

**PERFIDY IN PARADISE ?  
ISLANDS' EXOGENOUS AND INDIGENOUS APPROPRIATIONS**  
Some recent and continuing reported cases

James Lewis June 2009

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Identified as an island characteristic (Lewis 2009), vulnerability to historically exogenous and indigenous hazards has included appropriation by colonial powers and maladministration by indigenous authorities. That on some islands these characteristics continue to be perpetrated and do not belong only to history is indicated by the cases that follow [1]. Although such characteristics are not unique to islands, it appears that other characteristics, such as remote isolation, smallness and containment for example, might lend themselves to covert complicity, secrecy and concealment, and obscurity of action. At 53 per cent, more than half of all tax havens are islands (OECD see notes below). The additional and ultimate appropriation of some islands, however, is that of rising seas.

Sovereignty References	Island name <i>Status where not an extension of mainland administration</i>	Appropriation / misappropriation/ maladministration	Year
<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b> Cohen N (2009) Clark A (2008) Clark A (2009a) Mathiason N (2009a) Clark, A (2009b)	<b>Antigua</b>	Alleged corruption and fraud "Code of silence" after murder of two tourists Charges of fraud, money laundering and corrupt payments Sued by investors from US, Mexico, Colombia & Peru re fraud Allen Stanford pleads not guilty of using island bank as "personal playground"	
<b>Australia</b> MacKinnon I (2008)	<b>Christmas Island (Indian Ocean)</b> <i>Territory of Australia</i>	Detention centre for asylum seekers	2008

McMahon B (2008)	<b>Tiwi Islands</b>	Location of an institution for part-Aboriginal children	
<b>Republic of Brazil</b> Kelly A (2009)	<b>Fernando de Noronha</b>	"Temporary morgue" after Airbus 330 crash at sea	2009
<b>Republic of Cape Verde</b> IRIN (2008)	<b>Cape Verde Islands</b>	Alleged money laundering	2008
<b>Cook Islands</b> Davies N (2009)	<b>Cook Islands</b> <i>Self governing parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand</i>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Dominica</b> Davies N (2009)	<b>Dominica</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Greece</b> Smith H (2008) Smith H (2009)	<b>Agathonisi</b> <b>Mytilene &amp; Samos</b>	Refuge for asylum seekers and economic migrants Refuge for asylum seekers and economic migrants	2008
Smith H (2008) Lyll S (2008) Wintour P & Watt N (2008)	<b>Corfu</b>	Seeking autonomy from Greece Location for alleged covert political party funding negotiations	2008 2008
<b>India</b> Rahman M (2009)	<b>Andaman Islands</b>  <b>Nicobar Islands</b>  <b>Ghoramara</b>	Refuge for asylum seekers and economic migrants  Refuge for asylum seekers and economic migrants  Sundarban islands threatened by rising sea levels	2009  2009  2008 ongoing

	<b>Sagar</b>	Sundarban islands threatened by rising sea levels	2008 ongoing
<b>Italy</b>			
Hooper J (2009)	<b>Lampedusa (Pelagie Islands)</b>	Refuge for asylum seekers and economic migrants	2009
Kington K (2009)	<b>Sicily</b>	Alleged corruption	Endemic
Lewis J (2008)			
Hooper J (2007)			
<b>Kenya</b>			
Rice X (2008)	<b>Lamu</b>	Proposed by Qatar for development as a port as a concession for 40,000 hectares of the mainland for crop production	2008
<b>Republic of Malta</b>			
Davies N (2009)	<b>Malta</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Republic of Marshall Is</b>			
Davies N (2009)	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Republic of the Maldives</b>			
Ramesh R (2008)	<b>Maldivian Islands</b>	Appropriation by rising sea levels	Ongoing
Henley J (2008)			
Buncombe A (2008)		Seeking to lease 31 of its uninhabited islands for tourist resorts	Ongoing
Stefanova K (2009)			
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>			
Davies N (2009)	<b>Mauritius</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Republic of Nauru</b>			
Davies N (2009)	<b>Nauru</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Niue</b>			

Davies N (2009)	<b>Niue</b> <i>self governing in free association with New Zealand</i>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Republic of Palau</b> Watts J & MacAskill (2009)	<b>Palau Islands</b>	Acceptance of 17 Uighur former prisoners from Guantanamo at the request and financial inducement of the US Government	2009
<b>Independent State of Samoa</b> Davies N (2009)	<b>Samoa</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>St Lucia</b> Davies N (2009)	<b>St Lucia</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>St Vincent</b> Davies N (2009)	<b>St Vincent &amp; Grenadines</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Republic of Seychelles</b> Davies N (2009)	<b>Seychelles</b>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
<b>Republic of South Africa</b> Beaumont P (2008)	<b>Robben Island</b>	Alleged corruption in management of Robben Island (Museum)	
<b>Spain</b> Tremlett G (2009)	<b>Canary Islands</b> <i>Spanish Autonomous Community</i>	Corruption in land dealings for wind turbines	2009
Keeley G (2008)	<b>Lanzarote</b>	Organised crime and corruption/illegal hotel buildings	2008
Hamilos P (2007)	<b>Balearic Islands: Ibiza/Mallorca/Menorca</b>	} Coastline development for tourism suspended }	2007

