甚至可以穿越太平洋发现新世界的文明（南北美）。1947年 Norwegian 探险家 TH 在一个轻木制作的木筏借助风和水流，从南美向西穿越了太平洋，证明了他的理论-太平洋的岛屿居民来自美洲本地人，也就是印第安人。后来 TH 认为太平洋岛屿的移民主要来自三个方面：来自美洲本地人从太平洋西北方向飘到Ha，来自秘鲁漂流到东部岛屿，来自Me。1969年他使用埃及人的风格芦苇制作的小船穿越了大西洋证明了埃及人在美洲的影响。和这些理论相反的是，在人类体格学，语言学，和考古学方面有足够的证据表明，太平洋岛屿的居民来自东南亚，并且他们有足够的航海技能逆着季风和洋流航行。

speculation：推断

islander：岛上居民

archaeological：考古学

devise：想出，提出

fanciful：不现实的

mutually：相互的

implicitly：含蓄地，暗示地

deprecate：不赞成，返回

anthropologist：人类学家

drift：漂流，漂泊

raft：木筏

overwhelming：势不可挡的，压倒一切的

The basic cultural requirements for the successful colonization of the Pacific islands include the appropriate boat-building, sailing, and navigation skills to get to the islands in the first place, domesticated plants and gardening skills suited to often marginal conditions, and a varied inventory of fishing implements and techniques. It is now generally believed that these prerequisites originated with peoples speaking Austronesian languages (a group of several hundred related languages) and began to emerge in Southeast Asia by about 5000 B.C.E. The culture of that time, based on archaeology and linguistic reconstruction, is assumed to have had a broad inventory of cultivated plants including taro, yarns, banana, sugarcane, breadfruit, coconut, sago, and rice. Just as important, the culture also possessed the basic foundation for an effective maritime adaptation, including outrigger canoes and a variety of fishing techniques that could be effective for overseas voyaging.

在太平洋岛屿成功的殖民的基础文化要求包括适当的造船技术，航海技术，和航行技能去抵达第一个地点的岛屿，培育植物和园艺技术去适应经常边缘的条件，和一个多样的渔业补充和技术清单。现在普遍认为这些前置条件的产生是和人们说 Austronesian 语言有关，而且这些条件开始于东南亚的5000年前。这个时期的文化，基于人类历史学家和语言学家的重构，被认为是有一个大概的植物培育名单，包括芋头，yarn，香蕉，甘泽，面包果，椰子，西米椰子和大米。同样重要的是，文化也是有着基础的条件对于一个有效的海边适应，包括船的舷外支架和各种各样的捕鱼技术，这些可以更有效的进行跨海航行。

Contrary to the arguments of some that much of the pacific was settled by Polynesians accidentally marooned after being lost and adrift, it seems reasonable that this feat was accomplished by deliberate colonization expeditions that set out fully stocked with food and domesticated plants and animals. Detailed studies of the winds and currents using computer simulations suggest that drifting canoes would have been a most unlikely means of colonizing the Pacific. These expeditions were likely driven by population growth and political dynamics on the home islands, as well as the challenge and excitement of exploring unknown waters.

这些观点的反对者认为大部分的太平洋地区都是被 Poly 人定居，逃亡的黑奴迷失在漂流的大海上。由职业的殖民探险队存储上足够的食物和驯养的动物植物来完成这项功绩看起来很合理。对于使用计算机模拟季风和洋流的详细调查表明，驾驶着独木舟去殖民太平洋是一件不太可能的事情。这些探险队可能是因为人口增长或者家乡政治动荡或者是对于未知水域探险的热情和挑战驱动。

accidentally：偶然地

marooned：逃亡地黑奴

adrift：漂浮地

feat：业绩

deliberate：故意的，纵容的，小心翼翼的

colonization：殖民地的开拓

expedition：探险队，远足

canoe：独木舟

Because all Polynesians, Micronesians, and many Melanesians speak Austronesian languages and grow crops derived from Southeast Asia, all these peoples most certainly derived from that region and not the New World or elsewhere. The undisputed pre-Columbian presence in Oceania of the sweet potato, which is a New World domesticate, has sometimes been used to support Heyerdahl's "American Indians in the Pacific" theories. However, this is one plant out of a long list of Southeast Asian domesticates. As Patrick Kirch, an American anthropologist, points out, rather than being brought by rafting South Americans, sweet potatoes might just have easily been brought back by returning Polynesian navigators who could have reached the west coast of South America.

因为所有的 Po、Mi、和许多的 Me 说的都是 Austr 语言，而且生长的农作物来自东南亚，所有的人都是来自那个区域，而不是新世界或者其他地方。毫无争议的是澳洲存在的甜品马铃薯，是由新世界的人培育而成的，也在某种程度上支持 Heye “太平洋上的美洲人” 这个观点。就像一位美国的人类学家 PK 所指出的，与其说是从南美漂浮的过去的，甜品马铃薯更可能是由去过 poly 的航海家从 Poly 带回到南美这边来的。

disputed：无争议的