

(Note: *Copy the following history notes in your Social Science Exercise Books. Remember, it's a **new chapter** hence you'll be starting on a **new page**. Moreover, do the activities also in your books as it appears in the Notes)*

1. **BECHE – DE-MER** (a.k.a. **TREPANG OR HOLITHURIUM**)

(Are sea cucumbers [marine animals] which is eaten by people)

- Bech de mer trading became popular in Fiji after sandalwood trade.
- It was a thriving activity to many Fijian villages and many villagers decided to live their village and move to areas where work is provided.
- The activity had a great impact to the villagers and at the same time interrupted their village organization.

IMPACT OF BECHE DE MER

- Many decided to live near the bech –de –mer station. It meant an increase in some Fijians. (People escaped from village / community work)
- Led to increasing competition between Vanua and Matanitu for access to bech-de-mer station.
- Change in communal lifestyles because temporary villages were started near trading stations.
- Concentration on getting bech-de-mer and neglecting daily task.

MISSIONARIES

- The first missionaries to reach Fiji were two Tahitians, Hanea and Atai of the London Missionary Society(LMS).
- After being driven out of Lakeba, they established themselves in Oneata in 1830 and soon built a small group of converts.

(Note: *Students, under this topic you will have to paste the table diagram provided on **Missionaries and their influence on Fijian life***)

UNITED STATES EXPLORING EXPEDITION

- In 1840, an American expedition of (four) 4 ships arrived in Fiji, Led by **Commodore Wilkes** carrying out expedition work in the Pacific and included many scientists and artist and a language expert.
- It was called the **USXX** – the **United States Exploring Expedition**.
- In the three months which they spent in Fiji waters, the **Americans** produced the **first** reasonably complete **chart of the Fiji**.

Fig 1.1 Paste Picture of **Commodore Wilkes**

An agreement was made between Wilkes and Tanoa of Bau

- Tanoa and other chiefs agreed to give protection to foreign ships and to supply them with water and provisions.
- Crews of wrecked ships were to be protected
- Alcohol was not to be brought ashore
- Deserters were to be captured and returned to their ships
- No seamen were to remain ashore after nine o'clock in the evening.
- Ships were required to pay three dollars for port charges and seven dollars for a pilot's services.

EUROPEAN PLANTERS AND SETTLERS

- Permanent settlers in Fiji after 1860 became involved more directly with Fijian life and Politics (they wanted land and labour for their plantations and settled government which would give them a firm title to their land as well as protection).
- Most Europeans arrived in Fiji in 1860s as there was the boom in cotton prices (a.k.a the **GREAT FIJI RUSH**). Fiji's climate and cheap land attracted settlers and planters.
- In between 1860 – 1871, the numbers increased from 30 to 2760.

REASONS FOR COMING TO FIJI

- Attracted many who had failed to make good on the goldfields of Australia and New Zealand or in the towns of the colonies
- Some saw an opportunity to make their fortune by investing money in Fiji (as a result, the Polynesian company was formed comprising of Europeans and Settlers who invested in Fiji). They bought men to run shops and other services so Levuka then Suva sprang up as pioneer towns.
- 1868 – 1871 – Levuka changed from a village for i-Taukei to a European style town. It served both as a business centre for Fiji and a place to which Europeans came for social and cultural events.
- Wooden houses were built and proper furniture was brought in.
- Fijians were not included in activities as before, and the gap between the two races grew.

Fig 1.2 Paste Picture of Levuka town in the 1890

WILKINSON & THURSTON

- These two planters saw the only way to maintain a stable society was for the Europeans and Fijians to trust each other and work together.

- They tried to create a government with both Fijian and European members.

LAND

- Land was sold to the Europeans by the i-Taukei in many parts of Fiji.
- At times, the same piece of land was sold many times and this caused a lot of disputes over titles.
- Sometimes chiefs sold land belonging to another tribe in order to attract the white settlers to the area and obtain the protection of his guns.
- As a result, the settler could then find himself attacked by the real owner and could often get driven off the land in dispute.

LABOUR

- Labour was needed for the plantations and this led to the **LABOUR TRAFFIC** where labourers were shipped from other Pacific Islands and Melanesian Islands (often against their will) to work in plantations.
- The two new groups were from **Kiribati (then called Gilbert Islands)** and the **Solomon Islands**.

