Diplomacy and Fiji

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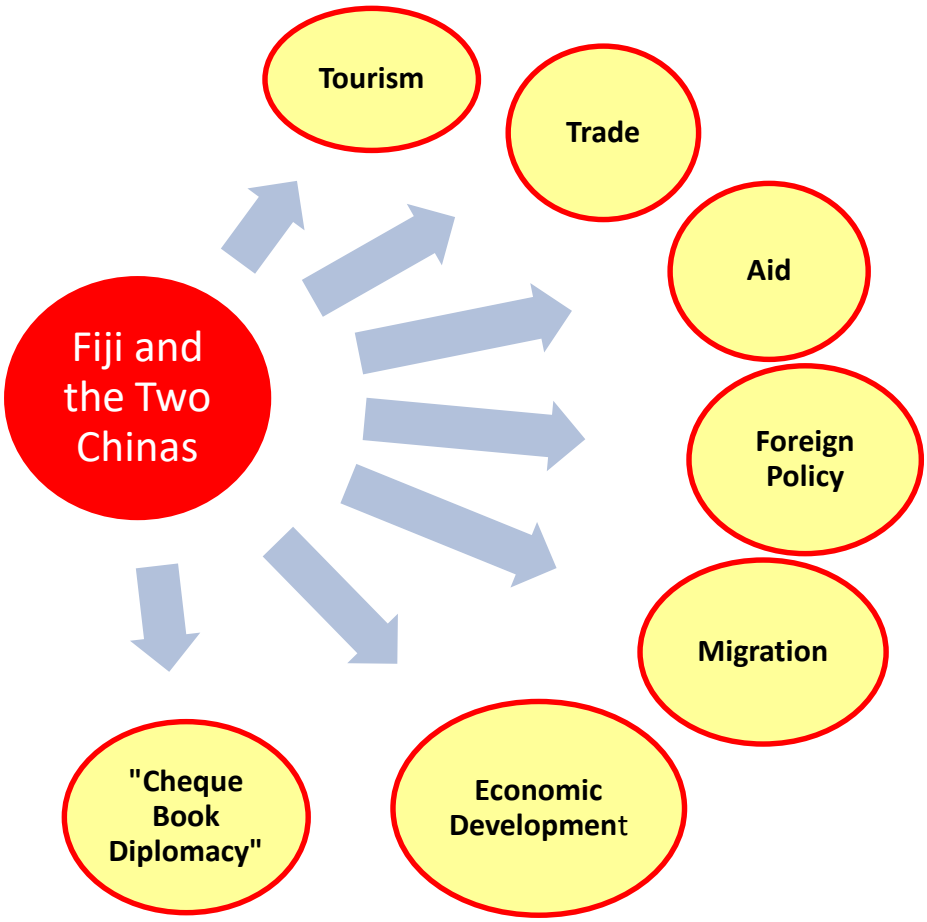
Fiji and the Two Chinas

"Fiji remains steadfast in upholding the One China Policy and is fully committed to continue to work closely together with the Government of China to effectively address issues of mutual interests between our countries,"

Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs, quoted in *Mai Life Magazine*, Feb 7th 2013 < https://www.facebook.com/mailifemagazine/posts/10151389344194487>

Prepared by Mikaele Vakasilimiratu

CONCEPT MAP

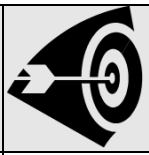


Definitions

Trade	The buying and selling of goods and services
Aid	An assistant or help
Policy	An official government position or decision on a topic
Migration	Movement of people from one country to another
Development	Improvement in social, cultural, economic prospects and wellbeing.
Cheque Book Diplomacy	Means one country attempting to be friends with another country by offering aid and soft loans (low or interest free funding)
Tourism	International travel to visit another country

STUDY ORGANIZER

Before you begin this unit, please check through your study organiser. It shows the topics that we will be covering, the skills you need to acquire (the objectives) and the activities you will do to help you acquire these skills.

