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Since the 16th Century Europeans came in the Pacific looking for minerals

- Spaniards, looking at expanding their profits made in the New World, ventured into the Pacific from their American colonies.
- Their official instructions (example of 1606): « Learn from the natives... whether they have gold in dust, or in small lumps, or in ornaments ; silver worked or to be worked : metals, all kinds of pearls, spices and salt [...] Never allow our people to mix with the natives, nor leave them to join company, owing to the danger [...]

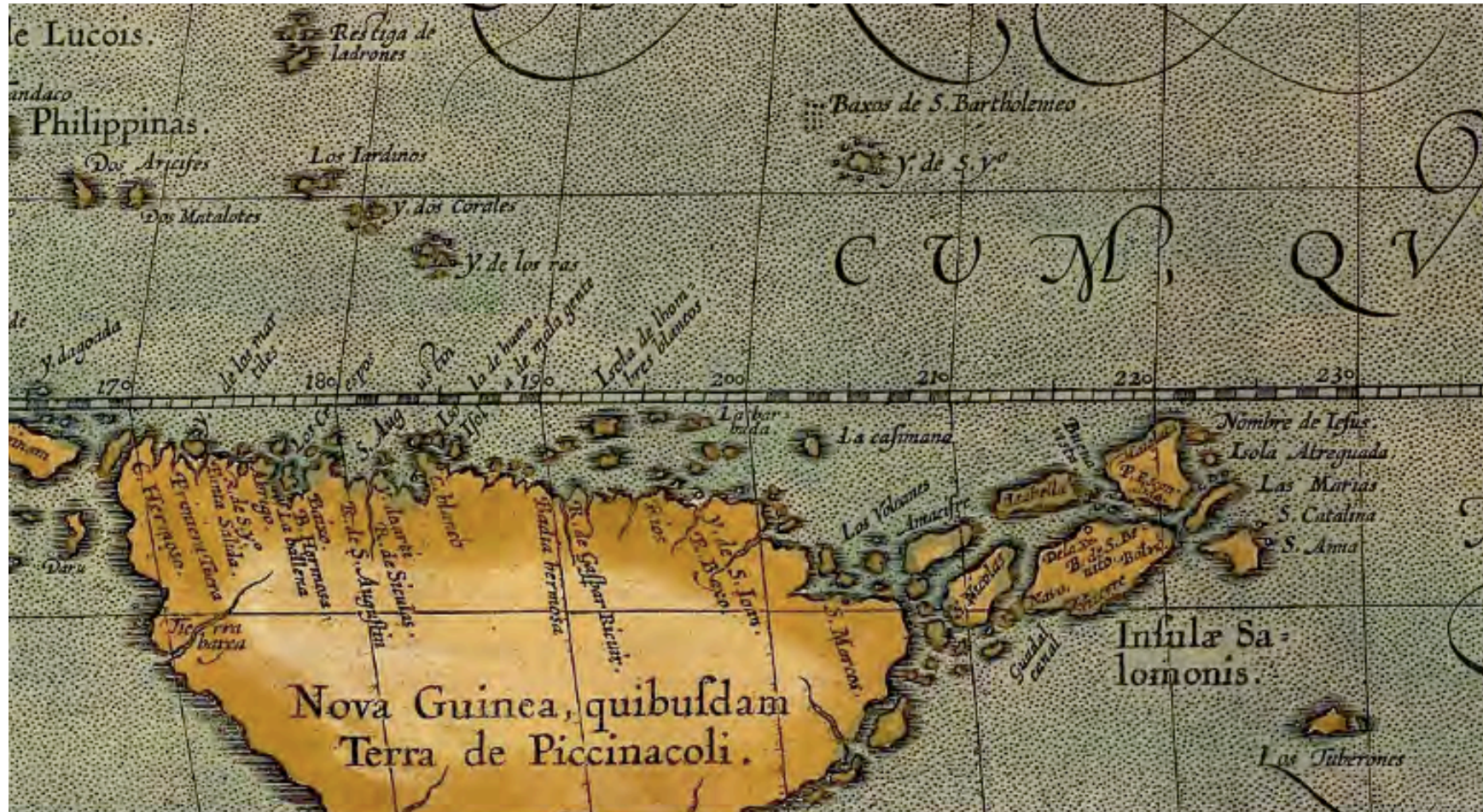
Mendana 1568 sailed from Peru and encountered the Solomon Islands

- Rumours in Peru mentioned islands rich in gold. Mendana did not find it in the Solomon but on his return let people believe he did. Himself and/or Europeans cartographers named these islands in reference to King Solomon gold. The name went on maps. Today, it is an independant state