ACTIVITY

- Draw a timeline showing the events that occurred from 1859 to 1871.**
- Explain what is meant by the Great Fiji Rush.**

(i) Example of Timeline

1860	Permanent settlements started by Europeans.
1860 - 1871	Most Europeans arrived in Fiji in 1860s as there was the boom in cotton prices (a.k.a the GREAT FIJI RUSH).
1868 – 1871	Levuka changed from a village for i-Taukei to a European style town. It served both as a business centre for Fiji and a place to which Europeans came for social and cultural events

THE RISE OF MA'AFU AND CAKOBAU

- In 1829 – Tanoa (Naulivou's sons) succeeded his father's title.
- Bau controlled the coastal areas and by 1830, the Island Kingdom of Cakobau became the most powerful in Fiji.
- Bau became powerful because of;
 - Intermarriages between Bauan chiefs and chiefly families of neighbouring Vanua, especially Rewa and Cakaudrove.
 - The increasing number of Vasu to Bau
 - Bau's influence spread and its huge canoes enabled Bau to intervene in disputes and carry out raids along the northern and western coasts of Viti Levu and in Lomaiviti.
- In 1837, Cakobau remained the real power in Bau (Tanoa was old and weak). Cakobau restored his father's power.
- Tanoa died in 1852 and was succeeded by his son, Seru who took the name Cakobau.

MA'AFU



Paste Picture
of Ma'afu

- In 1847 – Ma'afu (King Tautafa Aha'u in Tonga) came to Fiji in an expedition to Vanua Balavu to investigate the killing of a preacher..
- He was the Protector of Wesleyan missionaries and he too Vanua Balavu by force after the murder of 17 Wesleyan converts.
- Ma'afu power stretched from Lakeba to Yasawa, Beqa and Kadavu, Bua and Macuata.
- He became a threat to Cakobau because of his growing power.

CAKOBAN



Paste Picture
of Cakobau

- 1843 – Cakobau succeeded in capturing Rewa and placing his own King, Cokanauto, in charge of the captured part. He could not seize the Rewan chief, Qaraniqio, who had fled to the hills.
- 1852 – Cakobau went to Macuata to fight Ritova who had refused to recognize Bauan claims; he stripped Ratu Mara Kapaiwai (a great grandson of Tui Nayau) of his canoe to make him less powerful.
- Ratu Mara had good terms with the Europeans at Levuka who blamed Cakobau for the attacks by Lovoni tribesmen on Levuka. At the same time, the Ovalau tribes revolted.
- 1854 – Cokanauto died, Qaraniqio returned, recaptured Rewa, and held off all Cakobau's attempts to win it back.
- On the same year, Cakobau was so downcast that he was persuaded to accept Christianity and to renounce his old heathen beliefs.
- This led to further trouble for many of the allies who, disliking Christianity, went over to the enemy.
- 1855 – Qaraniqio died and the Rewan chiefs, tired of war, sought peace. Cakobau agreed but rebel Bauans at Kaba disagreed.
- Led by Mara they opposed Cakobau's conversion to Christianity.
- This resulted to the Battle of Kaba which was seen as a victory for Christianity over heathenism, a victory which led to a series of mass conversions of Fijians to Christianity.
- The battle was won by the unorthodox tactics of the Tongans. They insisted on charging at a time when the normal tactics would be to and thus made the enemy confused.
- The Bauan Kingdom became the leading kingdom of Fiji.

ACTIVITY

- (i) Why did Tanoa's son adopt the name Cakobau?
- (ii) When did Ma'afu come to Fiji?
- (iii) **Why did the Island of Bau become the most powerful in Fiji by 1830?**
Paragraph
In a paragraph: Explain two main causes of the battle of Kaba.
: State how the battle was fought
: Discuss the significance of the battle.
- (v) Draw a timeline showing Cakobau's success during his time of leadership.

THE AMERICAN CLAIM

- Cakobau had ordered a ship from America and had hoped to use it to trade in bech-de-mer. Unfortunately, the sum was not paid.
- 1849 – The house of a Johns Williams accidently burnt during the celebration of America's Independence Day on Nukulau Island.
- The Fijians, rather than putting out the fire, looted the house.
- Williams claimed that he had lost properly valuing at £5000 pounds.
- 1853 – Levuka was burnt down by the Lovoni tribesman and many Americans were victims.
- 1855 – Williams house was burnt down again and again and he appealed to American government for help. This time the American claim grew from £5000 to £45000.
- 1858 – The U.S.S Vandalia came to Levuka and Cakobau was called on board. He was forced to sign a promise that would pay the debt, this time within one year.