Objectives	 **Skills**	 **Activities**
The topics studied	▸ **After completing this unit, you should be able to:**	
Early Chinese in Fiji	• Identify chronology of key events shaping relations • Describe and analyse contexts of key events • Analyse tourism, cultural, education and sport linkages. • Communicate an analysis in a meaningful form.	Questions on; Activity 1
The type of trade and aid that Fiji receives from PRC and ROC offer.	• Compare and contrast policies and levels of funding	Activities 2 and 3
Foreign policy and its components.	• Summarize and produce simple diagrams with essential points of interest	Activity 4
Migration	• Describe the trend in migration between the two countries.	Activity 5
Development	• Discuss policies between Fiji and PRC and ROC.	Activities 4 and 5
“Cheque Book Diplomacy”	• Define and explain foreign relations between countries	Activity 6
Tourism	• Discuss how country’s promote tourism	Activity 7

INTRODUCTION:

There are two China's. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is the communist state founded after a civil war in 1949, and ruled by the Communist party. It occupies vast mainland territories including Tibet and Manchuria. The other is the Republic of China (ROC) formed in 1949 when the Nationalists (called the Kuomintang) retreated to the offshore island of Formosa (now called Taiwan).

The history of International relations between the Fiji Islands and mainland China (PRC) and the island of Taiwan (ROC) has included some fascinating stories. One of these stories concerns two Chinese men who fought with the trader Dillon against Fijians at 'Dillons Rock' in Bua in 1813, the burning down of the headquarters of the Chinese in Fiji supported the KMT (Kuomintang) in the 1920s, the sharing of the administration of the Yat Sen School in Suva by PRC and ROC and today the highly visible presence of the Asian crew and fishing boats in Levuka and Suva. These historical and social links sit beside the formal diplomatic relationship between the nations of Fiji, PRC and ROC.

This unit looks at Aid, Trade, Migration, Cheque-book diplomacy and Tourism

Fiji was the first Pacific Island Country to establish Diplomatic relations with the PRC (Peoples Republic of China). The **joint communique** was signed in November 5, 1975, followed by the establishment of the Chinese Embassy at Nasese, Suva in May 1976. Fiji recognizes and is committed to uphold the "One China Policy" and continuing official and diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. However, trade and economic relations also continue to be maintained with ROC (Taiwan) after the formation of Communist rule by the PRC over mainland China in 1949, and the migration of Nationalist (pro-democracy) to the island of Taiwan and the forming of the ROC.

After 1968 and the founding of USP, Fiji has also welcomed the growing number of students from PRC and ROC taking advantage of University and pre-University courses available in Fiji. Such bonds of understanding, learning and friendship are promoted for securing improved and stable future generations.

Since 1970, there have been many high level **delegation** visits and meetings between PRC and ROC and Fiji. Historically, Chinese have been visiting Fiji for several centuries as traders, and crew on ships. The readings below will illustrate further on some of these early visits. In recent times, exchanges or high-level visits between the two countries occurred after the official opening of the Beijing Mission on 11 July 2001. For example, at the invitation of Fiji's Foreign Minister, two prominent Chinese Leaders visited Fiji;

- Hon. Wan Baorui, Minister of Agriculture visited on 8 August 2001 and signed an Agriculture MOU in Suva
- H.E. Li Ruihuan, Chairman of the CPPCC visited Fiji for 5 days with a delegation of 100 officials in November 2002.

Despite regular visits back and forward between the PRC, ROC and Fiji, and despite formal announcements of new policies and agreements, and despite several big Chinese development projects in Fiji, the ordinary citizens of Fiji do not realize the complex relationship between the two China's and how this relationship might benefit Fijians. This unit asks you to consider the

question; Is it important for Fiji to have an official relationship with one or both the PRC and ROC?

This unit will help you understand Fiji's international relations with the two China's. The following website is a good place to start searching for information on Fiji and the two China's

http://bio-visa.com/program/com/fiji/index.php?file=detail.php&nowdir=&id=862&detail=1

