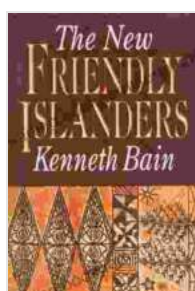


The New Friendly Islanders Tonga: A Polynesian Trilogy

The Polynesian islands of Tonga have a rich and vibrant history. The people of Tonga are known for their friendly and welcoming nature, which is reflected in the country's name, "Friendly Islands." Tonga is also home to a number of unique cultural traditions, including the famous Tongan kava ceremony.

The History of Tonga

The first people to settle in Tonga were Austronesian-speaking peoples who arrived around 1500 BCE. These early settlers established a number of small chiefdoms, which gradually grew into larger, more powerful kingdoms. By the 13th century, Tonga had become a major power in the Pacific region.



The New Friendly Islanders (Tonga: A Polynesian Trilogy) by Kimiko Kitani

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1406 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 208 pages
Lending : Enabled

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In the 17th century, Tonga was visited by European explorers. The Dutch explorer Abel Tasman was the first European to sight Tonga in 1643. In 1773, Captain James Cook visited Tonga and stayed for several weeks. Cook was impressed by the Tongans' friendliness and hospitality, and he dubbed them the "Friendly Islanders."

In the 19th century, Tonga underwent a number of significant changes. The country was unified under King George Tupou I in 1845. Tupou I also introduced a number of reforms, including a new constitution and a system of land tenure. In 1900, Tonga became a British protectorate.

Tonga gained independence in 1970. The country has since become a member of the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Nations. Tonga is a constitutional monarchy, with the king as head of state.

The People of Tonga

The people of Tonga are a mix of Polynesian and Melanesian ancestry. They are known for their friendly and welcoming nature. Tongans are also very proud of their culture and traditions.

The population of Tonga is around 100,000 people. The majority of Tongans live on the main island of Tongatapu. Other major islands in Tonga include Vava'u, Ha'apai, and Eua.

The Culture of Tonga

The culture of Tonga is a blend of Polynesian and Melanesian influences. Tongans are very family-oriented, and extended families often live together in large compounds. Traditional Tongan villages are centered around a communal meeting house called a fale fale.

Tongan culture is also rich in music, dance, and art. The Tongan kava ceremony is a traditional ritual that is performed at important events. Kava is a drink made from the root of the kava plant. It has a slightly intoxicating effect, and it is used to welcome guests, seal deals, and celebrate special occasions.

The Economy of Tonga

The economy of Tonga is based on agriculture and tourism. The main agricultural products are coconuts, bananas, and vanilla. Tourism is also a major source of revenue, with visitors coming from all over the world to experience Tonga's beautiful beaches, coral reefs, and friendly people.

The Future of Tonga

Tonga is facing a number of challenges, including climate change, sea level rise, and economic inequality. However, the country has a strong and resilient people, and it is working to overcome these challenges. Tonga is committed to sustainable development, and it is working to protect its environment and culture for future generations.

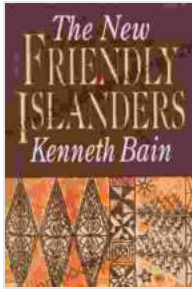
The New Friendly Islanders Tonga: A Polynesian Trilogy is a beautiful and informative book that provides a comprehensive overview of Tonga's history, culture, and people. The book is written by a Tongan scholar, and it is filled with insights and personal anecdotes. The book is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in learning more about Tonga.

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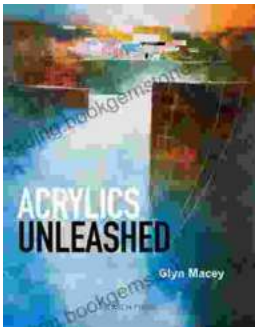
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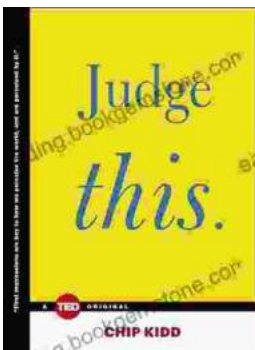


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