THE FIRST OFFER

- Apart from his inability to pay the American debt, Cakobau was also worried over Ma'afu's growing power which had now spread to Beqa and Rakiraki.
- Cakobau approached the British consul, W.T.Pritchard with an offer to cede Fiji to Great Britain.
- Cakobaus conditions were;
 - a. He should be allowed to keep the title Tui Viti
 - b. Britian should pay the American debt in return for eighty- two thousand hectares of land (200,000 acres).

Britain refused the offer

- Pritchard did not like the Tongan expansion in Fiji and also he was worried over the increased activity of German traders in the South Pacific.
- Pritchard went to England to urge the British government to accept the offer.
- He believed that Fiji could be important both as a naval base and as a centre of trade for ships going between Panama and Australia.
- **On his return, he called a meeting of all leading chiefs, at which he persuaded Ma.afu to give up his claims in Fiji and to give back the lands he conquered.**
- Ma'afu and the other chiefs agreed to the offer of cession and signed a document which promised protection for all Christians, the stopping of cannibalism and infanticide, and which recognized the rights of Europeans to hold land and to trade.
- Pritchard set up courts to resolve conflicts. This was an attempt to bring law and order into Fiji.
- Soon his work became unpopular due to poor decision making.

BRITISH REACTION TO THE OFFER

- There was much support from outside Fiji to see that the British accept the offer. The Methodists of New South Wales were anxious to see law and order restored, the Wesleyan

- Missionary Society and the Aborigines Protection Society both strongly advised the British Government to accept the offer.
- The strongest pressure came from the cotton manufacturers who were interested about the prospects of new sources of raw materials.
 - The Legislative Assemblies of both NSW and Victoria sent petitions to the British Government urging to accept the offer.
 - They were worried not only over the lawlessness in the group but also over another power – the US or France taking possessions and be a threat not only to the safety of British ships in the South Pacific but also the security of Australia itself.
 - Therefore Colonel W.J.Smythe was sent to Fiji in 1859 to investigate on the situation on :
 - a. Whether Fiji would be a useful port of call, for ships between Panama and Australia?
 - b. Whether the islands were suited for large-scale cotton production?
 - c. Would it be possible to stamp out the savage practices of the i-Taukei?
 - d. Would the acquisition of Fiji add to Britain’s power in the South Pacific?
 - e. Could the scattered European settlement be maintained?
 - f. What was the system of land tenure in Fiji?
 - g. Would the Fijians readily sell land to the Government and to individuals?

THE SMYTHE REPORT

- Dr Seeman, a famous botanist accompanied Smythe to Fiji to look into the possibility of growing cotton. Although Seeman made a favorable report about the ‘cotton’ that could be grown in Fiji Smythe thought otherwise. In his report he wrote the following;
 - a. Cakobau had no claim to be King of Fiji and that the land he offered was not his and was doing it solely to escape the American debt.

- b. Fiji would not be useful as a port of call for ships going between Panama and Australia for it was a normal route.
- c. The waters around Fiji were full of reefs and were a danger to shipping.
- d. The cost of government would be high and there would be only a small income to pay for it.
- e. The Fijians themselves were mostly heathens and hard to control.

THE OFFER REJECTED

- As the result of Symthe’s report, the British Government, in 1862, rejected the offer of cession.
- Pritchard was dismissed from his post and Fiji was now thrown in to a state of political turmoil.

ACTIVITY

- i. Why was Colonel W.J. Symthe sent to Fiji?
- ii. Briefly discuss his report.

THE 1865 CONFEDERATION

- The rivalry between Cakobau and Maafu was scaled down in 1864 when Ma’afu was threatened with possible intervention by the Americans if his actions prevented Cakobau from paying his debt.
- He (Ma’afu) decided to establish his rule as peacefully as possible.
- The suggestion was taken up in 1865 by Captain Jones to form a Confederation which would rule over the whole group.
- After years before this experiments broke down- the chiefs lacked the experience in this type of government and the European secretaries who attached themselves to the individual rulers attempted to control through the interest of the planters.

