

Western New Guinea

West Papua" redirects here. For the Indonesian province with the same name, see [West Papua \(province\)](#).

Western New Guinea	
West Papua Region	
Country	Indonesia
Cities	Jayapura, Manokwari, Sorong, Timika
Provinces	2 [show]
Area	420,540 km ² (162,371 sq mi)
Highest point	Puncak Jaya
 - location	Sudirman Range
 - coordinates	 4°5′S 137°11′E
 - elevation	4,884 m (16,024 ft)
Population	2,646,489 (2005)
Density	6 /km ² (16 /sq mi)
Time zone	WMT (UTC+9)
ISO 3166-2	ID-IJ
License plate	DS

A map of Indonesia with the Western New Guinea region highlighted in red. An inset map shows the location of Western New Guinea within the Indonesian archipelago.

Western New Guinea is the [Indonesian](#) western half of the island of [New Guinea](#) and consists of two provinces, [Papua](#) and [West Papua](#). It was previously known by various names, including [Netherlands New Guinea](#) (1895–[1 October 1962](#)), [West New Guinea](#) ([1 October 1962](#)–[1 May 1963](#)), West Irian ([1 May 1963](#)–1973), and Irian Jaya (1973–2000). The incorporation of western New Guinea into Indonesia remains controversial with human rights [non-governmental organizations](#) (NGO), including some supporters in the [United States Congress](#) and other bodies, as well as many of the territory's indigenous population. Many indigenous inhabitants and human rights NGOs refer to it as **West Papua**.

Western New Guinea was [annexed](#) by [Indonesia](#) under the [1969 Act of Free Choice](#) in accord with the controversial [1962 New York Agreement](#). During the rule of President [Suharto](#) from 1965 to 1998, human rights and other advocates criticized Indonesian government policies in the province as repressive, and the area received relatively little attention in Indonesia's development plans. During the

[Reformasi](#) period from 1998 to 2001, Papua and other Indonesian provinces received greater [regional autonomy](#). In 2001, a law was passed granting "Special Autonomy" status to Papua, although many of the law's requirements have either not been implemented or have been only minimally implemented.^[1]

In 2003, the Indonesian central government declared that the province would be split into three provinces: [Papua](#) Province, Central Irian Jaya Province, and [West Irian Jaya](#) Province. Opposition to this resulted in the plan for Central Irian Jaya province being scrapped, and even the designation of West Irian Jaya Province is still legally unclear. Despite this, the West Irian Jaya (Irian Jaya Barat) province was formed on [February 6, 2006](#) and the name was officially changed to West Papua (Papua Barat) on [February 7, 2007](#). The independent [sovereign state](#) of [Papua New Guinea](#) (PNG) borders Papua Province to the east.

History

[Papuan](#)s have inhabited the Australasian continental [island](#) of [Papua](#) for over 40,000 years while [Austronesians](#) have been there for several thousand years. These groups have developed diverse cultures and languages in situ; there are over 300 languages and two hundred additional dialects in West New Guinea alone (See [Papuan languages](#), [Austronesian languages](#)).

On [June 13, 1545](#) [Ortiz de Retez](#), in command of the San Juan, left port in [Tidore](#), an island of the East Indies and sailed to reach the northern coast of the island of New Guinea, which he ventured along as far as the mouth of the [Mamberamo River](#). He took possession of the land for the Spanish Crown, in the process giving the island the name by which it is known today. He called it Nueva Guinea owing to the resemblance of the local inhabitants to the peoples of the [Guinea](#) coast in West Africa.

Dutch control



Dutch expeditions in Netherlands New Guinea 1907–1915.

In [1828](#), the [Dutch](#) claimed the south coast west of the 141st meridian, and in [1848](#) added the north coast west of Humboldt Bay. The border at 141° East was 'marked' on the coast by iron signpost displaying the Dutch coat of arms by an expedition in [1881](#)^[2]. The Netherlands established trading posts in the area after [Britain](#) and [Germany](#) recognised the Dutch claims in treaties of [1885](#) and [1895](#). At much the same time, Britain claimed south-east [New Guinea](#) later known as the [Territory of Papua](#) and Germany claimed the northeast, later known as the [Territory of New Guinea](#).



In [1923](#), the *Nieuw Guinea Beweging* ([New Guinea Movement](#)) was created in the Netherlands by ultra right-wing supporters calling for Dutchmen to create a tropical Netherlands in Papua. This prewar movement without full government support was largely unsuccessful in its drive, but did coincide with the development of a plan for Eurasian settlement of the Dutch Indies to establish Dutch farms in northern West New Guinea. This

effort also failed as most returned to Java disillusioned, and by [1938](#) just 50 settlers remained near Hollandia and 258 in [Manokwari](#).

In the early [1930s](#), the need for a national Papuan government was discussed by graduates of the Dutch Protestant Missionary Teachers College in Miei Wondama, Manokwari. These graduates continued their discussions among the wider community and quickly succeeded in cultivating a desire for national unity across the region and its three hundred languages. The College Principal Rev. Kijne also composed "[Hai Tanahku Papua](#)" ("*Oh My Land Papua*"), which in [1961](#) was adopted as the national anthem.

A exploration company NNGPM was formed in [1935](#) by [Shell](#) (40%), [Mobil](#) (40%) and [Chevron's](#) Far Pacific investments (20%) to explore West New Guinea. During [1936](#), Jean Dozy working for NNGPM reported the world's richest [gold](#) and [copper](#) deposits in a mountain near [Timika](#) which he named [Ertsberg](#) (*Mountain of Ore*). Unable to license the find from the Dutch or indigenous landowners, NNGPM maintained secrecy of the discovery.

In [1942](#), the northern coast of West New Guinea and the nearby islands were occupied by [Japan](#). [Allied](#) forces expelled the Japanese in [1944](#), and with Papuan approval, the [United States](#) constructed a headquarters for Gen. [Douglas MacArthur](#) at [Hollandia](#) (now [Jayapura](#)) and over twenty US bases and hospitals intended as a [staging point](#) for operations taking of the Philippines.

West New Guinean farms supplied food for the half million US troops. Papuan men went into battle to carry the wounded, acted as guides and translators, and provided a range of services, from construction work and carpentry to serving as machine shop workers and mechanics.

The Dutch retained possession of West New Guinea from 1945, but upon reaching [Java](#) 4,000 km (2,490 mi) west they did not find similar levels of support from the population of Java. [Indonesian](#) leaders [Mohammad Hatta](#) and [Sukarno](#) had declared [independence](#) weeks before and prepare their claimed all Dutch possessions should become part of the [United States of Indonesia](#). Because they knew that West Papua is the rich island of Gold and other natural resources. After Indonesia independent, the director of Government School Mr. Soegoro Admoprasojo in Hollandia (now is Jayapura) provocation his student to make movement against Nederland, so they called it IRIAN (Ikut Republik Indonesia Anti Nederland). Some of his student is Markus Kaisiepo, Nicolas Jouwe, Herman Wajoy, Frans Kaisiepo, Eliezer Jan Bonay, Marten Indey, and Johan Ariks. Nederland had prepare them for Papuan Leader in West Papua Country but Soegoro provocation them, so some of them like Frans Kaisiepo was exiled to Makasar and the other against Soegoro because they knew that Soegoro want to take Papua into Indonesia and cancel their Nation of West Papua. And also in Serui island, Dr. Sam Ratulangi provocation Papuan over there and made Partai Kemerdekaan Indonesia IRIAN at year 1946. One Papuan who famous with Sam Ratulangi is Silas Papare. The dispute continued to Linggar Jati meeting, Malino Conference until the [Round Table Conference](#), which was held from August to October [1949](#) at the [Hague](#). Unable to reach a compromise on the matter of West New Guinea, the conference closed with the parties agreeing to discuss the West New Guinea issue within one year. When in Malino Conference in Makasar South Sulawesi at July 1946, Frans Kaisiepo joint with Indonesia Delegation and press Dutch to change the name of Nederland Nieuw Guinea to IRIAN (Follow Indonesia Against Nederland). After success takeover West Papua and Soekarno (First President of Indonesia) changed it name to West IRIAN, then Soeharto (Second

President of Indonesia) changed to IRIAN Jaya, and the last changed by Gusdur (Four President of Indonesia) to Papua Province.

