

1. The Chagos Islands comprise a remote archipelago in the Indian Ocean about
2. 2,600 kilometers southwest of India. Thought to have been discovered by the
3. Portugese in the 16th century, they were later colonized by the French
4. who established coconut plantations, and then by the British. By the late
5. 1960s, these islands, which remained under British control, were home to
6. approximately 1,500 islanders—mainly descendants of African slaves and
7. Indian planation workers brought in by the French.

Further Questions

8. 1) Where are the Chagos Islands?

9. *They are in the Indian Ocean about 2,600 kilometers southwest of India.*

10. 2) How many islanders lived on the Chagos Islands by the 1960s?

11. *About 1,500 islanders lived on the Chagos Islands by the 1960s.*

12. During the Cold War, the United States selected Diego Garcia, the largest of
13. the Chagos Islands, as a location for a key military base. In 1962, Britain
14. agreed to lease the island to the United States in return for millions of dollars
15. in subsidies on a nuclear submarine that Britain wanted to purchase from
16. its transatlantic ally. The United States, however, had included in the lease
17. agreement the stipulation that, due to security considerations, all of the
18. Chagos Islands be uninhabited.



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(32) How did Britain try to justify its decision to relocate the Chagos islanders?

19. 1. By insisting that unstable trade relations in the region would make it
20. difficult for the islanders to continue making a living from coconut plantations.
21. 2. By asserting that the isolated location of the islands meant they could not
22. be protected by nuclear submarines based in the Indian Ocean.
23. 3. By stating that the islanders were not permanent residents and had no
24. right to remain on the island since they were there specifically to work.
25. 4. By claiming that the dangerous nature of U.S. military operations would
26. pose an increasing threat to the islander's safety.

Further Questions

27. 3) What is the largest island in the Chagos Islands?

28. 4) What stipulation did the United States make in the lease agreement?

29. *The stipulation was that due to security considerations, all of the Chagos*
30. *Islands must be uninhabited.*

31. It later came to light that in order to legitimize their actions British
32. authorities began a campaign to, in their own words, “maintain the pretense
33. that there were no permanent inhabitants on the island.” In an effort to satisfy
34. the lease agreement and present an aura of legality, islanders were classified
35. as migrant workers without permanent residency or indigenous

status, despite the fact that their families had lived on the island for generations. Coconut plantations were also shut down, depriving islanders of their livelihoods. In 1971, after the United States began construction on the base, those still living on Diego Garcia were forcibly relocated to islands elsewhere, including the Seychelles and Mauritius, where many were left homeless and jobless. Australian journalist John Pilger described the treatment of the Chagos islanders as a crime that “helps us understand how much of the world is run for the benefit of the powerful.” He highlights the callousness of both British and American officials, providing as evidence documents in Washington that described “sweeping” and “sanitizing” the islands, as well as British Foreign Office memorandum which stated there would be “no indigenous population except seagulls.”

(33) John Piger’s comments regarding the relocation of the Chagos islanders reflect his belief that

1. British and U.S. officials should have given more thought to how the Seychelles and Mauritius would be affected by the influx of new inhabitants.
2. the islanders were deceived into believing that moving to other islands would likely improve their quality of life.
3. British and U.S. officials were ultimately more concerned with how the islands could suit their own purposes than with the islander’s welfare.
4. the islanders should have made an effort to negotiate greater financial and material compensation for having to leave.

Further Questions 

5) What deceptive thing did the British authorities do in order to meet the stipulation of the lease?

They maintained the pretense there were no permanent inhabitants on the island and classified the residents as migrant workers.

6) What did the United States do to the residents of Diego Garcia when they began construction of the base?

They forcibly relocated them to islands elsewhere.

On the other hand, the agreement between Britain and the United States came at a time when any shift in the balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union could have sparked a nuclear war. Only a few years previously, the Soviets had raised the stakes by installing nuclear missiles on communist Cuba, 140 kilometers from the United States. The United States saw the protection of both Saudi Arabia and Iran as vital to its interest, which prompted the decision to preemptively establish an Indian Ocean stronghold against communist expansion. The island has since featured significantly in more recent military campaigns, including the 1991 Gulf War and the operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Set against this backdrop, the strategic importance of Diego Garcia inevitably eclipsed the human costs. The exiled islanders—who eventually received only minimal compensation from the British government—were unfortunate pawns in the complex strategic

78. positioning the enabled the United States to consolidate its global military
79. strength.

80. **(34) What conclusion does the author of this passage reach?**

81. 1. The negative consequences of the actions of the British and U.S.
82. governments are outweighed by the benefits those actions have had on local
83. economies.
84. 2. The islanders felt little resentment over the hardships they endured given
85. the fact that the British had no choice but to relocate them.
86. 3. The fact that the political decision leading to the islanders relocation were
87. inspired by financial gain makes those decisions difficult to defend.
88. 4. The injustices that occurred were disregarded because of the importance of
89. the objective for which the United States needed the Chagos Islands.

90. **7) What did the Soviets do in Cuba that concerned the United States?**

91. *The Soviets installed nuclear missiles in Cuba, 140 kilometers from the United States.*

92. **8) Why does the writer of this article feel the treatment of the islanders was
93. justified?**

94. *He feels that because the United States has used the island in recent military
95. campaigns, the strategic importance of Diego Garcia eclipses the human costs.*

96. 解答: (32) 3 (33) 3 (34) 4



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