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History of Madagascar

Afindrafindrao
Madagascar

- 4th largest island
- Twice the size of AZ
- Area of CA & OR combined

Red Island?
Peopling of Madagascar

- Madagascar’s location
  - ~250 mi off eastern Africa
  - Malagasy people of African origins?

- Compelling evidence suggests competing theories of origins
Where did these first people come from?

- Mixed evidence:
  - eastern Africa (~250 mi)
  - Indonesia (~4,000 mi)
Peopling of Madagascar

- **Language**
  - Shares 90% vocabulary with Maanyan language
    - Origin: Barito Region of Borneo
  - Linguistic borrowings from Bantu
    - Origin: East Africa

- **Material culture**
  - Archeology
    - Origin: Indonesia/Malay origins
  - Cattle pastoralism
    - Origin: Exclusively African

- Also Islamic & Indian influences on language, culture
Peopling of Madagascar

- Theory 1:
  - Indonesians migrated along coast of S. Asia, across the Arabian Peninsula, into East Africa, and across the Mozambique over several generations.
Peopling of Madagascar

- Theory 2:
  - Series of migrations by different peoples over time
    - Indonesian migrants first; settled in Central Highlands
    - Africans arrived next, as part of slave trade, and peopled coasts
Recent thinking

- Both theories are complementary
Peopling of Madagascar

- Genetic evidence
  - mtDNA (maternal) & Y-chromosome (paternal)

- Madagascar an admixture of African & Indonesian populations
  - mtDNA: Polynesian motif
  - Y-chromosome: Indonesia & Africa

- Likely routine Indonesian migrations with more limited/less frequent African influence

Hurles et al. 2005 Am. J. Hum. Genet. 76: 894-901
Peopling of Madagascar

- Human arrival
  - 2,300 years ago (250 BC)

- Multiple lines of evidence
  - First occurrence of cut marks on animal bones
  - First occurrence of human-introduced plants (*Cannabis*)
  - Sudden increases in charcoal
    - increase in burning activities in SW and interior
  - Increase in vegetational disturbance indicators
    - decreasing forests, increasing grasslands

Burney et al. 2004 *J. Hum. Evol.* 47:25-63
Peopling of Madagascar

- Limited archeology
  - People settled coasts first
  - Likely began diversifying in cultural practices, dialects, etc.

- Exploiting available resources
  - Already practicing *tavy* (slash-and-burn agriculture)
  - Hunting large game (giant lemurs, elephant birds, hippos)
  - Fishing
500 – 1,000 CE: Multiple ethnic identities were present each ruled by a local chieftain

Some groups (e.g., Merina) established kingdoms, gaining power through trade with European and Arabic peoples

In the late 1700s, the Merina kingdom, with its capital at Antananarivo, began to establish its rule over the island
Merina Monarchy

- King Andrianampoinimerina (1785-1810)
- King Radama I (1810-1828)
- Queen Ranavalona I (1828-1861)
- King Radama II (1861-1863)
- Queen Rasoherina (1863-1868)
- Queen Ranavalona II (1868-1883)
- Queen Ranavalona III (1883-1897)
Merina Monarchy

- King Andrianampoinimerina
  - 1785-1810
  - Deposed uncle
  - “The sea is the limit to my rice field”
  - Established formal civil and penal codes and army, standardized money, measurements, market scales
  - United 2/3 of Madagascar by the end of his reign
Merina Monarchy

- King Radama I
  - 1810-1828
  - Signed treaty with Britain outlawing slave trade and allowing Protestant missionaries
  - Madagascar receives gold, silver, military supplies
  - Unified most of the island by force
Queen Ranavalona I
- 1828-1861
- Widow of Radama I
- Isolationist policy
- Put an end to most foreign trade
- Forbade the practice of Christianity
- Built an army based on fanampoana
Merina Monarchy

- King Radama II
  - 1861-1863
  - Son of Radama I
  - Reversed isolationist policy
  - Prior to his reign he signed the Lambert Charter
    - Agreement with Joseph-François Lambert giving him rights to exploit Madagascar’s natural resources
  - Died in a coup during which he was strangled
Merina Monarchy

- Queen Rasoherina
  - 1863-1868
  - Wife of Radama II
  - Lambert Charter declared void
Merina Monarchy

- Queen Ranavolana II
  - 1868-1883
  - Embraces Christianity
  - Banned tavy, constructing houses in forests, charcoal production
Merina Monarchy

- Queen Ranavolana III
  - 1883-1897
  - France invades Madagascar
    - Franco-Hova War
Independence

- Uprising against the French begins in 1947
  - Mouvement Democratique de la Renovation Malgache
  - Revolts in the eastern part of the island in 1947
- France moves towards Madagascar autonomy in 1956
Independence

- Malagasy Republic declared in 1958
- Series of provisional governments
- Full independence June 26, 1960
The First Republic

- Philibert Tsirinana
  - 1959-1972
  - Madagascar’s first president
  - Democratic Social Party
    - Self-rule with close ties to France
    - By the 1960s, only major political party
  - Unrest in 1971, results in Tsirinana dissolving the government in 1972
The Second Republic

- Didier Ratsirika
  - 1975-1993
  - 1997-2002
  - Initially took power in a coup
  - Established socialist government
  - Cut ties with France, aligned with China, Soviet Union, and North Korea
The Second Republic