In December [1950](#)^[3] the United Nations requested the Special Committee on Decolonization to accept transmission of information regarding the territory in accord with [Article 73 of the Charter](#) of the [United Nations](#). Article 73 constituted formal recognition of the territory's [right to independence](#) and the Netherlands obligation to assist. After repeated [Indonesian](#) claims to possession of [Dutch New Guinea](#), the Netherlands invited Indonesia to present its claim before an [International Court](#) of Law. Indonesia declined the offer. Concerned by Indonesian insurgencies beginning in 1950, the Netherlands accelerated its education and technical programs in preparation for independence. A [naval academy](#) was opened in [1956](#), and Papuan troops and naval cadets began service by [1957](#).

By 1959, Papuans were [nurses](#), [dental surgeons](#), [draftsmen](#), [architects](#), telephone repairmen, and radio and power technicians, cultivating a range of experimental commercial crops and serving as [police](#), [forestry](#) and [meteorological staff](#). This progress towards self-government was documented in reports prepared for the United Nations from 1950 to 1961.

In an effort to get the United Nations to sanction their plan, the Dutch foreign minister submitted a plan in September 1961 to the world body, which later became known as the Luns Plan. Referring to Resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly on decolonisation, the foreign minister submitted a proposal to decolonise West Papua as soon as possible. He also invoked Article 73 of the United Nations Charter regarding non-self-governing territories.

The new situation displeased the Indonesian government and compelled it to take a more assertive stance on the matter. Indonesia considered the Dutch policy not only as a declaration of intent to maintain colonial rule in West Papua, but also as a threat to Indonesia's territorial integrity and security. As a consequence, on August 17, 1960 in his Independence Day address President Soekarno announced the breaking of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Indonesia then go out from United Nations Member and made Communist in Indonesia.

Local Council elections were held and Papuan representatives elected from 1955. On [6 March 1959](#) the [New York Times](#) published an article revealing the Dutch government had discovered alluvial gold flowing into the [Arafura Sea](#) and were searching for the gold's mountain source.^{[[citation needed](#)]} In 1959, [Freeport Sulphur](#) approached the Dutch East Borneo company for partnership. An agreement signed in January [1960](#) to lodge a Dutch claim for the Timika area as a copper deposit did not inform the government about the gold or known extent of the copper deposit.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Election of a national parliament began on [9 January 1961](#) in fifteen electoral districts with direct voting in Manokwari and Hollandia to select 26 Councillors, of whom 16 were elected, 12 appointed, 23 were Papuan, and one female Councillors. The Councillors were sworn in by Governor Platteel on [1 April 1961](#), and the Council took office on [5 April 1961](#). The inauguration was attended by officials from Australia, Britain, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and members of the South Pacific Commission; a large Australian delegation was headed by Mr Hasluck MP and included Sir Alistair McMullan, President of Australian Senate. The United States declined the invitation to attend the inauguration because they support Indonesia claimed so Indonesia must stop their Communist.

After news that the Hague was considering a United States plan to trade the territory to United Nations administration, Papuan Councillors met for six hours in the New Guinea Council building on [19 October 1961](#) to elect a National Committee which drafted a Manifesto for Independence & Self-government, a National flag (Morning Star), State Seal, selected a national anthem ("Hai Tanahkoe Papua" / "Oh My Land Papua"), and called for the people to be known as Papuans. The New Guinea Council voted unanimous support of these proposals on [30 October 1961](#), and on the 31st October 1961 presented the Morning Star flag and Manifesto to Governor Platteel who said (translated) "Never before has the oneness of the Council been put forward so strongly." The Dutch recognized the flag and anthem on [November 18, 1961](#) (Government Gazettes of Dutch New Guinea Nos. 68 and 69), and these ordinances came into effect on [December 1, 1961](#).

National Committee of West Papua

After West New Guinea Parliamentary (New Guinea Raad) establishment, so they (the Parliament's members) made a National Committee of West Papua, so finally the national committee had meet and produced the National Flag of West Papua, National Song, and the National Symbol of people. The leader of this Committee is Mr. Willem Inury.

On initiative of New Guinea Raad (NGR) members : Mr. Nicolas Jouwe, Mr. Eliezer Jan Bonay, Mr. N. Tangahma, and Mr. F. Torrey so at the night, 19th October 1961, 80 Papuan Indigenous meet at NGR office in Hollandia (now is Jayapura). At the meeting they had establish a National Committee that with one voice they agree and signature an Manifest who was arranged by the NGR initiation. The Manifest explains about Independent of West Papua from the Colonialism. The Manifest of the National Committee of Papoea are below :

We are signature below, Peoples of West Papua from groups, tribes and religion, feel banded and union as one nation and one native country.

STATEMENT

For people of the world and West Papuan, that:

1. Base on clause 73 of United Nation Charter, section a and b.
2. Base on manifest about independent for the region where had not Self Government. That include in United Nation 15th Session at 20th September 1960 until 20th December 1960 No. 1514 (XV).
3. Base on our Rights as Indigenous People in this island.
4. Base on our wanted about Self Government, so we are through our representatives in National Committee and our New Guinea Raad to push Nederland New Guinea's Governor and Nederland Government so that start from 1st November 1961 :
 - a. Our flag must be arise behind Nederland's flag.
 - b. Our National Song "Oh My Land Papua" was singed behind Wilhelm's.
 - c. The name of our land becomes West Papua.
 - d. The name of our nation becomes Papua.

On this base, so we are West Papuan demand so that we get ourselves place, same as free nation and between that nations we life well and also keep the world in peace.

By this Manifest, we invite people who love native country to agree and keep it safety, because this is the one base of independent for us West Papua nation.

Hollandia, 19th October 1961.



New Guinea Parliament Office
(Now is Region Representative Council of Republic Indonesia)

Members of Nieuw Guinea Raad Pictures



Eliezer Yan Bonay



Nicolas Jowe



F. Torey



N. Tanggahma

Secret Letter of USA President John. F. Kennedy to Nederland Government

Annex B. THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECRET

April 2, 1962

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I have been intimately concerned in recent weeks with the problems facing your Government in arranging an honorable solution to your dispute with Indonesia over the disposition of Netherlands New Guinea. I was disturbed by the cessation of the secret talks between your representatives and those of Indonesia. However, I am convinced that a peaceful solution is still possible provided the two parties are prepared to resume negotiations in good faith.

The Netherlands Government has made a statesmanlike effort to meet this problem first through the United Nations and, when that failed, through direct secret negotiations with the Indonesians. I am appreciative of the heavy responsibilities which the Dutch Government supports in protecting its citizens in New Guinea and understand why you felt it necessary to reinforce your defense establishment in that area. However, we face a danger that increasing

concentrations of military forces will result in a clash which will be a prelude to active warfare in the area. Such a conflict would have adverse consequences out of all proportion to the issue at stake.

