

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: **Bau, Fijian, Polynesian**

1.2 Location: **Fiji**

1.3 Brief history: **Originally settled about 3500 years ago by Polynesian ancestors. Fiji has undergone major government hardships, with a coup in 1987 and another one in 2000. Fijians are agriculturalists that specialize in sea canoes as well as sugar. The Fijians were traditionally made of clans and chiefdoms but turned into a republic, although recently, the traditional ways of chiefdoms are starting to reappear.**

1.4 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **Schools and radios are shown even in the most remote villages and 92% of all Fijians can read and write.**

1.5 Ecology: **The Fijian Islands are a cluster of several hundred small and a few large mountainous islands about 300 km from Australia. Flora is largely derived from Malesia. Cyclones are common along the coasts of the islands rarely causing more than minimal damage.**

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **Colocasia taro, yams, breadfruit, sweet potatoes and green bananas.**

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **Fish, ocean animals**

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: **spears, bow and arrows, guns are more present today**

2.4 Food storage: **N/A**

2.5 Sexual division of production: **Men deal with the agriculture primarily while women fish (either by line or net) and collect mollusks and other sea products as well as fetch water, cook, and care for the home and children. Lack of responsibility for young children lasts until age 14 and the heavier tasks fall on the younger men and women. Seniors organize household production**

2.6 Land tenure: **Land is held by the “family”.**

2.7 Ceramics: **Traditional crafts include the making of pots, woven mats, and fine bark cloth (made by women) and carving whalebone ivory, making spears and clubs, bowls for ceremonial drinking and double hulled sea canoes (made by men)**

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **Food and farm tools must be shared with those who ask for them.**

2.9 Food taboos: **None that were found**

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? **Double hulled sea canoes**

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): **N/A**

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): **N/A**

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): **N/A**

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): **females-anywhere between 25-19**

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): **2.89 children born/woman**

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): **15-25 months**

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): **females-18.8 years old**

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **Divorce could be easily affected by either party, but no statistics were found**

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **Nonsororal polygyny (man’s status was defined by his number of wives). Great chiefs married many times and the status of the first wife was distinctly superior.**

4.8 Arranged marriage, bride purchase/service, dowry: **Arranged marriages are rarely used today, but traditionally, a marriage would be arranged by the man’s parents and senior members of his clan and would have been based on the relationship that would be created between the 2 clans**

4.9 Inheritance patterns: **Houses are allocated by the family head and remain under his control (as well as garden plots and canoes). At his death, his surviving senior sibling determines the disposition of the house if there are no mature sons. With regard to the chiefs, a council of the whole tribe would determine succession and all the rights to property.**

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Children are subordinate to parents, but are ranked relative to each other by birth order. Obedience and respect are demanded of the child by the father; father is primary disciplinary; mother is more indulgent than the father particularly towards boys and young men of the family.**

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: **N/A**

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): **It is assumed that the practice of exogamy was apparent sometime but it has disappeared.**

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized? **Paternity is a very serious thing in Fiji. There are cases of paternal filicides ranging in reasons from questioning paternity to suspicions of adultery on the mother’s behalf.**

4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”) **N/A**

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? **N/A**

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: **Sexual coercion, rape, prostitution, pornography and early marriage are all shown in Fiji, although the numbers increase after a coup and then decline again.**

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): **Cross cousin**

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? **A woman is considered undesirable somewhere in her mid-thirties, the fact that she may still be desired by young men or have sex with her husband is not recognized. Unmarried girls may provoke desire in young men**

and may joke and tease unmarried men but it is up to the young men to realize the sexual potential of the situation. Female desire is unspoken and women's desire should await arousal by her husband. A woman's desire must be only for her husband once she is married otherwise beating may occur.