Topic 1: The First Chinese in Fiji

> *The first Chinese arrived in Fiji almost two centuries ago. Luis and Saoo were on board Eliza, which was shipwrecked on Mocea Reef, nine miles south of Nairai in 1808. One can only surmise how they came to be aboard Eliza. Like their compatriots on board the numerous trading ships that piled the southern seas in search of sandalwood and later beche-de-mer, they may have been employed as cooks or carpenters. On the island of Bau, where they remained for five years after the ship wreck, they may have been handy men, maintaining and repairing musketry for the chiefs and beachcombers. They lived in Bau until 1813 when they sailed with Charles savage and others on Bauan canoes to the waters off Bua to meet Hunter, there to collect sandalwood for transport to China. With some men from Hunter, led by Peter Dillon, Savage and his companion landed at Black Rock in Bua. The small boats and canoes that had brought them to Bua were sent back into deep waters to wait transporting the men back to Hunter. Upon landing on the island, Dillon urged everyone to remain together as a group, but his advice was ignored. The men splintered into groups of two to four. Ambushed by the Wailea people, the men scattered in panic and were killed. Dillon managed to lead his small group to the base of a steep rock, which they scaled. Here, under siege and running low on ammunition, Dillon's companion again panicked and ignored his exhortations not to leave the rock. Savage confident of his relationship with the Fijians fell for their ruse. He was enticed off the rock and killed. Meanwhile Luis, unnoticed by Dillon, slid down the side of the rock hoping to seek the assistance of a chief "with whom he was intimately acquainted and to who he had rendered important services in former wars". He was clubbed to death. Luis was quite enterprising because he chose to accompany Savage and Dillon ashore, and not remain on board Hunter as did Saoo. According to R.A. Derrick in A History of Fiji, it is not known what happened to Saoo. He probably returned to China, because he chose to remain on board Hunter, which according to Dillon was scheduled to set sail for China the next day. Other than Luis and Saoo, there is no recorded reference to any other Chines arrivals in Fiji for several decades. Some elderly Chinese, however, believe that their predecessors actually first settled in Fiji in the 1850s. This claim can be substantiated. In a 1846 letter to Colonial Secretary J.F. Nicoll, then Vice Consul for China based in Melbourne, Victoria, Van Chi Tsiang, stated that the Chinese had arrived in Fiji in 1852. He did not mention numbers or names. Deryck Scarr, in his description of Fiji around 1875, refers to "a nucleus of a small Chinese business community – from storekeepers in Macuata, some of them left over from the beche-de-mer days and still trading." According to R.A. Derrick, the beche-de-mer trade began to gather momentum by 1829 and was at its height in the 1840s. We can infer from these statements that a few Chinese very probably came to Fiji early in the 1800s on trading ships, as did Luis and Saoo, and remained behind either voluntarily or through force of circumstance.*
>
> Source – Bessie Ng Kumlin Ali, *The Chinese in Fiji*, Suva: IPS Press 2002.

ACTIVITY 1: QUESTIONS BASED ON READING

1. Name the first two Chinese that arrived in Fiji.

   _____ _____

2. What was their aim in coming to Fiji?

   _____

3. Which island in Fiji was their home until 1813?

   _____

4. Name the early Chinese who made it back to China.

   _____

5. Which other place in Fiji could you find early Chinese community?

   _____

TOPIC 2: TRADE

Fiji's relations with the PRC and the ROC are part of Fiji's broader **multilateral** relationships with large and small nations around the world. Some of the Fiji's relations with the PRC and the ROC are bilateral (one to one) and some relations are part of wider multinational trade agreements and diplomacy. There are some popular slogans used in the relations between Fiji and the PRC and the ROC. These include:

- Look North Policy
- One China Policy
- Two China Policy

Trade relations include visits by delegations (see extract 3 below), Prime Ministerial visits (see extract 2 below) and the signing of Trade Agreements (see extract 1 below).

Trade relations tend to change according to which government is in power in Fiji. For example, the governments led by Laisenia Qarase, Mahendra Chaudhry, and Sitiveni Rabuka each developed special trade relations with the PRC and ROC and other nations. Trade relations also changed according to world demand.

For example, historically, Fiji once sold bananas to New Zealand, Fiji once had a thriving pine wood chips export trade, and Fiji once attempted to establish a mahogany export trade. Changes in trade continue, for example, Fiji's import and export trade today includes Bauxite (from Bua), Gold, Copper (from Namosi), garments, electronic goods and information technology.

Formal agreements between countries are usually prepared by a "Trade Mission" when trade and diplomacy experts and officials visit each other's country. The signing of an MOA (Memorandum of Understanding) is usually done later when a Prime Minister makes a visit. The following extracts report on three different types of trade and diplomacy relationships with the PRC.