This would be a war in which neither The Netherlands nor the West could win in any real sense. Whatever the outcome of particular military encounters, the entire free world position in Asia would be seriously damaged. Only the communists would benefit from such a conflict. If the Indonesian Army were committed to all out war against The Netherlands, the moderate elements within the Army and the country would be quickly eliminated, leaving a clear field for communist intervention. If Indonesia were to succumb to communism in these circumstances, the whole non-communist position in Viet-Nam, Thailand, and Malaya would be in grave peril, and as you know these are areas in which we in the United States have heavy commitments and burdens.

The Netherlands position, as we understand it, is that you wish to withdraw from the territory of West New Guinea and that you have no objection to this territory eventually passing to the control of Indonesia. However, The Netherlands Government has committed itself to the Papuan leadership to assure those Papuans of the right to determine their future political status. The Indonesians, on the other hand, have informed us that they desire direct transfer of administration to them but they are willing to arrange for the Papuan people to express their political desires at some future time. Clearly the positions are not so far apart that reasonable men cannot find a solution.

Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, who has undertaken the task of moderator in the secret talks between The Netherlands and Indonesia, has prepared a formula which would permit The Netherlands to turn over administrative control of the territory to a UN administrator. The UN, in turn, would relinquish control to the Indonesians within a specified period. These arrangements would include provisions whereby the Papuan people would, within a certain period, be granted the right of self-determination. The UN would be involved in the preparations for the exercise of self-determination.

My Government has interested itself greatly in this matter and you can be assured that the United States is prepared to render all appropriate assistance to the United Nations when the Papuan people exercise their right of self-determination. In these circumstances and in light of our responsibilities to the free world, I strongly urge that The Netherlands Government agree to meet on the basis of the formula presented to your representative by Mr. Bunker.

We are of course pressing the Indonesian Government as strongly as we can for its agreement to further negotiations on the basis of this same formula.

I have written to you in the spirit of frankness and trust which I hope is appropriate to the relation of our countries as friends and allies. What moves me is my conviction that in our common interest the present opportunities for peaceful settlement in this painful matter must not be lost.

Sincerely,

/s/ John F. Kennedy

His Excellency Dr. J. E. de Quay Prime Minister of the Netherlands, THE HAGUE

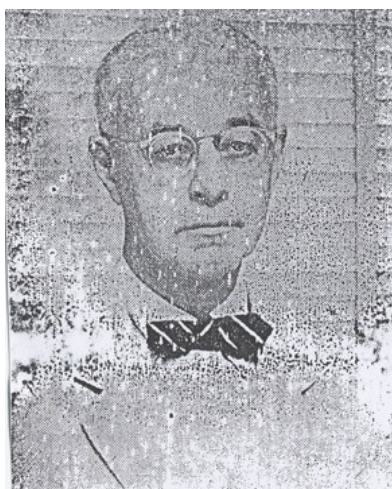
Rome Agreement, September 30th 1962

This Agreement was held in Rome, the Capital of Italy at 30th September 1962 after New York Agreement 15th August 1962. This Agreement came because the suggestion of Mr. Elsworth Bunker. It was signed by Indonesia, USA, and Nederland Kingdom.

The Rome Agreement provided among other this the following:

1. Referendum or the Act of Free Choice set for 1969 in the New York Agreement of August, 1962. To be delayed or possible cancelled.
2. Indonesia to rule West Papua for the next twenty - five years (25) effective from the first of May, 1963.
3. Method to be use in implementation of the Act of Free Choice or Referendum would be "Consultation system" in accordance with the Indonesian Parliamentary practice.
4. UN's final report on the implementation of the Act of Free Choice presented to the UN General Assembly be accepted without open debate.
5. The United State of America be responsible to make an investment through Indonesian State Companies for the Exploration of mineral, petroleum and other resources of West Papua.
6. The USA guarantees the Asian Development Bank US \$. 30 Million to be granted to the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) to develop West Papua for a Period of twenty-five (25) years.
7. The USA guarantees the World Bank funds for Indonesia to plan and implement its transmigration program where Indonesian was resettled in West Papua starting from 1977.

This Agreement was signature in the capital of Italy, Rome at 30th September 1962 after New York Agreement at 15th August 1962 in UN Headquarter. It was signature by 3 country; that is Republic of Indonesia, Nederland Kingdom, and United State of America.



Mr. Elsworth Bunker
Pension of USA Ambassador in India

Indonesian control and resistance



The *Morning Star*, [flag of West Papua](#), which represents the political separatist movement. Its display is currently prohibited in Indonesia.

At the [US White House](#) a proposal to have the Netherlands trade West New Guinea to [Indonesia](#) was opposed by the Bureau of European Affairs who viewed this "would simply trade white for brown colonialism"; but from April 1961 Robert Komer and McGeorge Bundy promoted a plan to have the United Nations give the transfer an outward appearance of legitimacy. Though reluctant, John Kennedy was told the transfer of the territory was the only means to prevent Indonesia turning to Soviet aid.^[4]

The *Morning Star* flag was raised next to the Dutch tricolour on [December 1, 1961](#), an act which Papuan independence supporters celebrate each year at flag raising ceremonies. National Committee Chairman Mr Inury said: *"My Dear compatriots, you are looking at the symbol of our unity and our desire to take our place among the nations of the world. As long as we are not really united we shall not be free. To be united means to work hard for the good of our country, now, until the day that we shall be independent, and further from that day on."*

On [January 2, 1962](#) Indonesia which had made seven known insurgency attempts since [1950](#) now created the Mandala Command headed by [Brig. General Suharto](#) to coordinate military efforts for the territory. Two previous insurgencies, Pasukan Gerilya 100 (November 1960) and Pasukan Gerilya 200 (September 1961), were followed by Pasukan Gerilya 300 with 115 insurgents leaving Jakarta on four Jaguar class torpedo boats ([January 15](#)), intercepted in the Aru Sea the lead boat was sunk and 51 survivors were picked up after Commodore Yos Sudarso went down with his boat.^[5]

Continuing US efforts to have the Netherlands secretly negotiate the transfer of the territory to Indonesian administration eventually succeeded in creating the "[New York Agreement](#)" signed in August 1962. The [Australian](#) government, which previously had been a firm supporter of the Papuan independence, also reversed its policy to support incorporation with Indonesia.^{[4][6]}

The agreement, ratified in the UN on [September 21, 1962](#), stipulated that authority would transfer to a [United Nations Temporary Executive Authority](#) (UNTEA) on [1 October 1963](#), and that once UNTEA had informed the public of the terms of the Agreement had the option to transfer administration of the territory to Indonesia after [May 1, 1963](#), until such time as an "Act of Free Choice" could determine the will of the people. Under Article 18 of the Agreement "all adults, male and female, not foreign nationals" were to be allowed to vote in an Act "in accordance with international practice". On [May 1, 1963](#) UNTEA transferred total administration of West New Guinea to the Republic of Indonesia. The capital Hollandia was renamed Kota Baru for the transfer to Indonesian administration and on [5 September 1963](#) West Irian was declared a "quarantine territory" with Foreign Minister Subandrio administrating visitor permits.



A [Sukarno](#)-era statue in [Jakarta](#) celebrating Indonesia's "liberation" of Irian.