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: N/A

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? **Sisters of the mother would raise the child should the mother die and the child be raised around them. If no sisters are available, other women in the clan would care for the child.**

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: **approx. 1 male/female**

4.22 Evidence for couvades: N/A

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): **Marriages appear to be geared more towards older/higher ranking father**

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? N/A

4.24 Joking relationships? **Cross cousin relationships override hierarchy. For example, a young man may joke with a women 30 years older than him or compete with a chief for buying drinks, provided he is a cross cousin to both of them.**

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: **Patrilineal**

4.26 Incest avoidance rules: **Incest avoidance rules not only affect blood sisters but tribal sisters as well. Incest is taken very strictly. It is not allowed.**

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? **There is a formal marriage ceremony with both families. Both the bride and groom get wrapped in Tada paper**

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? N/A

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) **Marriage alliances preferred between cross cousins however marriage between tribes is possible only after formal request.**

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: **Most reasons for warfare were for territory or for resources. No in group warfare was found. Clubs are a favorite weapon since most warfare is done man to man. Women and children often get caught up in battles and are spared no mercy and often get kill ruthlessly. It is during warfare that the Fijians practice cannibalism since the dead are hated enemies**

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **No mobility was found**

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **Republic (currently) but prior to coup, chiefdoms/clans**

5.4 Post marital residence: **Patrilocal residence**

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization: **Traditional extended family consisted of several married pairs and their children, inhabiting separate dwellings by sharing and cooperating in one cook house. Men of the family would be closely related to the paternal line, but a daughter and her husband might also belong.**

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): **There were spirit houses that were separate from the main dwellings**

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? **The foundation of the houses are made with coconut leaves and flattened bamboo to make giant floor mats that cover the floor. At one of the house there is a raise platform covered in hibiscus fibre and many layers of a finely woven sleeping mats(this is where the man and woman of the housesleep), everyone else sleeps on mats on the floor.**

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: **Clans**

5.12 Trade: **Trade mostly with Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Japan. Goods imported: machinery & transport equipment, petroleum products, food, chemicals.**

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **There are indications of social hierarchies with chiefs at the top followed by warriors and kin. It is possible for someone to move up the hierarchical ladder by showing bravery and fierceness in battle. One can only move so far up however.**

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **Originally, animal forms were worshipped. Each group had its own set of animal and plant totems. Now, most all Fijians are Christian.**

6.2 Stimulants: **Disease was understood as deriving from malevolence of the spirits, especially after violating a taboo. Women collected compounded herbal cures and men applied them (due to a belief that men possessed heavenly powers whereas the strength of women came from the earth). Massage was also an important healing technique although women only massaged women and men only massaged men.**

- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **Ceremonies were mainly associated with life cycles and intergroup relationships as well as ceremonies asking for forgiveness when reconciliation was wished for which ending in drinking kava. Birth, marriage and death ceremonies are biggest ceremonies.**
- 6.4 Other rituals: **Priests formed hereditary clans that performed important divinatory and healing roles and acting as the voice of ancestral gods.**
- 6.5 Myths (Creation):
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): **Singing, chanting, dancing, and joke telling are traditional arts. Men and women never danced together and had completely different dances (both danced standing and sitting however). The women's dance used delicate hand movements while the men's dance included fans, spears, clubs, and/or sticks.**
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect: **Missionaries tried to rid the idea of the ancient beliefs (animism) but it resurfaced several times at the end of the 19th century usually in the form of atavistic cults.**
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **Extremely elaborate ceremony (especially if the status of the deceased was high). After the burial of the high chief, a taboo was laid on the waters around Bau and the women, having kept vigil over the corpse for 4-10 days would cut their hair. Only after 100 nights of mourning would the taboos be lifted. The wives were strangled so they could go with their husbands into the spirit world. The unmarried were buried with a club for their own defense in the spirit world.**
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? N/A
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? **None that I found**

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: **Oils are used regularly, most of them are fragranced.**
- 7.2 Piercings: **none but ears were made mention**
- 7.3 Haircut: **No special ceremonies for hair cutting, but unmarried women wear virgin locks prior to marriage.**
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): **Traditional clothing was loin cloths and grass skirts(short for unmarried women and long for married women), most have the lower parts of their bodies tattooed.**
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: **Tapa cloth is worn by both men and women in special ceremonies, such as marriages.**
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
- 7.8 Missionary effect: **Missionaries didn't have a large effect on adornment; however in present day clothing is shifting towards a more western approach.**
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: **Siblings were ranked in order of births and to which mother. The first son of the first wife is regarded as the highest child.**
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate:
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): **Sharp distinction between cross and parallel relatives, but bifurcate merging occurs in all but the second descending generation, in which kinship is generational. Among chiefly families relationships between ego and mother's brother are used to cement ties with other chiefdoms**

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Only native Fijians and the government can own property. There were some mentions of cannibalism, but nothing very consistent.

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