



Islands of Sanctuary

Discussion Guide

- ❖ Many island nations in the Pacific have been militarized by the United States and other governments, often for decades.
 - What are the ecological and cultural consequences of this militarization?
 - What are effective ways to restore lands and cultures, to recover from these long-term impacts?
 - How does militarization, and resistance to it, affect people living far from these islands?
- ❖ Australian Aborigines believe in The Dreamtime, or Dreaming, a creation time when place, story, song and memory converge. These “songlines” are critical to recognizing, remembering and respecting sacred places.
 - In your own experience, how have story and song tied you to a place?
 - Do you think such indigenous songs could be used to demarcate ancestral territory in courts?
- ❖ What is a sanctuary? Have you ever been somewhere you consider to be a sanctuary?
- ❖ Native Hawaiians attribute the success of their decades-long struggle to regain Kaho‘olawe to their focus on one spiritual value as central to their political strategy: they focused on *aloha ‘aina*, love for the land.
 - Do you think this is an effective resistance strategy to regain or protect land?
 - Do you think Western spirituality is connected to the land where people live? Either way, has this always been the case? What are the consequences of that connection, or lack of connection?
- ❖ In this series we have visited eight unique cultures. What common values came through?

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