Since the 1960s, consistent reports have filtered out of the territory of government [suppression](#) and [terrorism](#), including [murder](#), political [assassination](#), [imprisonment](#), [torture](#), and aerial bombardments. The Indonesian government disbanded the New Guinea Council and forbade the use of the West Papua flag or the singing of the national anthem. There has been considerable resistance to Indonesian integration and occupation, both through civil disobedience (such as Morning Star flag raising ceremonies) and via the formation of the [Organisasi Papua Merdeka](#) (OPM, or Free Papua Movement) in 1965. The movement's military arm is the TPN, or [Liberation Army of Free Papua](#). [Amnesty International](#) has estimated more than 100,000 [Papuan](#)s, one-sixth of the population, have died as a result of government-sponsored violence against West Papuan^[7] while others had previously specified much higher death tolls.^[8]

After General Suharto replaced Sukarno as President of Indonesia, [Freeport Sulphur](#) was the first foreign company awarded a mining license, a 30 year license to mine the [Tembagapura](#) region of Papua for gold and copper.

In [1969](#), General Sarwo Edhi Wibowo oversaw the Indonesian conduct of the widely criticized "[Act of Free Choice](#)." Prior to the vote, the Indonesian military rounded up and detained for one month a large group of Papuan tribal leaders. The Papuans were daily threatened with death at gunpoint if the entire group did not vote to continue Indonesian rule. Assembled troops and two Western observers acted as witnesses to the public vote; however, the Western observers left after witnessing the first two hundred (of 1,054) votes for integration. Concerned over Communism in South East Asia, and with an eye toward extracting Papua's vast mineral wealth, the US and other Western powers ignored protests over the circumstances surrounding the vote^[9] The process was deemed to have been an "Act of Free Choice" in accordance with the United Nations requirements, and Indonesia formally annexed the territory in August. Dissenters mockingly called it the "Act of No Choice" or "Act Free of Choice."

In [1971](#), construction of the world's largest copper and [gold mine](#) (also the world's largest open cut mine) began. Under an Indonesian agreement signed in 1967 (two years before the "Act of Free Choice"), the US company [Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.](#) obtained a 30-year exclusive mining license from Suharto in (dating from the mine's opening in 1973). The pact was extended in 1991 by another 30 years. After 1988 with the opening of the [Grasberg mine](#) it became the biggest gold mine and lowest extraction-price copper mine in the world. Locals made several violent attempts to dissuade the mine owners, including sabotage of a pipeline that July, but order was quickly restored.

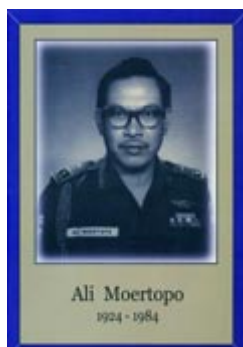
In the [1970s](#) and [1980s](#) the Indonesian state accelerated its [transmigration program](#), under which tens of thousands of [Javanese](#) and [Sumatran](#) migrants were resettled to Papua. Prior to Indonesian rule, the non-indigenous Asian population was estimated at 16,600; while the Papuan population were a mix of [Roman Catholics](#), [Protestants](#) and pagan people following tribal religions^[10]. Critics suspect that the transmigration program's purpose was to tip the balance of the province's population from the heavily Melanesian Papuans toward western Indonesians, thus further consolidating Indonesian control. The transmigration program officially ended in the late 1990s, although so-called "spontaneous migration" by western Indonesians voluntarily relocating to provinces such as Papua seeking economic opportunity has increased and remains at high levels.^[citation needed]

A separatist congress in [2000](#) again calling for independence resulted in a military crackdown on independence supporters. In [2001](#), a now-majority Islamic population was given limited autonomy. An August 2001, US [State Department](#) travel warning advised "all travel by US and other foreign government officials to [Aceh](#), Papua and the [Moluccas](#) (provinces of [North Maluku](#) and [Maluku](#)) has been restricted by the Indonesian government".

During the [Abdurrahman Wahid](#) administration in 2000, Papua gained a "Special Autonomy" status, an attempted political compromise between separatists and the central government that has weak support within the Jakarta government. Despite lack of political will of politicians in [Jakarta](#) to proceed with real implementation of the Special Autonomy, which is stipulated by law, the region was divided into two provinces: the province of [Papua](#) and the province of [Irian Jaya Barat](#) (now is Papua Barat or West Papua), based on a Presidential Instruction in January 2001, soon after President Wahid was impeached by the Parliament and replaced by Vice President [Megawati Sukarnoputri](#). The division of the province has neither directly cancelled the Law of Special Autonomy of Papua nor engaged ongoing protest in the region. There was brief consideration of dividing the territory into thirds, but the plan was quickly abandoned.

In January 2006, 43 [refugees](#) in a traditional canoe landed on the coast of Australia with a banner stating the Indonesian military was carrying out a genocide in Papua. They were transported to an Australian immigration detention facility on [Christmas Island](#), 2,600 km (1,400 nmi) north-west of Perth, and 360 km (190 nmi) south of the western head of Java. On [March 23, 2006](#), the Australian government granted temporary protection visas to 42 of the 43 having determined all 43 were bonafide refugees.^[11] A day later Indonesia recalled its ambassador to Australia.^[12]

Special Operation Before Act Of Self Determination



Special Operation is the one Intelligent organization in KOSTRAD (Komando Strategy Angkatan Darat) or Strategy Commando of Indonesia Military. It was built by Brigade General Ali Murtopo at year 1963. He is the one of the Indonesia's Intelligent and also the member of Soeharto (Ex. President Indonesia) and Sujono humardani. This organization was established for expansion area of Indonesia to Serawak (now is East Malaysia). But after success in expansion area to West Papua Nation that had proclamation by the facto at 1st December 1961. But because still some trouble about Indigenous Papuan over

there, so this organization came to West Papua island.

Some Special Operation that done in West Papua Island is burned the document about West Papua Nation who was hid by West Papuan, terror Indigenous People in West Papua, Intimidation Papuan, Jailed people, kidnap and also killed every West Papuan Indigenous who decline and Against Indonesia Government. Because of this Operation finally Indonesia Government could be the winner of Act of Free Choice (referendum) at year 1969 because Papuan representatives was choused by Indonesia Government and they put representative in Dewan Musyawarah PEPERA (Consultation Council of Self Determination). But if we look at the law and justice, so the referendum was took in West Papua is ILLEGAL or not legal because it was done by representatives (no one man one vote) like International Law for an referendum in one region. This is the total representative of referendum is 1026 people from 800,000 soul. Ali Murtopo always pressed the DMP members and show his gun in front of them and said: *We don't need you Papuan, we just need your Land and Natural Resources. If you want to get independent, so ask USA took you to the moon. And if you want to rejected the Indonesia Government, so I will kill you.*

See the table of the representatives and the total peoples of West Papua at year 1969 :

No.	Region / County	Total People	Representatives
1.	Merauke	144,171	175 peoples
2.	Jayawijaya	165,000	175 people
3.	Paniai	156,000	175 people
4.	Fak-fak	43,187	75 people
5.	Sorong	75,474	110 people
6.	Manokwari	49,974	75 people
7.	Teluk Cenderawasih	91,870	131 people
8.	Jayapura	83,750	110 people
The Total People		809,326 Peoples / soul	1026 Peoples / Soul

This organization does not only active in Act of Free Choice but also in General Election of Indonesia at year 1971 and after that. This body also playing in arranged the Politic Parties after year 1971 and then was stop at year 1974

Indonesia Military Operation in West Papua

OPERATION MANDALA was command by Major General Soeharto at year 1961. It's the first operation in West Papua because Dutch still there. Indonesia Military came and put the logos "Welcome Indonesia" but they was caught by Papuan Indigenous and give them to Dutch Military. So Indonesia Military angry and shoot Papuan house and kill them also.