Extract 2: from the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC News, Sydney)
Fiji Prime Minister's Visit to China in 2013

Commodore Bainimarama (at the time, the head of the government following a Military coup) has held talks with China's Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing. He's reiterated the country's 'Look North Policy", which sees Fiji moving trade ties away from Australia and New Zealand towards regional powers such as China and India. Following the meeting with Le Keqiang, Commodore Bainimarama praised China as a friend to Fiji and the Pacific."[China] has been instrumental in facilitating the solidarity of the region," he said. "With your significant level of support, the peculiarities and special case for Pacific Islands and small island states are continually advocated in international forum. Commodore Bainimarama says he is confident the relationship between the two countries will strengthen, through mutual political trust and non-interference in internal affairs. He also reiterated his support for the 'One China Policy', in reference to competition between China and Taiwan to have influence in the Pacific. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang says Fiji has been a good friend and partner to China since the two countries first forged diplomatic ties in 1975"As Asian and Pacific countries, China and Fiji are committed to safeguarding regional and world peace and stability," he said. Mr Li called on both countries to develop agreements on fishing and visa exemptions in a bid to promote further cooperation.

Source:**http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-05-30/an-fiji-pm-on-china-visit/4722110**

Extract 3: from the Fiji Government blog ("fijiblog")

CHINESE TRADE DELEGATION VISITS FIJI in 2012 TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES

Attorney-General and the Minister for Industry and Trade, Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum met with the Minister for Commerce, Mr. Chen Deming from the People's Republic of China (PRC), to discuss opportunities for strengthening trade and economic relations between the two nations. The visit was welcomed by the Fijian Government amidst Fiji's efforts to expand its relations with the international community for strategic and economic development. This is Minister Deming's first visit to the region, and Fiji is his first stop. "There are many areas of common interest between China and Fiji, and we look forward to exploring the potential that exists for us," said Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum. Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum conveyed appreciation to the Chinese Government for its developmental collaboration and provision of the needed assistance through various means to Fijians. "For better economic and trade relations between Fiji and China, necessary measures need to be instituted which can be pursued through further dialogue", said Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum. In terms of investment, Fiji provides the necessary platform and invites investors from China in areas such as agriculture, construction, tourism and audio visual", added the Minister. The tourist numbers from China to Fiji has grown tremendously over the past few years and there is potential for this to grow further considering the huge market China represents.
The Permanent Secretary for Industry and Trade, Mr. Shaheen Ali regarded the meeting as fruitful considering relevant issues were discussed to foster and develop the economic and trade relations between the two nations.

Source: **http://fijiblog.gov.fj/blog/2012/4/16/chinese-trade-delegation-visits-fiji-to-explore-opportunitie.html**

ACTIVITY 2: BASED ON EXTRACTS 1, 2 AND 3 (Trade)

1. What are the two facets or types of trading relationship that Fiji has established?

    a. _____
    b. _____

2. What is a BTA?

    a. _____

3. Which two countries are included in Fiji's "Look north" policy?

    a. _____
    b. _____

4. Later, the Fiji Prime Minister changed this definition (extract 2) and added another country to the "Look North" Policy – which country was added?

    a. _____

5. As well as global targets and general statements, which two specific polices were mentioned?

    a. _____
    b. _____

6. During a visit in 2012, four specific areas of relationships were mentioned – what were they?

    a. _____
    b. _____
    c. _____
    d. _____

7. After reading these three extracts of policy between 2012 and 2013 (when Fiji was governed by a Military Administration) in your own opinion what was the most important relationship between Fiji and the PRC mentioned in the extracts?

    a. _____

TOPIC 3: AID

The main relationship between Fiji and both the PRC and ROC today is concerned with foreign aid or economic development aid.

"Aid" is usually described as ***humanitarian aid*** – to help after a cyclone or flood, or as ***development aid*** - when a rich country helps a less developed or poorer country. Both the PRC and ROC are active in development aid in Fiji by building roads, seawalls, hospitals and bridges. The amount of aid given by PRC and ROC is generous and important for Fiji's development but it also plays a diplomatic role in Global, International and Strategic policy. Aid given with a political purpose to attract support or friendship is sometimes criticized as being in the national interests of the donor rather than the recipients, and this type of aid is critically called "cheque book diplomacy" (see Topic 6 below).

Aid can also benefit the donor more than the recipient country. For example, if the PRC builds a road or bridge using mostly Chinese imported labour, and pays a Chinese company to do the work, the profits mostly go to the Chinese company, rather than Fijian workers, contractors and suppliers. It is acknowledged around the world that 80% of so-called "aid" actually is spent in the donor country.

Here is a Fiji newspaper report on a foreign aid project in Fiji in 2013.

