The European Era

• Arrival of Europeans
  – 1500s-1800s Europeans from several countries explored South Pacific
  – Captain James Cook-British
    • 3 voyages- 1768-1779
    • claimed eastern Australia for Britain, explored several island, and circled Antarctica
    • Produced very accurate maps
  – Despite Aboriginal population of 300,000, Brits saw Australia as uninhabited
  – Original purpose for colonization- penal colony- 160,000 convicts would be dumped off in Australia to serve their sentence
The European Era

– Mid-1800s- British stopped sending convicts to Australia
– Settlers moved to the coasts- by 1861- over 1 million Europeans
– Mostly wheat farmers
– Wool also became a major product
– Copper exports and 1851 Gold Rush
– Aboriginees eventually upset with land being taken- started to fight
  • Spears vs rifles---- rifles win
  • Aboriginal populations down to 80k by late 1800s bc of disease
The European Era

• Building Empires
  – Brits divided Australia into 5 colonies- each with its own legislature
    • Allowed all men to vote
  – First Europeans in New Zealand- shipwrecked sailors or escaped convicts
    • Later set up whaling settlements
    • British colonists arrived in 1820s and 1830s
    • Maori held off Europeans until diseases hit- population was at 100k in 1840 (half what it was)
    • Treaty of Waitangi- Maori kept land if they accepted British rule
    • Settlers still moved into Maori land- war of 1860s- Maori lost
    • Settlers set up economy on dairy and sheep
The European Era

– Global trade led to major ports in Oceania
– Western countries (like US) began to colonize Pacific Islands
– Increased trade and missionaries
– Western culture and Christianity was somewhat accepted by locals
– Disease continued to take a toll
Independent Nations

• Australia and New Zealand
  – Both one peacefully
  – 1901- Australia became the Commonwealth of Australia
  – 1907- New Zealand became independent
  – Both are parliamentary democracies- representatives choose a prime minister
  – Australia is also a federal government
  – 1893- New Zealand was first official country to give women suffrage (right to vote)
  – 1902- Australia did the same
  – New Zealand was one of first to have gov’t aid sick, elderly, and jobless
  – Aboriginees and Maoris often discriminated against
  – Until 1970s immigration limited- especially Asians
Independent Nations

• Oceania and Antarctica
  – After WW1 (1918) Germany’s islands went to Japan
  – World War II partially fought in Pacific Islands btw US and Japan
  – US gained Japanese territories (like Micronesia) after WWII- became trust territories (temporarily placed under control of another country)
  – Most Pacific Islands have become independent since 1960s
  – Some are torn by ethnic conflict- Fiji and Solomon Islands
  – 19590- Antarctic Treaty- continent shared for research