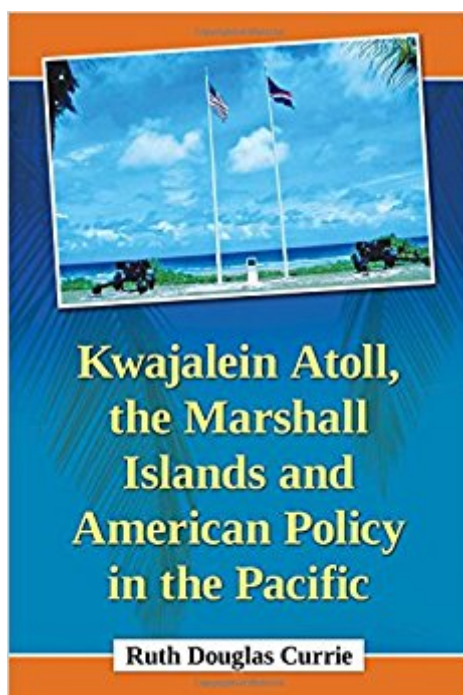


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Kwajalein Atoll, The Marshall Islands And American Policy In The Pacific



Synopsis

For centuries, the Marshall Islands have been drawn into international politics, primarily because of their central location in Oceania. After World War II they came into the American sphere as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. At the outset of the Cold War, the Marshalls were a site for nuclear tests and later for the U.S. Army's ballistic missile testing as part of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. This book focuses on the islanders' tenacious negotiations for independence and control of their land, accomplished as the Republic of the Marshall Islands in a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. The creation of American policy in the Pacific was a struggle between the U.S. departments of the Interior and State, and the military's goals for strategic national defense, as illustrated by the case of the Army's base at Kwajalein Atoll.

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Ruth Douglas Currie is a professor emerita in the History Department, Appalachian State University. She served four years as command historian, U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command, and recently retired as a professor of history and political science at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina.

A fascinating history of the Marshall Islands from the beginning of American colonial ambitions in the Pacific during the 1800s through the 25th anniversary of the independence of The Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2012. The book insightfully describes the role played by the Marshalls in both the competition among European powers prior to World War I for Pacific colonial possessions and the conflict between Japan and the United States leading up to World War II. The work focuses on the complicated and sometimes difficult relationship between the Marshall Islands and the United States after World War II. The painfully slow process of the Marshall Islands evolving from trusteeship to independence is skillfully chronicled in great detail. Substantial attention is given to the conflict and sometimes competition among different federal departments concerning the governance and future of the Marshalls. The book also skillfully describes the role of the various post World War II U. S. presidents in managing the often contradictory goals of the United States and directing the future of the Marshalls. This is an excellent work that covers the subject in both detail and clarity.

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