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Cultural Discussions

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The Similarities in the Oceanian Culture

The cultural customs of the Pacific Islands and the Australian have a lot in common. They have the same Polynesian roots and were affected by the same cultural influences as both were influenced by the western settlers from the United Kingdom during the colonization period. Their cultures were evolved from the native population of their states: the Australian Aborigines and New Zealand's Maori being the major two groups of the numerous ones. There are many similarities between the Aborigines and the Maori. For one, they follow the same beliefs of animism (Perkins), a perspective that everything, living or living, has a supernatural power. We can also observe that the Hawaiian culture as an amalgamation of both cultures as they were skilled in seafaring (Wood). There is also a slight difference in the religious thought of the Polynesian Triangle, as their origin stories of humanity were altered due to the fact that there were no written records of any religious traditions in the Polynesian Triangle, be it the story of the Origin of the Aborigines (Blackmore) or the Maori Genealogy of Po, The Creation, Heaven and Earth (Mahuika). The modern culture similarities are also quite similar due to the common influence of the rule of the British Empire in one way or another. (Hawaii was annexed by the American who were, in turn, ruled by the British till 1776).

There is also a striking similarity between the states of the Polynesian Triangle as all of these have thriving tourism industries in one form or another (Chris Cooper). Australian regions of Tasmania and the Gold Coast as just as popular as the Bay of Islands in New Zealand, while Hawaii as a whole is the world’s most frequent destination for luxury cruises. This factor shows that Oceania can be classified as a single region due to striking similarities at several levels.

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