THE CONFEDERATION OF NORTH AND EAST

- In place of the old Confederation two new governments sprang up. In the east, Ma'afu formed the confederation of the North and East, while the Kingdom of Bau was formed in the west by Cakobau.
- Ma'afu introduced a new system of land holding in which individual allotments were made to each adult male in return for taxes of coconut oil. This proved to be effective and Ma'afu was quick to punish his subjects who did not make full use of their allotments. He deprived them of their land, often leasing it to Europeans and so profiting from the rents

THE KINGDOM OF BAU

- The constitution of the Bau Kingdom stated that Cakobau was to be king of all parts of Fiji not included in the Conference of the North and East.
- He could make his own laws, levy his own taxes and call meetings of chiefs when he wished.
- The constitution soon failed - when asked to pay taxes most settlers refused and soon there was no money in the treasury thus the Bau Kingdom failed.

THE POLYNESIAN COMPANY

- In 1868, an Australian group (the Polynesian Company) agreed to pay the American debt in return for a grant of land of the same size as that offered to the British in the first offer of cession.
- Cakobau also agreed to the following terms:
 - Letting the company have full rights to make laws for i-Taukei and settlers in the land granted to them.
 - The company was allowed to acquire the sole rights over currency and banking, customs duties and harbour charges, courts and trading activities in the kingdom
 - That Cakobau would plant an area of land in cotton for the company

- Giving guarantee to assist the company to stay in Fiji.
- J.B Thurston, the acting British Consul felt that the company was taking advantage of the situation Cakobau was in, and strongly opposed the terms and the amount of land the company would acquire.
- The company eventually paid the American claim but its great plans were never to come into being.

THE LAST ATTEMPT

- In the late 1860s as more Europeans settlers came, the search for a form of government became more intense.
- There was divided opinion among the Europeans as to what part the Fijians should play in any government.
- This made it difficult to find a suitable form of government. In March, 1869 another attempt was made to set up Cakobau as King.
- Again this failed because the Europeans would not pay the taxes and the British subjects could not be subjects both of Cakobau and the Queen.
- The attempt was weakened further when the traders at Levuka refused to support Cakobau.
- Meanwhile the labour traffic was increasing and there was a great deal of gambling and drinking among both the Europeans and the i-Taukei in Levuka.
- As a result, an attempt was made to set up a form of government in Levuka. It failed because it had no power to enforce its laws.

KING CAKOBAU

- In Levuka, on 5 June 1871 Cakobau was again proclaimed King of Fiji.
- Although there was some form of objection to the new form of government all the chiefs including Ma'afu, acknowledged Cakobau as King.

- The Constitution set up a Legislative Assembly, an executive cabinet of ministers (majority were Europeans), with Cakobau as King and Ma'afu as **Viceroy**- a ruler exercising authority in a colony on behalf of a **sovereign**. (a **supreme ruler, especially a monarch. Eg British**)
- It established freedom of worship, freedom of speech, fair justice and no slavery.



Cakobau's flag - 1871

(Source: http://www.hubert-herald.nl/Fiji_bestanden/image014.jpg)

THE FAILURE OF CAKOBAN'S GOVERNMENT

- By mid- 1873 Cakobau's government collapsed due to the following reasons:
 - A failure to reach agreement among the subjects of the kingdom on how much Fijian participation there should be in the government.
 - Participation of Europeans in the government
 - The Europeans in the government were not qualified either by experience or by character to govern the country
 - Ministers spent money recklessly leaving the government in debt

- In February 1873, the Burns family, who had settled on the Ba River were murdered by a mountain tribe threatened to break away from the government.
- Economically Fiji was in a bad way. The price of cotton had fallen and many settlers were in difficult.
- The Fijians were discontented.
- The government ruled more in the interests of the settlers who regarded the Fijians as a source of cheap labour.
- Fijians were sentenced to work for the planters if they failed to pay a poll tax.
- In 1873 – Ma'afu threatened to leave the Kingdom after expressing his dislike of European control.
- The government had failed to solve the planter's problems in the way that the planters would have liked them solved.
- In January 1873, Thurston made another appeal to Britain asking if the British Government would consider annexing Fiji.
- This time it was successful. Fiji was annexed in 1874.

ACTIVITY

- State **two** reasons why the offer of cession was rejected in 1862.
- Give **two** reasons why land ownership was a constant cause of conflict between Fijians and Europeans.
- How did John Williams lose his property?