OPERATION 'TUMPAS' (Operation 'Crush') during the time of General Kartidjo and General Bintoro (1964-1968). The aim of this operation is to kill Papuan who reject Indonesia Government before Self Determination or Referendum (Act of Free Choice) at year 1969.

OPERATION 'SADAR' (Operation 'Awareness') under General Sarwo Edhie (1969). This Operasion after Referendum, so that Papuan must received Indonesia Government.

OPERATION 'WIBAWA' (Operation 'Authority') under General Acub Zainul, (1970-1974) also known as the 'open-hand policy'. It's also killed Papuan who not received Indonesia government and they understood about Indonesia.

OPERATION 'KIKIS' (Operation 'Chipping Away') under General Imam Munandar, (1977). It was done only in Wamena region, Military came to killed, burned, bomb, etc.

OPERATION 'GALANG' (Operation 'Support') of 1981, under General Santoso, also known as the 'smiling policy'. Only in Jayapura. This operation was held in Jayapura city because so many Papuan reject the Act of Free Choice 1969

OPERATION 'SAPU-BERSIH' (Operation 'Clean-Sweep') under Generals Santoso and Sembiring (1981 to 1984)

In February 1984, the number of people who fled to Papua New Guinea amounted to: 5,000 Peoples but the number who arived not more then 3,000. The total number who disappeared: 2,000 Peoples. Now they so poor in refuges camp in PNG. But some of them had come back at October 2000 with their Organization that called WPIA (West Papua Interest Association) who command by Mr. Karel Waromi and John. C. Jambuani.

The Total of murders and disappearances: More then **100,000 Indigenous Papuan**



First Exodus to Papua New Guinea (PNG) at Februari 1984

Act of Free Choice (Self Determination) in Year 1969



Honorer to DMP Members after Act of Free Choice

Act of Free Choice ([Indonesian](#): **Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat, PEPERA**) was the title of an [Indonesian military](#) presentation in [1969](#) to establish an Indonesian claim that the Melanesian population of [Western New Guinea](#) had chosen Indonesian rule and rejected independence. General Sarwo Edhi Wibowo had approximately 1025 Melanesian men selected as the [West New Guinea](#) representatives.

Although United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2504 did acknowledge that an event called **Act of Free Choice** took place, neither the General Assembly nor International Court of Justice gave their opinion about the event, nor did they claim the Act to have been any form of [self determination](#).

International demands for the United Nations to resume its decolonization obligation for [Western New Guinea](#) increased after the publication of United States Department of State telegrams from 1968 and 1969 confirming US knowledge of the Indonesian military efforts to prevent a [referendum](#) or [plebiscite](#) by requiring the **Act of Free Choice** be conducted as a military version of Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat. Although the United Nations representative Ambassador [Fernando Ortiz-Sanz](#) was unable to get Indonesia to allow a "one-man, one-vote" within the territory, the Indonesian authorities declared that there was a unanimous vote against independence.

However, participants and other observers question the conduct and legitimacy of the process. They contend that the Indonesian process violated terms of the [New York Agreement](#) such as Article 18 which stated "The eligibility of all adults, male and female, not foreign nationals to participate in the act of self-determination to be carried out in accordance with international practice", and did not allow people to vote in their own plebiscite. Men who were selected for the vote subsequently testified that they had been [blackmailed](#) into voting against independence with threats of violence against their families and communities. Although Indonesia denies these allegations, recently released United States government correspondence indicates that the pro-Indonesian outcome was effectively agreed in advance between Indonesia and the U.S. [\[1\]](#)

Under Article 17 of the New York Agreement, the plebiscite was not to occur until one year after the arrival of U.N. representative Fernando Ortiz-Sanz in the territory on 22 August 1968. However after [NASA](#) announced the [Apollo 11](#) flight schedule to land on the Moon for July, Indonesia proposed the plebiscite be conducted six weeks early during July 1969. Later journalist Hugh Lunn would testify that the Reuter's agency repeatedly told its correspondents not to attend west Papua during the plebiscite.

Though the United Nations took note of the results; there has been continued calls for the United Nations to conduct its own referendum in accord with the original New York Agreement. Those calling for a vote, have also pointed to the 30 year license which Indonesia sold to the [Freeport-McMoRan](#) company for Papuan mining rights in [1967](#), and to the Indonesian military's response to the East Timor referendum, as support for discrediting the [1969](#) Act of Free Choice. The Indonesian Government position is that the United Nations noting of the results validates the conduct and results.

The referendum and its conduct had been specified in the [New York Agreement](#); Article 17 of which in part says:

"Indonesia will invite the Secretary-General to appoint a Representative who" .. "will carry out Secretary-General's responsibilities to advise, assist, and participate in arrangements which are the responsibility of Indonesia for the act of free choice. The Secretary-General will, at the proper time, appoint the United Nations Representative in order that he and his staff may assume their duties in the territory one year prior to

the self-determination." .. "The United Nations Representative and his staff will have the same freedom of movement as provided for the personnel referred to in Article XVI".

The agreement continues with Article 18:

Article XVIII

Indonesia will make arrangements, with the assistance and participation of the United Nations Representative and his staff, to give the people of the territory, the opportunity to exercise freedom of choice. Such arrangements will include:

- a. Consultation (musyawarah) with the representative councils on procedures and methods to be followed for ascertaining the freely expressed will of the population.
- b. The determination of the actual date of the exercise of free choice within the period established by the present Agreement.
- c. Formulations of the questions in such a way as to permit the inhabitants to decide (a) whether they wish to remain with Indonesia; or (b) whether they wish to sever ties with Indonesia.
- d. The eligibility of all adults, male and female, not foreign nationals to participate in the act of self-determination to be carried out in accordance with international practice, who are resident at the time of the signing of the present Agreement, including those residents who departed after 1945 and who returned to the territory to resume residence after the termination of the Netherlands administration.

But in the reality Indonesia only done consultation with the Council in Jayapura about the way to Self Determination at Mart 24th 1969. Then take decision to established the council of Self Determination or in Indonesia called Dewan Musyawarah PEPERA (DMP) by 1026 members from eight county that include 983 male and 43 female.

They (DMP) were choused directly by Indonesia without General Election in every place of West Papua. They were under Indonesia Military pressure by OPSUS leader Mr. Ali Murtopo. Then the members of DMP was putted in special place so the Indonesia Military could control them so that they could not communicated with other Papuan or their family also. Every day, they always ate suggestion so that they must choose Integrity to Indonesia and reject the independent so their soul will be saved.

Before the starter of PEPERA where start in Merauke at 14th July 1969 and ended in Jayapura at 4th August 1969, one team from Jakarta came who lead by Sudjarwo Tjondronegoro, SH. They arrived in Sukarnopura (Hollandia/Kota Baru / now is Jayapura) and with the members of DPRGR Irian Barat (Irian Barat Council) they around away every county in West Papua. This team done the earlier meetings with Papuan leaders to give the way when Act of Free Choice start because this PEPERA is formality only so Papuan leader don't speak personally but must in one voiced of acclamation that will be preparing by government of Indonesia and then DMP members just read it. But for the leaders who could not read, must remember it then spoke it. After that, the leaders of Papuan was took into special place and they was kept

by Indonesia Military Control under the commander of OPSUS Mr. Alimurtopo. He (Ali Murtopo) always terror and intimidation them (members of DMP), and the government always testing them to speak in one voice only that "West Papua is the Part of Indonesia Integrity". The Jakarta Team around West Papua starts from 24th Mart until 11th April 1969. Letter Decision of Internal Ministry no. 31/1969 (SK MENDAGRI no. 31/1969) established the Total of DMP's member. On 25th Mart 1969 was made DMP Committee. 9 peoples for every regency. So in 8 regency have 72 peoples who will be e member of DMP committee. DMP committee was choose by Indonesia Government and it must according with Indonesia's concept.

