

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.*

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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

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

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

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63. **began construction of the base?**

64. *They forcibly relocated them to islands elsewhere.*

65. On the other hand, the agreement between Britain and the United States
66. came at a time when any shift in the balance of power between the United
67. States and the Soviet Union could have sparked a nuclear war. Only a few
68. years previously, the Soviets had raised the stakes by installing nuclear
69. missiles on communist Cuba, 140 kilometers from the Unites States. The
70. United States saw the protection of both Saudi Arabia and Iran as vital to its
71. interest, which prompted the decision to preemptively establish an Indian
72. Ocean stronghold against communist expansion. The island has since featured
73. significantly in more recent military campaigns, including the 1991 Gulf War
74. and the operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Set against this backdrop, the
75. strategic important of Diego Garcia inevitably eclipsed the human costs. The
76. exiled islanders—who eventually received only minimal compensation from
77. 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.*

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