FIJI SUN **REPORT ON PRC AID PROJECT, 18 JULY 2013**

People living on the coastal village of Kiuva in Bau, Tailevu, will no longer worry about flooding and coastal erosion. Yesterday, the villages gathered to celebrate the completion of the Kiuva Village Seawall Project – a project funded through the "Gratuitous Aid Program" (sic) of the government of the People's Republic of China. Kiuva, like many coastal villages in Fiji, sits very low on sea level that has caused many flooding problems in the village during high tides or when it rained heavily. Climate change and rising sea level made life even worse. "Once the old seawall was destroyed by cyclone, water used to come into the village about 10 metres inland and it could get worse when there were spring tides," village spokesperson Waisiki Tabua said. "We have a much better seawall now and we are just sitting here comfortably high and dry without worrying." The project has been commended by the villagers. It has been revealed that it has withstood the test of many high tides and even hurricanes. The soil erosion has stopped and the ground level of the sandy beach is rising while it has also become a delightful landscape. The Minister for Provincial Development and Disaster Management, Lieutenant-Colonel Inia Seruiratu, said the seawall represented the strong, cordial and bilateral co-operation that exists between China and the Fijian Government. He thanked other stakeholders and partners who had made the project possible. Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Huang Yong reiterated his government's commitment of enhancing bilateral co-operation and assisting Fiji's economic and social development within their capability. The seawall construction started in November 15, 2012 and it was completed on April 25.

Source: **http://www.fijisun.com.fj/2013/07/18/kiuva-no-longer-fears-flooding/**

ACTIVITY 3: QUESTIONS BASED ON AID

1. Which is the best form of aid from China? Rank this from 1 to 7.

   ( ) Road
   ( ) Bridge
   ( ) Seawall
   ( ) Hospital
   ( ) Money
   ( ) An easier way to obtain a Tourist Visa
   ( ) Funding of an audio-visual (Film and TV) studio

2. Explain your choice of number 1 in 100 words

3. Can an object (a seawall) represent Fiji's aid relations with China? Tick the box that gives the best description of this project.

   ( ) The seawall will always be called the China Seawall
   ( ) There will be a plaque on the seawall that says "Donated by ROC"
   ( ) The seawall would not have been built without Chinese aid and money
   ( ) Seawalls are non- political (aid direct to the people and not through the government)
   ( ) People will criticize the sea wall because the Chinese were buying votes at the UN

8. Which is the best sort of aid? (Choose on of the following)

   ( ) PRC or ROC gives a loan to Fiji (low interest, or interest free)
   ( ) PRC or ROC pays for everything and completes the job in Fiji
   ( ) PRC or ROC sends skilled workers to do a job in Fiji (eg., road building)
   ( ) PRC or ROC also sets up a skilled worker training scheme for Fijians on every project
   ( ) PRC or ROC competes for a tender (an invite to manage and complete a project)

   NOTE: Discuss your choice in a small group, or as a class discussion.

TOPIC 4: LOOK NORTH POLICY

Fiji has attempted to create a new trading relationship with superpowers in Asia. This contrasts with the former major aid and trade relations with New Zealand and Australia. This new policy was called the "Look North Policy". It aims to create and strengthen trading relations with countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, PRC, ROC, Russia and India. The focus of policy often changes in small countries like Fiji. These changes are caused by a politician's visit to and from a particular country, a new governments being elected, or as global changes occur in relations between the super-powers. For example, Fiji's "Look North" has been very flexible and has been defined in many different ways. It is a "policy" but we might ask, has it had any real benefit for Fiji and lead to any real and practical economic development. The following extract is from a Chinese news agency and gives a different angle to the story, compared to reports by Fiji's newspapers or Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"FIJI'S LOOK NORTH POLICY ON TRACK"