And then, the issue would be done in every regency. The rule of Self Determination was arranged by Indonesia until they just chose 1,025 peoples who contained between Indigenous and Not Indigenous who came to West Papua when Indonesia came. Non Indigenous was gave same status with Indigenous to be the member of DMP. Sorong, Manokwari, Biak and Jayapura were a danger area so Indonesia sent their Army Troops and Police to keep the PEPERA. They had put West Papua as the Military Operation Region (Daerah Operasi Militer) before the Act of Free Choice in year 1969.

So, in deep sadness Papuan chose to integrated into Republic of Indonesia in front of UN representative Mr. Orti Zans Fernando. Although some demonstration of Papuan Indigenous but they was shot, kidnap, beaten, caught, and jail and the reporter also forbidden by Indonesia Military.

After Self Determination, the members of DMP was gave radio, wood cutter, and promised give them money. Then in 1976 they was gave honorary charter and Rp. 200,000 (US. \$. 20), and when general election in 1992 they was gave money Rp. 150,000 (US. \$. 15). The total money Rp. 14, 000,000, 000,- (US. \$. 140,000) was sent from Jakarta but the money was corrupted by them (Indonesian).

The process of Self Determination was not accordance with International Practice that include in New York Agreement 15th August 1962 article 18 section d but accordance with Rome Agreement 30th September 1962 Article 1 & 2 that said Referendum or the Act of Free Choice set for 1969 in the New York Agreement of August, 1962. To be delayed or possible cancelled but Indonesia to rule West Papua for the next twenty - five years (25) effective from the first of May, 1963.

By this agreement, so Indonesia must came to West Papua, must sent their Transmigrant, received US. \$. 30 Million to develop West Papua, this fund as know as FUNDWI (Fund United Nation Donate for West Irian) and it was used to developed transportation.

And in 1967 Indonesia had give signature first contract for Freeport McMoran before Self Determination in 1969. It was caused by Rome Agreement had gave the opportunity America to invest to develop West Papua.

By this agreement also, so after Self Determination Indonesia never legalize West Papua into their statute but only legalize with President Decision no. 1 year 1963 (PENPRE no.1 Tahun 1963). This decision never changed into statute or in legislation council, it mean that West Papua Status is not balance in Indonesia Country (Status Quo of West Papua). By this PENPRES so they gave Special Autonomy to West Papua and gave different currency of money IB Rp (Irian Barat Rupiah) but then it was delayed by Article 6 of Assembly Resolution no. 21 Year 1966. And gave Special Autonomy back with Statute no. 21 Year 2001.

Accordance to that problem above until now West Papua never had opportunity and not have reality law for West Papuan in Indonesia Country. It's mean that West Papua still as the

Colonial Land in Indonesia. It was caused more than 100,000 Papuan Indigenous was killed, full discrimination in job, and many Indonesian said that Papua is the monkey, dirty, black, stupid, and so on.

Natural Resources

Papua is rich in oil and natural gas resources. Oil has been drilled in the province since the 1930s but while exploration continues and new discoveries have been made, many known basins have yet to be exploited.

Geologically, Papua lies in a unique position between two giant plates - the oceanic crust of the Pacific Plate and the continental crust of the Australian Plate. Tectonic movement of the plates for over millions of years has resulted in Papua being squeezed between the two. The result is the limestone mountain range in the middle of the province. In the process of its formation, the intrusion of acidic rocks caused a mineralization of base metals, from which copper and other mineral reserves are derived. PT Freeport Indonesia's mine in the Timika Regency contains the largest copper reserves in the world, along with gold and silver concentrates. Other fossil fuels and mineral ores include coal, peat, aluminum, nickel, chromium, cobalt, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, tin, tungsten and zinc, while industrial minerals include asbestos, graphite, marble, mica, opal, phosphate, quartz and talc.

FREEPORT McMORAN or FREEPORT INDONESIA COMPANY

The Gold, Copper, and Nickel that was allowed by Indonesia Government at year 1967 before Act of Self Determination in year 1969. Until now so many forest damaged, river pollution, and damaged environment near the area of mining. Many Papua was killed by Indonesia military, and the salary very low, so Papuan labor in that company done protest and demonstration but some of them who demonstration was take out from Company and now they lost the job. So many Engineer only from Java, Sulawesi and Sumatra.

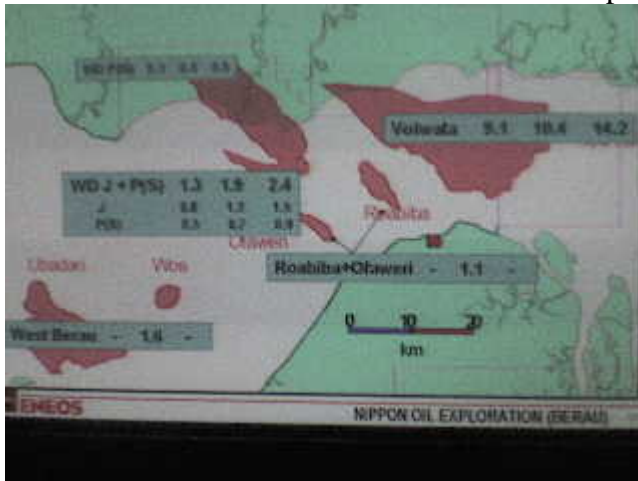
Last year Freeport hiding about Gold but now they said the big Gold in this world, so they gave name Tembagapura (Cooper lie). Eight mount have been exploited and now they found new Gold field in Serui Sea.





BRITISH PETROLEUM (BP)

And now is BP (British Petroleum or LNG Tangguh) wells in Bintuni Bay - West Papua. The total Gas contained more then 14.2 tcf like the picture below :



Source: Nippon Exploration (Berau)

Information : ■ = Gas Field

Exploration Map by Nippon Oil Exploration (Berau) 2007.

Gas Field in Vorwata 14.2 TCF, Roabiba 1.1 TCF, Otoweri 1.1 TCF, West Berau 1.4 TCF, Wariagar 2.4 TCF). The second target of BP is in Kaimana Block and Enanwatan Block and then in Fakfak area.

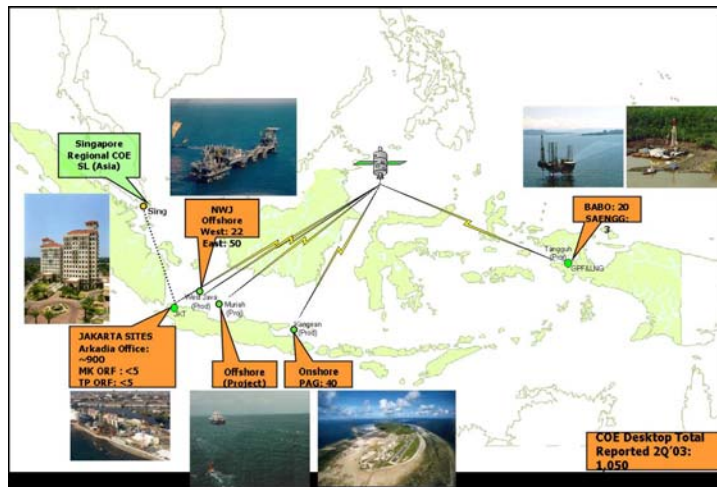
In BP, so many Papuan work as labor and peoples of Indonesia always discrimination to Papuan, always changed Papuan home base, not give Papuan compensation if they work in Java Island, never took engineer from Papuan. But only took 6 Papuan Engineer and one of them had go out because discrimination in Geological Department and the other one from IT Engineering was took out by IT Department because he always protest about discrimination in IT Department to him. The geologist is Otniel Wafom and the IT Engineer is Yohanis Anari.