Kingdom of Tonga McMahon B (2008)	<b>Tonga</b>	King relinquished "near-absolute rule"	2008
Tuvalu Lewis J (2009)	<b>Tuvalu</b>	WW2 occupation by US troops and landing strip construction Appropriation by rising sea levels	1940-1945 Ongoing
United Kingdom	<b>Alderney</b> <i>British Crown Dependency</i>	Concentration camp during WW2 German occupation	1940-1945
Davies N (2009) Hencke D (2008)	<b>Anguila</b> <i>British Overseas Territory</i>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
Bowcott O (2008)	<b>Ascension</b> <i>A dependency of the British Overseas Territory of St Helena</i>	UK claims 200,000 sq kms of Atlantic seabed	2008
Lawrence F (2009) Guardian/AP (2009)	<b>Bermuda</b> <i>British Overseas Territory</i>	Offshore tax haven Acceptance of 4 Uighur former prisoners from Guantanamo at the request of the US Government	Current [4] 2009
Davies N (2009) Mathiason N <i>et al</i> (2009) Mathiason N & Doran J (2009) Jennings, C (2009) Treanor, J (2009) Mathiason, N (2009c)	<b>Cayman Islands</b> <i>British Overseas Territory</i>	Offshore tax haven threatened by bankruptsy; UK refused request to assist  Secrecy refuted Buys "troublesome assests" from Barclays who send managers Refuses to raise taxes against losses	2009 OECD compliance [3]
The Guardian 2009 Walker P (2009)	<b>Christmas Island (Pacific)</b> <i>British Territory until 1971; now part of the Republic of Kiribati</i>	Neuclar bomb tests by UK and USA	1957-1962

Berlins M (2008) Campbell D (2008) Norton-Taylor R (2008) Doward J (2008) Zagorin A (2008)	<b>Diego Garcia/Chagos Is</b> <i>British Indian Ocean Territory</i>	Military aircraft refuelling base Population removed "Extraordinary rendition" by US authorities (with UK complicity) Alleged torture by US authorities (with UK complicity)	1970s 1970s 2008 2006/2008
Booth R (2009)	<b>Falkland Islands</b>	Alleged "economic warfare" waged by Argentina	2009
Leigh D (2009) Mathiason, N (2009d)	<b>Isle of Man</b>	Offshore tax haven UK cuts island budget by 24%	Alleged 2008
Ramnarayan, A (2009)	<b>Isle of Wight</b>	Woman asked to leave shop for speaking Welsh	2009
Pidd H (2008) Taylor, M (2009) Press Association (2009) Davies N (2009) Mathiason N (2009b) Pidd, H (2009)	<b>Jersey</b> <i>British Crown Dependency</i>	Complicity & secrecy of physical abuse at child care institution Care home abuser Aubin sentenced to two years probation Care home abuser Wateridge sentenced to two years in prison Offshore tax haven  Conspiracy to import cannabis worth £1 million	Revealed 2008   2009 OECD compliance [3]
Addley, E (2009)	<b>Little Cumbrae</b> <i>Scotland</i>	Pilgrimage centre and planned yoga retreat	2009
Davies N (2009)	<b>Montserrat</b> <i>British Overseas Territory</i>	Offshore tax haven	Current [4]
	<b>Orkney</b>	Ritual abuse at a child care institution: ?	1990s
Marks, K (2004)	<b>Pitcairn</b> <i>British Overseas Territory</i>	Guilty as "bullies, rapists and abusers"	2004
Lewis J (1979)	<b>Portland</b>	Cement manufacture	Ongoing

Prison  
Young offenders' institution  
Military underwater research

Cohen N (2008)

**Sark**

*One of the Channel Islands and a British Crown Dependency. Claims jurisdiction over the island of **Brecqhou** which is in private ownership*

"The last feudal state in Europe" continues to be dominated by the Seignure subject to democratic elections commenced in 2007 and due for completion in 2009

Reid M (2008)

**St Kilda**

Population evacuated  
World Heritage Site and National Trust for Scotland bird sanctuary  
Suspected rat infestation

1930  
'1986  
2008

Doward J (2009)

Macalister T (2009)

Smith D (2008)

Jones, S (2009)

Davies N (2009)

Beaumont P (2009)

Auld, Robin (2009)

Mathiason, N (2009a)

**Turks and Caicos**

*British Overseas Territory*

Alleged endemic and systemic corruption  
Offshore tax haven  
Government suspended by UK over alleged corruption and debt  
UK resumed control

Revealed 2008  
Current [4]  
July 2008  
August 2009

**United States of America**

Davies N (2009)

Goldenberg S (2009)

**US Virgin Islands**

*Unincorporated US Territory*

Offshore tax haven

Current [4]

**Mariana Islands**

*A Commonwealth of the USA*

200,000 sq miles of Pacific Ocean designated as a conservation area as protection against energu exploration

2009

McCrum, R (2009)

**Martha's Vineyard**

*Massachusetts*

Fashionable location for Democrat vacations

## NOTES

[1] For further information on island vulnerability please refer to <http://www.islandvulnerability.org>

[2] For information on European Islands please refer to <http://www.islandvulnerability.org/docs/lewiseuropeanislands.pdf>

[3] Acceptance of OECD principles for the exchange of information on tax by offshore tax havens (see references)

[4] No record of acceptance of OECD principles for the exchange of information on tax (see references)

For OECD criteria for tax havens and information by country see:

[http://www.oecd.org/document/23/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33745\\_30575447\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/23/0,3343,en_2649_33745_30575447_1_1_1_1,00.html)

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