(Extract from a *Chinese News Agency Xin Hua,* 20 Nov 2011) By Jiang Xianming

SUVA, Dec. 26 (Xinhua) -- In his Christmas message published here Sunday, Fiji's Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama announced that "as a nation we have accomplished many of our goals as we look forward to the future." Local politicians and foreign diplomats have echoed Bainimarama by saying that Fiji's Look North Policy is on track. The Fijian government has adopted the Look North Policy as its relations with Australia and New Zealand have been in trouble following the 2006 military coup led by Bainimarama. The two close neighbours of Fiji have implemented targeted sanctions against the island nation, including travel restrictions for Fijian military and government officials, suspension of ministerial-level contact with the military regime, and isolation of Fiji from the Pacific Islands Forum and the Commonwealth. Ever since these bans have been put in place, the Fijian government has implemented the Look North Policy to strengthen its relations with Asia in general and PRC and ROC in particular, as it looks for new markets to help the island nation meet its trade and investment aspirations. The reforms taking place in Fiji were all part of the Strategic Framework for Change, which "sets out the path of legal, constitutional, economic and social change for a fair, just and modern Fiji - not just for now but for the years to come," stated Bainimarama, stressing "the first important step of the Strategic Framework for Change is focused on the growth of the economy through infrastructure." Sandra Tarte, Director of the Politics and International Affairs Program at the Suva-based University of the South Pacific (USP), wrote in her article "Fiji's Search for New Friends" that in 2010, Prime Minister Bainimarama significantly chose to celebrate the 40th anniversary of national independence at the World Expo in Shanghai rather than at home, which was seen as a golden opportunity to promote Fiji's products and raise its profile mainly, but not only, to PRC and ROC. In fact, the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation between PRC and ROC and Fiji have been closer and closer following the implementation of Fiji's Look North Policy. According to the Fijian Military Administration or government, since the start of its administration in 2006, the level of official Chinese development assistance to Fiji has increased considerably, which "have been in the form of direct grant projects, which have numbered more than a dozen to date." "We also have taken the opportunity to access Chinese government concessional loans through the Export-Import Bank of China to upgrade our national infrastructure," Bainimarama said, highlighting that his government had taken out concessional loans that totalled 285 million Fiji dollars (155.7 million U.S. dollars) to upgrade major road links, to build new public housing projects

and to enhance information technology capabilities. Chinese ambassador to Fiji Huang Yong echoed Bainimarama, saying "the year 2011 has witnessed the comprehensive development and enhancement of the bilateral relations between Fiji and China. "The bilateral trade has reached 129 million U.S. dollars in 2010, an increase of 32.4 per cent over the previous year," he said. Fijian officials also ratified agreements with the Chinese side on Dec. 21, allowing for the construction of the China-funded new Navua Hospital to proceed in early 2012. In September, the Fijian government announced that it had settled the country's first international bond of 150 million U.S. dollars which was raised in 2006. It has been facilitated through the second bond of 250 million U.S. dollars the government raised recently. The Look North Policy is extending as far as Africa and Russia. And as of now, the Fijian government has formalized relations with 114 countries, including the 37 countries that Fiji has newly established diplomatic ties with since the end of last year. Eni Faleomavaega, a former chairman and current ranking member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, has recently held that the sanctions proved ineffective and Fiji's Pacific Island neighbours have continued showing their support. The congressman questioned what would happen now after five years of failed sanctions and called for Australian and New Zealand's engagement with Fiji to repair their relations.
Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2011-12/27/c_131328188.htm

TOPIC 5: MIGRATION

There have always been people of Chinese descent living in Fiji (we studied this topic in Year 11). Today people of Chinese descent are citizens, residents, tourists, aid workers, joint venture entrepreneurs, fishing boat deckhands and crews, farmers. During the period when the garment industry was booming, Chinese women and men were brought to Fiji. They lived in separate dormitories near the Industrial Estates for one year and then returned to the PRC. The following extracts looks at another aspect of Chinese migration to Fiji – business migrants.

"Fiji Opens Door to Chinese Business Migrants"
After the 1987 coup in Fiji, more than 24,000 Indian Fijians left the country fearing persecution. The Fijian government is now inviting Chinese business migrants to come to Fiji to fill the void left by the Indian professionals and entrepreneurs who left. The Fijian Cabinet approved a proposal to allow up to 7,000 Chinese businessman and their families from Hong Kong to migrate to Fiji, provided they pay an application fee of $30,000 and invest at least $100,000 in government-approved projects. The government says the program will bring in up to $ 2.5 billion in investments and create some 80,000 jobs. The Chinese are expected to be heavily involved in repacking and refining import commodities for re-export. Current estimates are that there are about 5,000 Chinese in Fiji. While a few settled in the islands a century ago, some 1,000 Chinese, have come to do business in Fiji in the last few years. More than 900 work permits have been issued to Chinese nationals since 1987, and the Fiji Trade and Investment Board (now Investment Fiji) says there are nearly 60 Chinese running joint ventures in Fiji. Official figures show that between 1987 and June 1993, Fiji granted citizenship to 508 Chinese. During the same period, 24,014 Indians left the country for Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
Source: *Migration News*, February 1995, Volume 2, Number 2 at https://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=578

ACTIVITY 4: BASED ON XIN HUA NEWS AGENCY (TOPIC 4)

