

France in what is known as a "condominium," and in Canton Island shared a similar condominium with the United States. In fact, politically, the islands of the South Seas formed a crazy quilt.

The situation in the thirty-odd years from 1900, when the importance of the islands as ports of call and coaling stations had begun to appear, had not changed greatly except in the redistribution of the German-held territories following the last war. By the turn of

the century Germany had taken over the stake already established by large German merchant companies in New Guinea, Western Samoa, and the Micronesian islands. France had established herself in New Caledonia, in the Society Islands, and other eastern groups—the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, Gambiers, and Australs. The United States had acquired Guam and the Philippines from Spain, and had annexed Hawaii and Eastern Samoa. Chile had taken over Easter Island, the



The expansion of the Japanese Empire. Occupied areas in black with the years of occupation shown.