Mendana's route in 1568

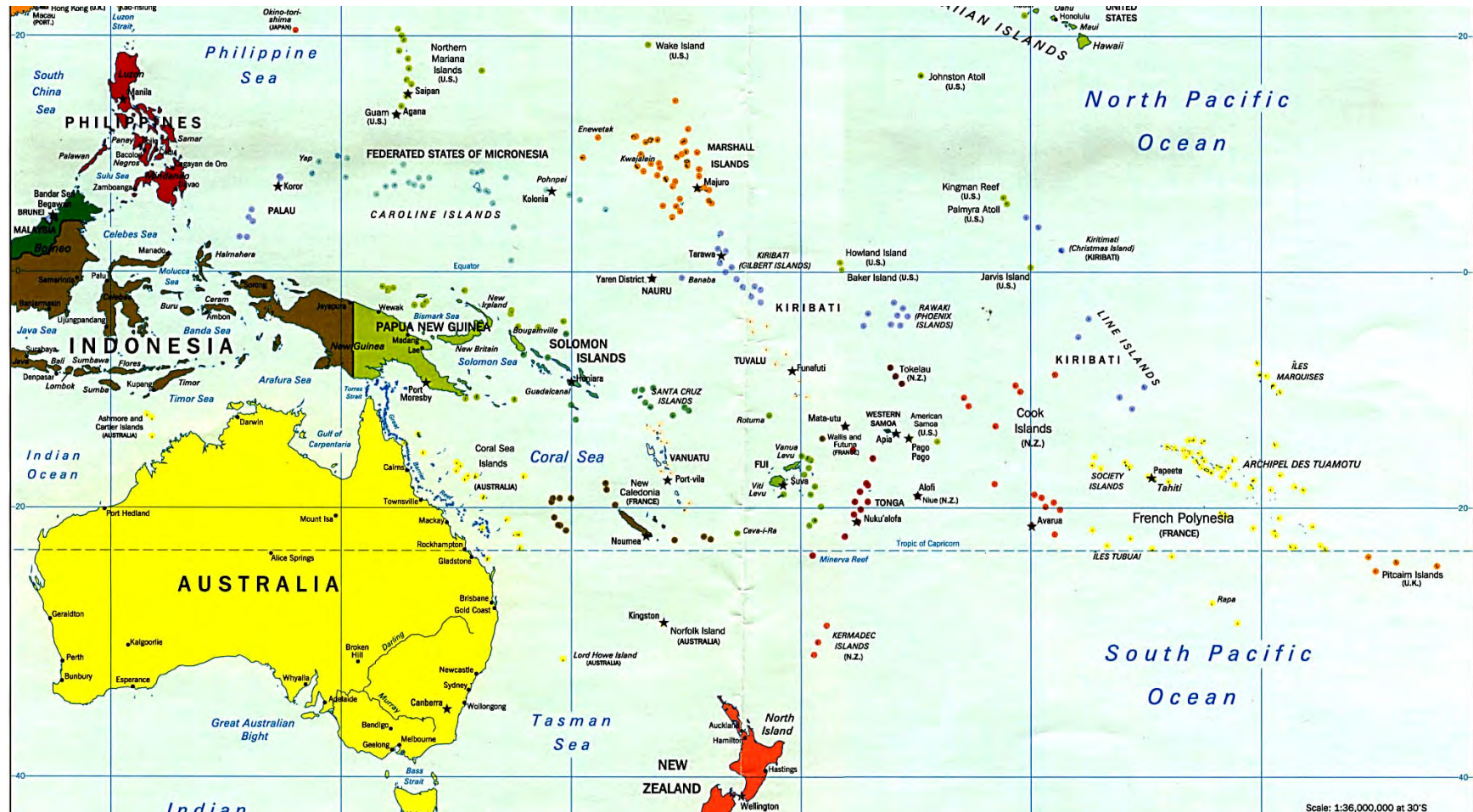


Map of 1589: Maris Pacifici



Same map: first one to be centred on the Pacific





John Higginson



Partial view of SLN plant in Noumea (Doniambo)



New Caledonia: 3 Provinces



Matignon Accord-1988-Hand shaking between Jean Marie Tjibaou and Jacques Lafleur



André Dang (today)



Part of the Agreement:

- 1990: Jacques Lafleur who owns a local mining Cy, SMSP (Société Minière du Sud Pacifique) is asked by the French government to sell it to the newly created investment Cy of the Northern Province; SMSP becomes the mining arm and Cy of the Northern Province. The independentist FNLKS leader Jean Marie Tjibaou insisted that there can't be political independence in the future without economic independence. He is killed in 1989 by one independentist who never accepted the « peace agreement » with the pro-France. But his friends in the Northern Province continue his projects

Bercy mining agreement 1998

- Part of the plan from Northern Province: to own a mining site near by, and make plans for building a plant to process the ore.
- SLN is asked by the French Government to cede to SMSP (North Province) the mining site of the Koniambo, in exchange for another site situated further (Poum) and a good amount of millions of Euros given by France as compensation.

- North Province officials (Pidjot), with Dang, persuade the Canadian Falconbridge (later = Xstrata and then Glencore) to enter in a plan to build a processing plant on the Koniambo site and to accept that 51% of control stays with Northern Province.

- But Koniambo plant will process high Ni ore, which is limited. What about the mass of low level Ni ore owned by SMSP (North Province) in their various smaller mines?
- In 2005, Dang enters in conversation with the Korea acierist POSCO, with a very new type of offer:

- 1) SMSP will not ask to be paid for the ore delivered but will have a partnership at 51% of a future processing plan to be built with POSCO
- 2) SMSP will guarantee regular delivery for 30 years and brings on the table not cash but 49% of its mining titles in New Caledonia, valued at 170m\$
- Thus, without owning large financial possibilities, SMSP enters in a multi million dollars partnership. Main line of thought: after all costs, profit made when one owns the whole chain from the mine to the production of inox iron is 20 times greater than if just selling ore to foreign processors

- Sustainable development. As he explained to me, Dang insists on the fact that, « when mines will be exhausted in NC, the processing plants (Koniambo in NC and the one in Korea) will still be there, are valued each at 5000 million\$, and provide an asset for the future, that could be either sold or used to process ore coming from other parts of the world, still providing revenue for future generations of Caledonians. »

Northern Plant (Koniambo)



French Head of State visits in 2011 the Northern Plant; by his side Paul Neaoutyine, President of the North Province, who played all along a crucial role with Dang

I'île pacifique.



Plant in Korea (SMSP 51%+Posco 49%)



*L'usine de Gwangyang
en Corée du sud*