

Located years. in 1616 dutch navigators, wilhelm

[Art & Culture](#)



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Located in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean is the profound sovereign country of Tonga. Also known as the Friendly Islands and known officially as the Kingdom of Tonga, this archipelago consists of more than 170 islands that are divided into three groups.

The south islands are called Tongatapu while the center islands are called Ha'apai and the north islands are known as Vava'u. Like many other places, Tonga has its history and culture, political and social issues, and their own literature that was produced based on their people's past and values. The people of Tonga are led by four values.

According to the website The Kingdom of Tonga Today, the four values are: "Fefaka'apa'apa'aki (mutual respect), Feveitokai'aki (sharing, cooperating and fulfilment of mutual obligations), Lototoo (humility and generosity), and Tauhivaha'a (loyalty and commitment)." These values have been practiced by their people for many years just like many other things that they continue to perpetuate. The Kingdom of Tonga also states that, "Today, many Tongans still live in villages, especially in the outer islands, and traditional village life has not changed greatly from earlier days.

"Not only do they preserve the same living style, Tongans continue to do traditional practices. As stated on the Eua Island Tonga website, "Luckily, the Tongan culture is still very much intact and you will see people wearing woven mats, making Tapa cloth cooking in the ground and roasting pigs on the spit." The Tongan people keep their culture alive in many different ways, allowing them to be one of the very few monarchies remaining in the Pacific. Becoming a sovereign kingdom wasn't as easy as it

may seem and took many years. In 1616 Dutch navigators, Wilhelm Schouten and Jacob LeMaire discovered the northern most islands of Tonga, the Niuaus. The Dutch continued to explore the Tongan archipelago in 1643.

In 1773 and 1777, Captain James Cook visited the southern islands and began charting the Tongan archipelago. He was pleased with the hospitality of their people and called them the Friendly Isles. Little did he know, the Tongan people were planning on raiding his boats, killing him, and killing his crew.

According to "The Kingdom of Tonga Today," "The northern island group Vava'u was discovered in 1781 by Spanish navigator, Don Francisco Antonio Mourelle, commander of the ship La Princesa" (Kingdom of Tonga). After claiming the islands in the name of Spain, tension continues to grow between Europeans and Tongans. Eventually Mourelle's crew was killed except for a young boy, William Mariner. This young boy learned the Tongan language and lived a Tongan life, and later wrote a book. According to "The Kingdom of Tonga Today," "Mariner's book 'An Account of the Natives of the Tongan Islands' is now recognized as a significant insight into early Tongan life, customs and culture" (Kingdom of Tonga). With the arrival of European explorers also came a quick pace of changes and the teachings of Christianity, which is still part of the Kingdom today. Tonga is a sovereign country currently ruled by King Tupou VI.

According to the article "Tonga" written by Latukefu, Sione, and Sophie Foster, "Between 1799 and 1852 Tonga went through a period of war and disorder. This was finally ended by Taufa'ahau, who was converted to

Christianity in 1831 by the Methodist missionaries” (Britannica). In 1845, he took the title King George Tupou I. According to Latukefu, Sione, and Sophie Foster, “ During the king’s long reign (1845–93), Tonga became a unified and independent country with a modern constitution (1875), legal code, and administrative structure. With Taufa’ ahu as its most important convert, Christianity spread rapidly” (Britannica).

Tonga was recognized for its independence by Germany in 1876, Great Britain in 1879, and the United States in 1888. As stated by Latukefu, Sione, and Sophie Foster, “ Georgel was succeeded by his great-grandson Georgell, who died in 1918. During his reign the kingdom became a British protectorate (1900) to discourage German advances” (Britannica). Although Tonga has a thriving kingdom, they face political and social issues like many other places.

According to Latukefu, Sione, and Sophie Foster:” In 1970 Tonga regained full control of domestic and foreign affairs and became a fully independent nation with the Commonwealth. A pro-democracy movement took shape in the late 20th century, and, from the 1990s, reform advocates won significant representation in the legislature. The government, however, resisted change. Pro-democracy leaders, including ‘ Akilisi Pohiva, a member of the legislature, were occasionally arrested and imprisoned” (Britannica).

From 1983 to 1991, the government sold about 6,600 passports to foreign nationals resulting in a \$30 million profit. By 2001, the money had lost all of its value due to risky investments including a lawsuit against Bogdanoff in U. S. courts. (MORE INFORMATION TO BE ADDED) Happening now is the

<https://assignbuster.com/located-years-in-1616-dutch-navigators-wilhelm/>

review of Tonga's human rights record. According to Tonga's Leading News Website, "Tonga, which has dropped over ten places in the World Press Freedom Index over the last year, has not met UN reporting obligations for some core human rights treaties, or cooperated with international human rights mechanisms, according to the Joint Submission of the UN Country Team for Tonga for the UN compilation" (Matangi Tonga).

This article also states, "Surprisingly, the submission asserts that: 'Various studies have revealed that nearly one-third (30%) of women under 25 years currently suffer from an STI sexually transmitted infection'" (Matangi Tonga). This shows readers that women's rights and health is under watch by their government. The Tongan people are not only concerned for their women, but all of their people. According to "Matangi Tonga Online," "Other human rights issues to be considered are corporal punishment in prisons; juvenile defence in the courts; creating an environment for civil society inputs into development of public policy; access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health; maternal morbidity; sexual violence; the rights of persons with disabilities; and to encourage more open, respectful and inclusive communities for LGBTI persons" (Matangi Tonga).

Tonga has their political and social issues but they are being confronted for the betterment of their people. Another part of their culture includes their literature and authors. Like many other cultures, Tonga has pieces of literature that bring forward their culture, traditions, and royal lineage. One of Tonga's authors is Elizabeth Wood-Ellem. She knew the royal family's lineage and wrote and edited books speaking of the islands. As stated by The Sydney Morning Herald, "In 1974 she began research on Tongan history, <https://assignbuster.com/located-years-in-1616-dutch-navigators-wilhelm/>

concentrating on the life and times of the revered Queen Salote." After all of the research and studying,