- Madagascar economy declines during the 1970s
- Bankrupt by 1982
- Forced to adhere to adjustments imposed by the International Monetary Fund
- Moves away from socialist agenda during the 1980s but does so slowly
The Second Republic

- Foreign aid removed in 1991
- March on the Presidential Palace in 1991
- Loses 1992 multiparty election to Albert Zafy
- Exiled to France
- Returns and wins 1996 election
- Negotiates further credit from IMF in 1999
Marc Ravalomanana
- 2002-2009
- Businessman (TIKO)
- Elected in highly controversial 2001 presidential election
- Economic reform won back foreign aid
- Challenged in 2008 by Andry Rajoelina
Politics Today

- Andry Rajoelina
  - 35 year old former disc jockey and mayor of Antananarivo
  - Accused Ravalomanana of misappropriating funds in 2008
Politics Today

- Andry Rajoelina
  - Called for Ravalomanana to step down, which he refused to do
  - Rajoelina was fired as mayor in 2009
Politics Today

- Andry Rajoelina
  - March on the Presidential Palace in February results in injury and death to many Rajoelina supporters
Politics Today

- Andry Rajoelina
  - Ravalomanana loses support of the military in March, and he steps down giving control to the military
Politics Today

- Andry Rajoelina
  - Rajoelina takes power having already declared himself president
  - Government not recognized internationally
Politics Today

- Andry Rajoelina
  - Ravalomanana goes into exile
  - November 2010 referendum passes allowing Rajoelina to maintain power and run for president in the next election if he chooses
- 18 to 20 tribes
- Based more on old kingdoms than ethnicity
- Strong sense of national unity

“Ny olombelona toy ny molo-bilany, ka iray mihodidina ihany”

--- “Men are like the lip of the cooking pot which forms just one circle”
Tribes

- **Northern Madagascar (near Diego-Suarez)**
  - **Antaifasy** ("People of the sands")
  - **Antankarana** ("Those of the rocks")
  - **Tsimihety** ("Those who do not cut their hair")
- **Northeastern Madagascar**
  - **Sihanaka** ("People of the swamps")
- **Eastern Madagascar**
  - **Betsimisaraka** ("The many inseparables")
    - Toamasina to Antalaha
  - **Tanala: Ikongo and Menabe** ("People of the forest")
    - near Manakara
- **Southeastern Madagascar**
  - **Antaimoro** ("People of the coast")
    - near Vohipeno and Manakara
  - **Antambahoaka** ("Those of the people")
    - near Mananjary
    - Central highlands of Madagascar
  - **Merina** ("People of the highlands")
  - **Betsileo** ("The many invincibles")
    - around Fianarantsoa
    - splinter group in the Betsiboka region
- **Southern-central highlands Madagascar**
  - **Bara**
    - near Isalo, Ihosy and Betroka
  - **Bezanozana** ("Many small plaits")
    - between Betsimisaraka lowlands Merina highlands
  - **Zafimaniry**
    - highlands near Ambositra
- **Southwestern Madagascar:**
  - **Mahafaly** ("Those who make taboos")
    - desert around Ampanihy and Ejeda
    - Western Madagascar
  - **Makoa or Mikea**
  - **Sakalava** ("People of the long valleys")
    - widespread in this region
  - **Vezo** [subgroup of Sakalava]
    - coastal regions
- **Southern Madagascar**
  - **Antaisaka** [subgroup of Sakalava]
    - near Farafangana
  - **Antrandroy** ("People of the thorns")
    - near Ambovombe
  - **Antanosy** ("People of the island")
    - near Taolagnaro (Ft. Dauphin).
Non-indigenous minorities ~1.7%
Expatriots (>120,000 citizens)

- **Origins:** administrators/officers & their children remaining after French colonialism ended

- **Employment:** Professionals, businesspersons, plantation managers, miners

- Currently concentrated in the capital, large cities and port cities
Minorities

- Chinese (> 60,000)
  - 3rd largest Chinese population in Africa
  - **Origins:** first immigrants in 1860 brought as indentured laborers from Guangdong
    - More recently, more diverse origins
  - **Employment:** primarily commerce (import/export of coffee, cloves, vanilla)

- Concentrated along the east coast and the capital
Comorans (>35,000 citizens)

- **Origins:** Grand Comore Island

- **Employment:** unskilled labor in fields & ports

- Currently concentrated in northern Madagascar, along coast

- Population dwindled after racial riots in Mahajanga (December 1976), when 1,400 killed & 20,000 repatriated
Indo-Pakistani (> 25,000 citizens)

- **Origins:** first immigrants in 1880s were merchants
  - From Gujerat or Mumbai on Indian subcontinent

- **Employment:** merchants & small entrepreneurs; monopolize textiles, precious stones and jewelry

- Concentrated in the capital and cities along the west coast
Variation in people
Variation in homes
Variation in lifestyles
People of Ranomafana

- 2 main tribes
  - Tanala ("People of the Forest")
  - Betsileo ("The Many Invincibles")

- Recent influx of the Merina ("People of the Highlands") for tourism purposes
Tanala: “People of the forest”

- Traditionally forest dwellers
- Rice & coffee growers
- Houses built on stilts
- Dead buried in the forest under large boulders
Tanala: “People of the forest”
Betsileo: “The Many Invincibles”

- Originally from the Haux Plateau (highlands)
- Expert rice producers
- Homes built of clay bricks
- Dead buried in the forest, tombs marked by large rocks/headstones
Questions?