

Forum: Historical Security Council 1982

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Student Officer: Joonas Jokiniemi

Position: Vice President of the Historical Security Council

Introduction

The history of the Falkland Islands most likely dates back to 1592 when a British navigator John Davis first reported seeing the Islands. The first settlements in the Islands came in 1764 when Louis-Antoine de Bougainville led the French expedition that named the Island “Malovines”. In 1770, the Spanish drove out the British after buying the Islands from the French and established their own outpost, which lasted until 1811.¹ Argentina declared independence from Spain in 1816, simultaneously asserting its rule over the Falkland Islands.² The Argentinian claim was made more concrete when they occupied the Islands in 1820, but were subsequently driven out in 1833.³ In the coming years, the United Kingdom (UK) fortified its claim over the Islands and established a permanent population in the Isles. In 1845, the UK declared Stanley to be the Islands’ capital.⁴ Through the 19th century, the Argentinian government regularly protested the British claim to the Islands. In 1964 the issue of the Falkland Islands was discussed in the United Nations. The Islands’ status was debated in the forum of decolonisation, in which the Argentinians referred to a papal bull from 1493 and the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), while the UK asserted their occupation since 1831 and the populations’ right to decide justified their claim.⁵ On the 16th of December 1965, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) passed resolution number 2065, emphasising the need to end colonialism and urging the United Kingdom and Argentina to hold negotiations regarding the Islands’ future.⁶

¹ “Falkland Islands - British Colony, Sovereignty Dispute, Wildlife.” *Britannica*, 7 November 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Falkland-Islands/History>. Accessed 30 November 2024.

² Tudor, Sarah. “Sovereignty since the ceasefire: The Falklands 40 years on.” *Lords Library*, 1 August 2022, <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/sovereignty-since-the-ceasefire-the-falklands-40-years-on/>. Accessed 30 November 2024.

³ “Falkland Islands profile.” *BBC*, 7 September 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18425572>. Accessed 30 November 2024.

⁴ “Our history.” *falklands.gov*, Falkland Islands Government, 17 1 2024, <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/our-history>. Accessed 30 11 2024.

⁵ “Falkland Islands - British Colony, Sovereignty Dispute, Wildlife.” *Britannica*, 7 November 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Falkland-Islands/History>. Accessed 30 November 2024.

⁶ “2065 (XX). Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).” *treaties.un.org*, the United Nations, 16 12 1965, https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_2065-Eng.pdf. Accessed 30 11 2024.

In the years following the 1965 resolution, the UK government tried to negotiate the transfer of the Islands to calm the tensions between the two countries, but the local population firmly opposed the plan. In 1971 Argentina and the United Kingdom agreed to open new flight routes between the Falklands and Argentina. However, in 1977 the tensions between Argentina and the UK started to heat up, as the Argentinian junta demanded return for their investments in the Isles.⁷ The UK government responded to the threat by sending a flotilla to the Antarctic region.⁸ In Argentina, the military junta led by Lieutenant General Leopoldo Galtieri was widely criticised by the people and an operation was planned to invade the Islands, perceived by the Argentine population as belonging to Argentina.⁹ On the 19th of March 1982, a group of scrap metal workers arrived at the Derelict whaling station on Leith in South Georgia, together with a group of Argentinian marines and raised the Argentinian flag. On the 25th, the Argentinian marines captured Leith and on the 2nd of April landed on the Falkland Islands.¹⁰

Definition of Key Terms

Colonialism

Domination of a people or area by a foreign state or nation: the practice of extending and maintaining a nation's political and economic control over another people or area.¹¹ Colonialism stands against basic human rights, limiting essential freedoms.¹² The UN perceived the UK's possession of the Islands as at least partly colonized.¹³

FCO

The Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) was a British ministerial department responsible for foreign policy work and support to the diplomatic missions of the United Kingdom. The office was also responsible for the UK's co-operation with organisations such as the EU and the UN. The FCO took responsibility for trying to avert the war.¹⁴

⁷ "BBC NEWS | UK | Secret Falklands Fleet Revealed." Bbc.co.uk, 2024, [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4597581.stm](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-597581). Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁸ "An Islander's Memories of the 1971 Communications Agreement between the Falkland Islands and Argentina – Penguin News." Penguin-News.com, 2021, penguin-news.com/headlines/politics/2021/an-islanders-memories-of-the-1971-communications-agreement-between-the-falkland-islands-and-argentina/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024

⁹ Editors, History com. "Argentina Invades Falklands." HISTORY, 9 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/argentina-invades-falklands. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024

¹⁰ "The Falklands War: A Chronology of Events." The History Press, thehistorypress.co.uk/article/the-falklands-war-a-chronology-of-events/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