Map of Bintuni Bay. (Click on picture to enlarge).



BP Shorbase Construction in Tanah Merah - Bintuni Bay



BP Telecommunication System from Jakarta to Papua

NATIONS PETROLEUM

Source : http://nationspetroleum.com/operations_worldwide_indonesia.html

<http://mid-gulf.com/main.htm>

Nations in Indonesia

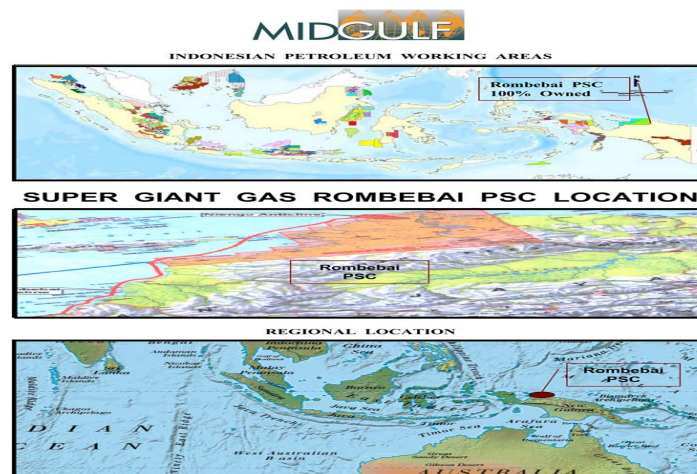
Indonesia's natural gas reserves are estimated to be the twelfth largest in the world, with a smaller amount of oil. Geological estimates suggest over 200 trillion feet (tcf) of natural gas and 77 billion barrels of oil.

Nations interests in Indonesia represent the company's first major foray into the natural gas business. Our PSCs with the Indonesian government are for both onshore and offshore gas prone properties, at Yapen and Rombebai, in the province of Papua.

Nations owns 100 per cent of the Rombebai lease, an almost 12,000 sq. km parcel located onshore near Lake Rombebai on the northwestern tip of Paupua.

The Yapen lease is on the northern side of Papua, near the islands of Biak and Yapen, northwest of Rombebai. Nations owns 85 per cent of this lease.

Nations also has two farm-in agreements in Indonesia. One is with Australian-based Cooper Energy for a 60 per cent interest in their PSC on the south side of Madura Island. The other agreement is with British-based Serica Energy PLC for a 45 per cent farm-in on their Biliton PSC. The Biliton PSC covers over 3,900 square kilometers, and is located in the Java Sea between the Indonesian islands of Java and Kalimantan.



Rombebai PSC Location. (Click on picture to enlarge).

Rombebai PSC:-

The Rombebai PSC covers 11,590 sq. km., (2.8 million acres) in the gas rich Waipoga Basin of Northern Papua, Indonesia. Rombebai PSC is a world class super giant gas source, strategically located to Asian - Americas markets. Complete technical work has been accomplished, amounting to over USD 60m by Shell with four wells having been drilled successfully with major gas finds. The entire coast of Northern Papua has a widespread distribution of seismically, "bright" gas charged sands. Major oil & gas companies have recently examined the Rombebai block technical data and have concluded multi trillion cubic feet of gas in the existing proven Shell anticlinal well test. The PSC enjoys the Frontier Fiscal Terms that guarantee 40% net contractor take for gas sales after full cost recovery and tax, the best gas fiscal terms available in Indonesia.

Special Autonomy

The Special Autonomy (Self Development) was given by Indonesia government for the first time at year 1963 by Soekarno (First President of Indonesia) by currency personally that is IB Rp (West Irian Rupiah) but afterwards was eliminated by Indonesia Assembly's Resolution No.XXI/MPRS/1966 Article 6 (When Soeharto as the second President of Indonesia). Therefore Papuan make big Revolution for West Papua Independent in 1-7 July 1998 (When Soeharto was dropped out from President's position). So the government gave Second Autonomy for West Papua by Indonesia's Legislation Article 21 year 2001 (When Megawati as the Fifth President). In it Legislation, include the symbols of Flag and Song was allowed but then Government not allow that symbols in government regulation No. 77 Year 2007. So, some of Papuan was jailed by Indonesia Police because used that flag or the symbol of flag.

Regions



Map of Papua and West Papua Province (before their separation) showing major cities and before designation of new regencies in 2004.

Indonesia structures regions by Regencies and districts within those. Though names and areas of control of these regional structures can vary over time in accord with changing political and other requirements, in 2004 Papua province (including what is now [West Papua province](#)) consisted of 27 regencies (kabupaten), 2 cities (kotamadya), 117 subdistricts (kecamatan), 66 kelurahan, and 830 villages (desa).

As of 2004, the Regencies in Papua province were: [Asmat](#), [Biak Numfor](#), [Boven Digoel](#), [Jayapura](#), [Kota Jayapura](#), [Jayawijaya](#), [Keerom](#), [Mappi](#), [Merauke](#), [Mimika](#), [Nabire](#), [Paniai](#), [Pegunungan Bintang](#), [Puncak Jaya](#), [Sarmi](#), [Supiori](#), [Tolikara](#), [Waropen](#), [Yahukimo](#), and [Yapen Waropen](#). The Regencies in the same time period for [West Papua province](#) were: [Fak-Fak](#), [Kaimana](#), [Manokwari](#), [Raja Ampat](#), [Sorong](#), [Kota Sorong](#), [Sorong Selatan](#), [Teluk Bintuni](#), and [Teluk Wondama](#).

In [2003](#) the western-most third of Papua province was split into a separate province, called [West Irian Jaya](#), which was itself renamed West Papua province in [2007](#).

[Jayapura](#), founded in [1910](#) as *Hollandia*, had by [1962](#) developed into a city with modern civil, educational, and medical services. Since Indonesian administration these services have been replaced by Indonesian equivalents such as the TNI (military) replacing the Papuan police force. The name of the city has been changed from Hollandia, to Kotabaru then Sukarnopura and finally Jayapura.

It is the largest city in Western New Guinea, boasting a small but active tourism industry, it is a neat and pleasant city built on a slope overlooking the bay. [Cenderawasih University](#) campus houses the [Jayapura Museum](#). [Tanjung Ria](#) beach, well-known to the Allies during World War II, is a popular holiday resort now with facilities for water sports, and General [Douglas MacArthur's](#) World War II quarters are still intact.

Geography

Land Area	
Area	420,540 km ² (162,371 sq mi)
Climate	
Rainfall	100 to 10,000 mm (4–400 in)
Temperature	0 to 32 °C (32–90 °F)
Humidity	80%

A central East-West [mountain range](#) dominates the geography of New Guinea, over 1,600 km (994 mi) in total length. The western section is around 600 km (373 mi) long and 100 km (62 mi) across. Steep mountains 3,000 to 4,000 m (9,850–13,100 ft) and up to 5,000 m (16,400 ft) high along the range ensures a steady supply of rain from the tropical atmosphere. The [tree line](#) is around 4,000 m (13,100 ft) [elevation](#) and the tallest peaks are snowbound year round.