1. Why did the Fiji Government adopt the Look North Policy?

2. How will Fiji benefit economically from this Policy?

3. Which other countries have this Look North Policy being extended to?

ACTIVITY 5: QUESTIONS BASED ON MIGRATION (TOPIC 5)

1. State the reason for the Fiji government inviting the Chinese businessman.

2. What are some criteria that need to be followed by a Chinese businessman to enter Fiji?

3. Over a six-year period, 508 permits were granted for Chinese to live in Fiji – what level of impact will they have on Fiji society, culture, customs, language, lifestyle – choose one;

    ( ) Too small to have any impact
    ( ) Low level impact
    ( ) High level impact

4. Explain in two sentences why you chose the answer above.

TOPIC 6: CHEQUE BOOK DIPLOMACY

When the two Chinas competed for recognition, they began to use aid and loans to attract supporters for example, both the PRC and ROC gave 'soft' loans (at low interest rates) to Pacific Island Nations who supported them at the United Nations. This type of spending by the PRC and ROC became a competition with both the PRC and ROC trying to become best friends with small Pacific Island Nations and then receive their support at votes in the UN or other international organizations. This was called "cheque book diplomacy" and is used to describe international policy openly using loans, economic aid and investment between countries to attract diplomatic favours. This report is from an Australian newspaper;

China's 'chequebook diplomacy' in Fiji under fire

AUSTRALIA has been pressing China to curb its support for Fiji. Diplomats in Canberra and Beijing are understood to have raised the situation in Fiji with Chinese officials. China has become a big donor across the Pacific, mainly as part of its diplomatic offensive to prevent more states from recognizing Taiwan as an independent state. China has boosted aid to Fiji since a coup by the military commander, Frank Bainimarama, which has crippled the economy and led to drastic falls in tourism and foreign investment. Australia and New Zealand have led regional efforts to pressure the regime to restore democracy, including imposing sanctions and travel bans and restricting aid. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has confirmed it has raised concerns with China after recent moves by the regime to extend its hold on power. Australia continues to encourage China to play a constructive role in the Pacific islands region, and is keeping China fully advised of our concerns about the very negative recent developments in Fiji, a spokeswoman said. Australia engages in regular dialogue with China, and other donors, in support of effective development co-ordination in the Pacific islands region." A Lowy Institute analyst, Fergus Hanson, said China's "chequebook diplomacy" had resulted in a sevenfold increase in pledged aid to Fiji since the 2006 coup, from $US23 million in 2006 to $US160 million in 2007. The main reason for the aid is competition with Taiwan," Mr Hanson said. China makes the case that it gives the aid without strings attached and without regard to domestic politics - but by coming in quite dramatically with such a big aid program, it is playing politics. Australia and New Zealand have been leading a diplomatic push across the region to isolate Fiji by suspending it from the Commonwealth and the Pacific Islands Forum, which said this year the regime should prepare for elections by May 1, 2014.

Source: http://www.smh.com.au/world/chinas-chequebook-diplomacy-in-fiji-under-fire-20090420-acpr.html#ixzz2hxBekmhM

TOPIC 7: TOURISM

Tourism between the PRC and Fiji and between Fiji and ROC is much smaller than between Australia and New Zealand and Fiji. However the PRC with 6 billion people and the ROC with 40 million, both have a very big "middle class". These Chinese have a high income and an increasing modern and new interest in overseas travel. Fiji is trying to attract Chinese tourists as a means to boost its national economy. Only

Korea has an airline that flies direct to Fiji. Fiji Airways provides access through its flights to Hong Kong. The following two extracts focus on aspects of Chinese tourism in Fiji;

1 ***"Fiji sees 32 percent increase in Chinese tourists in 2010"***

SUVA, March 27 (Xinhua) — An estimated 18,000 Chinese nationals visited Fiji in 2010, according to the Tourism Fiji here Sunday. This is an increase of more than 32 percent over the 2009 figure, Tourism Fiji Chief Executive Officer Josefa Tuamoto told state owned radio station Fiji Broadcasting Commission. Tuamoto said that China is an emerging market and his agency looks to get even more visitors from China this year as they lobby Fiji as the best holiday destination in the world. Tourism Fiji recently organized a workshop in Shenzhen, China for Chinese travel agents and wholesalers. The main thrust of the workshop is to swiftly build on the inroads achieved in China across 2010, Tuamoto said. Similar workshops were also held in other Chinese major cities of Shenyang, Hangzhou, Guangzhou as well as in Hong Kong. Tuamoto said planned events for the remainder of 2011 will provide them the perfect opportunity to showcase Fiji's ever- growing range of diverse products which is critical to the island nation's growing visitor arrivals.