¹¹ Merriam-Webster. "Definition of COLONIALISM." Merriam-Webster.com, 2018, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/colonialism. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

¹² "General Assembly - Fifteenth Session ." Documents.un.org, The United Nations , 1960, documents.un.org/doc/resolution/gen/nr0/152/88/pdf/nr015288.pdf. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

¹³ "Resolution Adopted on the Repots of the Fourth Committee ." Treaties.un.org , The United Nations , 1965, treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_2065-Eng.pdf. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

¹⁴ "About us - Foreign & Commonwealth Office." GOV.UK, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office/about#who-we-are>. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

Invasion

Entering or taking control of a nation by force or by using an army. The goal of an invasion is usually to establish a power presence in another country, which can be used to influence the nation's political situation or to transfer the nation's territories to one's self¹⁵

Papal Bull

A papal bull, in Roman Catholicism, is an official papal letter or document. The name is derived from the lead seal (bulla) traditionally affixed to such documents. A papal bull designates an official ruling from the Catholic Pope. In the Falklands dispute the 1493 Papal Bull has been a central argument from the Argentinian side.¹⁶

Rally Around the Flag -effect

The “rally around the flag” effect is when there's a short-term surge in voter approval, as the nation unites behind its leader during a crisis or emergency situation.¹⁷ During the Falklands War, the effect was visible both on the British and the Argentinian side.

The Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands is a territory of the United Kingdom located on the Eastern side of Argentina, 480 km from the Southernmost point of the South American continent. In 1982, the Islands had a population of 2,247 people for a land area of 12,173 km².¹⁸

Background Information

A common argument, concerning the Falklands War, came in the Papal Bull of 1493, in which Pope Alexander VI gave Spain and Portugal the right to colonise, utilise and occupy the lands of the Americas.¹⁹ Previously, Portugal had been given the exclusive right to navigate and trade in Africa and Asia; The bull gave Spain similar rights in the Western Hemisphere, including exclusive rights to the Falkland Islands. As the Pope was the head of the Western Church, his decision could be seen as even binding. Furthermore, no country protested against the bull at the time. However, it must be noted that in the Papal Bull of 1455 (Romanus Pontifex) Portugal was given sovereignty over all the territories of

¹⁵ “INVASION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” Dictionary.cambridge.org, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/invasion. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

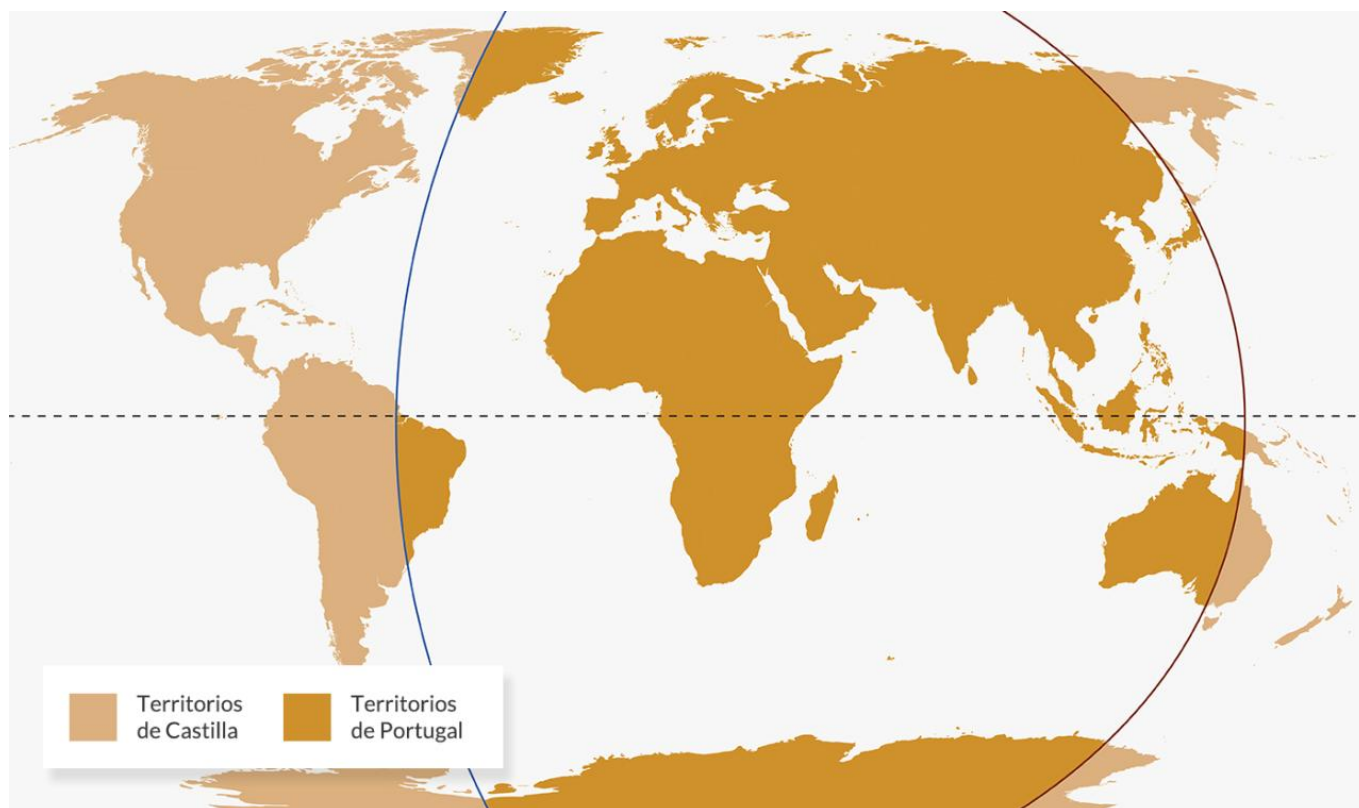
¹⁶ “Bull, Papal | Roman Catholicism.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/bull-papal. Accessed 2 December 2024.

