

I still find it remarkable that the tiny Netherlands with at the most a population of 2 million in 1600 managed to subdue a region that is a thousand times larger, today's Indonesia, and with a population of at least 20 times greater. Had there been 5 million Dutch they would have picked up North America also but because of lack of manpower they finished by flogging this prize to the British. They still had a good go at Africa though, from the south they were responsible for the creation of the most modern country in Africa. However, as racism is our subject I'm not going into the history of colonisation.

Is racism a difference of opinion between race groupings as stipulated by these groupings? Until I find a better definition I'll stick with it and race groupings I'll call races, although biologically incorrect. What races have we then; Chinese, Japanese, Africans (in Africa and the Americas), Europeans (in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand), Arabs (Middle East and North Africa), Indians and the Pacific Islanders. We had already a look what the Europeans have been up to and the fact that they considered the rest of humanity as inferior to themselves. As they invented modern science and used the practical results therefrom to subdue the others, their notions are understandable. The really outstanding race are the people from Africa as they are the only people that evolved in a friendly continent. All the other races, originally, had to deal with Ice Age conditions that must have taxed them heavily when they left Africa. To withstand these difficult beginnings these races were obliged to invent clothing, hunting tools as they could not live from plants alone, organizational capacities for the hunt that eventually led to a written language.

However, this picture does not explain the civilisation of the ancient Egyptians who 10 000 years ago produced such an incredible amount of artefacts that modern technology can copy but a few of them, certainly not a pyramid! I, of course, don't know where these people came from, I think no one does.

We don't know much about the Arabs, their country was not as rude as Northern Europe but to live there you had at least to invent a camel, shoes and clothing and until a thousand years ago their science seems to have been developing nicely. But then, Mohammed's invention of the Muslim creed stifled all that, from Omar Khayyam's ideas the Arabs' ideology changed to stoning wives, sisters, mothers to satisfy their honour and Allah would look after the rest. Now that the Europeans have shown them that their arses were sitting in crude oil they are not broke anymore and they are becoming much worse.

The Pacific Islanders I find particularly fascinating. Again, not much is known, it appears from the year 800-1000 these people invented seaworthy catamarans and courageously started investigating the whole of the Pacific Ocean, the largest place on earth. They did well, invented a natural navigation system based on star and sun sights, ocean currents, bird behaviour with which homing and going voyages of thousands of miles became accepted practice. It's a pity that their great adventure did not last long because of all the little paradises they found where bread and clothing grew on trees and fish could be caught by hand. Strife and necessity became unknown notions, nonchalance and 'laissez faire' their religion. When Captain Cook visited the Pacific around 1760 he found already a deterioration in their boat building and seamanship. Too good a life appears to be no good!