Both north and west of the central ranges the land remains mountainous — mostly 1,000 to 2,000 m (3,300–6,660 ft) high — and covered by thick [rain forest](#) with a warm humid climate year round.

The third major habitat feature is the south east lowlands with extensive [wetlands](#) stretching for hundreds of kilometers.

The province has 40 major [rivers](#), 12 [lakes](#), and 40 [islands](#). The [Mamberamo](#) river, sometimes referred to as the "[Amazon](#) of Papua" is the province's largest river which winds through the northern part of the province. The result is a large area of lakes and rivers known as the Lakes Plains region. The vast southern lowlands, which consist of a mosaic of habitats including mangrove, tidal and freshwater swamp forest, and lowland rainforest, are home to a dense population of fishermen and gatherers such as the [Asmat people](#). The famous [Baliem Valley](#), home of the [Dani people](#) is a tableland 1,600 m (5,250 ft) above sea level in the midst of the central mountain range; [Puncak Jaya](#) (formerly *Carstensz Pyramid*) is a mist covered limestone mountain peak 4,884 m (16,024 ft) above sea level, the highest point in Indonesia.

The border with [Papua New Guinea](#) mostly follows the 141st meridian, with one section defined by the [Fly River](#). This border is largely unguarded, and has seen a dramatic amount of refugees and illegal aliens cross over to PNG to flee the Indonesians. There are no reliable estimates on how many have crossed.

Demographics

The combined population of the Indonesian provinces of West Irian Jaya and Papua, constituting all of Western New Guinea, was estimated to be 2,646,489 in [2005](#). The two

largest cities in the territory are Sorong in the northwest of the [Bird's Head Peninsula](#) and Jayapura in the northeast. Both cities have a population of approximately 200,000.

As in Papua New Guinea and some surrounding east Indonesian provinces, a large majority of the population is Christian. In the [2000](#) census 54% of West Papuans identified themselves as Protestant, 24% as Catholic, 21% as Muslim, and less than 1% as either Hindu or Buddhist. There is also substantial practice of [animism](#) among the major religions, but this is not recorded by the Indonesian census.

Tribes



Church in Kuala Kencana.

Western New Guinea is home to around 312 different tribes, including some [uncontacted peoples](#).^[13] The following are some of the most well-known:

- [Amungme](#)
- Arfak
- [Asmat](#)
- [Bauzi](#)
- [Biak](#) (Byak)
- [Damal](#)
- [Dani](#)
- Empur
- [Kamoro](#)
- [Kombai](#)
- [Korowai](#)
- [Lani](#)
- [Mee](#)
- [Nduga](#)
- [Sawi](#)
- [Sentani](#)
- [Yali](#)

Ecology

Animal Class	Est. Number
Mammals	180
Marsupial Mammals	70
Birds	700
Endemic Birds	450
Bats	70

A vital tropical rainforest with the tallest tropical trees and vast biodiversity, Papua's known forest fauna includes [marsupials](#) (including [possums](#), [wallabies](#), [tree-kangaroos](#), [cuscus](#)), other mammals (including the endangered long-beaked [echidna](#)), many bird species (including [birds of](#)

[paradise](#), [cassowaries](#), [parrots](#), [cockatoos](#)), the world's longest lizards (Papua [monitor](#)) and some of the world's largest butterflies.

The island has an estimated 16,000 species of plant, 124 genera of which are endemic.

The extensive waterways and wetlands of Papua are also home to salt and freshwater [crocodile](#), [tree monitor](#), [flying foxes](#), [osprey](#), [bats](#) and other animals; while the equatorial glacier fields remain largely unexplored.

In February 2005, a team of scientists exploring the [Foja Mountains](#) discovered numerous new species of birds, butterflies, amphibians, and plants, including a species of [rhododendron](#) which may have the largest bloom of the genus.^[14]

Ecological dangers include deforestation at an alarming rate; the spread of the exotic [Crab-eating Macaque](#) (monkey) which now threatens the existence of many native species; pollution such as [Grasberg mine](#) dumping 190,000 tons^[vague] of copper and gold tailings into the rivers system each day.

Culture

West Papuans share many affinities with the [culture of Papua New Guinea](#) (PNG) to the east. As with PNG, the peoples of the highlands have distinct traditions and languages from peoples of the coasts.

Many aspects of West Papuan culture have been forcibly repressed since the area's 1963 incorporation into the Indonesian state. In 2001 the province was granted special autonomy by the Indonesian government, opening the possibility of increased indigenous [cultural production](#) and arts venues.

Some Papuans fear that the history of Indonesian repression, education, propaganda, and transmigration have negatively impacted Papuan cultures. In March 2003 [John Rumbiak](#) stated that Papuan culture "will be extinct" within 10 to 20 years, if the present rate of assimilation in the region continues.^[15] In response to such criticism the Indonesian government states that the special autonomy arrangement specifically addresses the ongoing preservation of Papua culture, and that the [transmigration program](#) was "designed specifically to help the locals through knowledge transfer."^[16] Papua advocates view such responses as a continuation of the Indonesian state's tendency to view Papuans as "primitives" in need of "development."^[17]

In some parts of the highlands, the [koteka](#) is traditionally worn by males in ceremonial contexts. Despite government efforts to suppress it, the use of the koteka as everyday dress by [Dani](#) males in Western New Guinea is still very common.

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Notes

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3. [^ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 448\(V\)](#)
4. [^ ^a ^b US Foreign Relations, 1961–63, Vol XXIII, Southeast Asia.](#)
5. [^ Conboy, Ken. 2003. Kopassus. Equinox Publishing, Jakarta Indonesia. ISBN 979-95898-8-6](#)
6. [^ US President letter.](#)
7. [^ Report claims secret genocide in Indonesia - University of Sydney](#)
8. [^ West Papua Support](#)
9. [^ Saltford, John. 2003. The United Nations and the Indonesian Takeover 1962-1969: The Anatomy of Betrayal. NY: Routledge.](#)
10. [^ Report on Netherlands New Guinea for the Year 1961, Appendix](#)
11. [^ Papua refugees get Australia visa – BBC News – 23 March 2006.](#)
12. [^ Indonesia recalls Australia envoy – BBC News – 24 March 2006.](#)
13. [^ Survival International - Papua](#)
14. [^ Robin McDowell: 'Lost world' yields exotic new species – The Vancouver Sun – February 8, 2006](#)
15. [^ The exile who fights for the rights of all Papuans - By Martin Flanagan, The Age – 27 February 2003](#)
16. [^ Letter to the Editor: "Papua culture is not at risk." - The Age, 3 March 2003](#)
17. [^ Denise Leith, 2003. The Politics of Power: Freeport in Suharto's Indonesia, University of Hawai'i Press, Honolulu.](#)

Further reading

Penders, C.L.M., *The West New Guinea debacle. Dutch decolonisation and Indonesia 1945-1962*, Leiden 2002, [KITLV](#)

External links

- [West Papua Indigenous Organization \(WPIO\)](#)
- [International Action for West Papua](#)
- [Free West Papua](#)
- [Extensive Library, some material written by Lani \(highland\) tribespeople](#)
- [PapuaWeb](#)
- ["Human Abuse in West Papua - Application of Law to Genocide"](#)
- [West Papua Information Kit \(Govt. and NGO reports, news items and contemporary\)](#)
- [Declassified US documents on "Act of free choice"](#)
- [Papua Press Agency](#)
- [Papuan Independence Organisations](#)
- [Conservation International's program in Mamberamo Basin](#)
- [Monkeys Threaten Papua's Wildlife](#)
- [Wetlands International Study on western Papua wetlands](#)