Source: English.news.cn–27 March, 2011
http://chinatraveltrends.com/fiji-sees-32-percent-increase-in-chinese-tourists-in-2010

2 ***"A dream destination"; New fashionable destination for Chinese tourists***

Who does not dream to travel to Fiji? All travellers want to experience the beautiful beaches that abound on the island. Fiji is indeed known for the beauty of the colour of the sea, intense and transparent at the same time. Many travel agencies offer personalized circuits in Fiji. The Fiji archipelago located in Oceania, covers about 1.3 million km ², and has about 400 islands, most of which are uninhabited. The small island of Fiji in South Pacific becomes the radar of Chinese tourists and the next fashionable destination for travelers in search of exoticism and adventure. Tourism is now one of the main factors of the economic growth in Fiji. During the Chinese holiday period, Fiji expect to increase tourist flows . In recent years, the number of Chinese travellers in Fiji has grown by almost 10% according to the Government of Fiji. The main attractions of the archipelago are: Ovalau (walks in jungle, small deserted beaches), Suva (Compulsory passage), the Coral Coast (traditional place where you can sleep for a few nights).China represents a very promising market for Fiji. Arrivals of Chinese visitors increased significantly from 2009 (4 807) and 2012 (26,935). This growth can be explained by the presence of direct flights between Fiji and Hong Kong through Air Pacific .Fiji has implemented several decisions to receive the maximum of Chinese during this year. For example, nearly half of the ATMs in Fiji accept cash withdrawals using credit cards of Union Pay.

Source: http://marketingtochina.com/fiji-new-fashionable-destination-chinese-tourists/

ACTIVITY 6: QUESTIONS ON TOPIC 6 (CHEQUE BOOK DIPLOMACY)

1. What is a “diplomatic offensive”? (One sentence answer)

2. What is “aid without strings attached”? (One sentence answer)

3. What is a “diplomatic push”? (One sentence answer)

4. Describe in two sentences the meaning of cheque book diplomacy?

5. What is the main reason that the PRC gives aid to Fiji?

6. How much did the PRC’s aid to Fiji (in dollars) rise between 2006 and 2007?

ACTIVITY 7 QUESTIONS ON TOPIC 7, TOURISM

1. Write a 50 word statement saying why Chinese from the PRC and ROC should come to visit Fiji as a tourist.

2. Write a newspaper banner or headline for your statement (1-6 words)

CONCLUSION

The PRC is one of the world's two great future super-powers, (the other being India) and the ROC is one of the most successful, rising powerful nations in Asia. Fiji will only be a small neighbour not a significant player in super-power diplomacy. However, Fiji will always try to be a friend, and to maintain diplomatic relations with the PRC and ROC, and to obtain maximum benefit from that relationship.

That is the aim of diplomacy. To maximise your own national interests, while maintaining friendships, treaties, conventions and agreements with other nations, large and small. It is to Fiji's advantage that there are historical connections between Fiji and the Chinese people, some of these have been mentioned above. It is not known what those relationships might be in the next century, but if you travel along Victoria Parade, you can see the PRC flag flying high above a large embassy building. Next door is a small social club, the "China Club", there are several Chinese restaurants around Fiji, and many Fijians of Chinese descent. Diplomacy does not usually include the study of restaurants, but historically all these links are a sign of a deep and complex relationship between China and Fiji.

GLOSSARY

Bilateral	An agreement between two countries
Delegation	An official "team" of politicians, experts and advisors visiting another country
Guomindang	(KMT) The pro-democracy Chinese who fled to Taiwan and created the ROC
Joint communique	An announcement of an agreement signed by two countries
Multilateral	An agreement between three or more countries
Reciprocal	A sharing or equal exchange, or response to an earlier act or policy

TYPICAL ESSAY QUESTION

- Explain why it is important for Fiji to have a relationship with one or both the PRC and ROC?

CHECKLIST – AT THE END OF THIS UNIT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

( ) Explain the meaning of the word diplomacy

( ) Describe 'cheque book diplomacy"

( ) Describe the recent history of the two China's

( ) Argue why Fiji should, or should not, support one or both Chinas.

If you can answer this check list, move on to the next topic. If not, go back and revise this topic.