¹⁷ “Rally Round the Flag - Political Dictionary.” Politicaldictionary.com, 13 Oct. 2021, politicaldictionary.com/words/rally-around-the-flag/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

¹⁸ Augustyn, Adam. “Falkland Islands | History, Map, Capital, Population, & Facts.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019, www.britannica.com/place/Falkland-Islands. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

¹⁹ “The Pope Asserts Rights to Colonize, Convert, and Enslave - Timeline - Native Voices.” Nih.gov, 2019, www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/171.html. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

Africa.²⁰ Spain, however, did not respect the limitations of the Bull and conquered parts of the Canary Islands till 1496.²¹



The world divided as written in the Treaty of Tordesillas²²

On the 7th of June 1494, King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile and King John II of Portugal worked to increase the clarity of their borders, by signing the Treaty of Tordesillas. In the treaty some changes to the two crowns' areas were made - for example, Brazil became the westernmost colony of Portugal. Most importantly, the treaty diminished the importance of papal bulls, increasing the importance of bilateral treaties.²³ The treaty also clearly set the Falkland Islands as Spanish property.

In the 16th century, Spain's ability to exclusively trade with the areas assigned to it in 1494 fell. The United Kingdom started to disrupt Spanish trade channels, claiming the areas were under the freedom of trade. The dispute between the two nations manifested itself in the First Anglo-Spanish War

²⁰ Ieg-Ego.eu, 2024, www.ieg-ego.eu/en/mediainfo/the-bull-romanus-pontifex-1455. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²¹ "Conquest of the Canary Islands." Arona.travel, 2019, arona.travel/en-gb/Destination-Arona/Experience-a-bit-of-history/Conquest-of-the-canary-islands. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²² Web, Maps on the. "Maps on the Web." Maps on the Web, mapsontheweb.zoom-maps.com/post/638121864426897408/the-treaty-of-tordesillas-7-june-1494-divided. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²³ UNESCO. "Treaty of Tordesillas." Unesco.org, 2024, www.unesco.org/en/memory-world/treaty-tordesillas. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

(1587-1604).²⁴ The war ended in the Treaty of London 1604, by which the fighting ceased, but the main points of disagreement were not solved, and it was still unclear if the UK had the right to trade with the Spanish colonies.²⁵ The most important changes to Spain's right to trade came in the Treaty of Münster,²⁶ in which Spain had to accept its defeat and recognise the colonies of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. However, in the treaty, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom agreed to let Spain have exclusive rights in the South-Atlantic region, including the Falkland Islands.²⁷

Even though it seemed like Spain was entitled to the lands of America, the United Kingdom was the first power to find the Falkland Islands and to name them. In 1690, Captain John Strong landed his fleet on the Islands and decided to name them after a naval officer, the Viscount of Falkland.²⁸ Captain Strong accidentally stumbled upon the Island and after leaving them left no signs of British control. The discovery by the Brits opened the door for the first settlers, who came in the 1760s. A French explorer, nobleman and navy officer called Louis Antoine de Bougainville escaped Nova Scotia, after the area's capture by the British, and left a group of settlers in the Falkland Islands, in 1764. In January 1765, Commodore Byron landed at Saunders Island claiming it for the British crown. In the subsequent years, the British and the French were aware of each other's presence but lived mostly peacefully.²⁹

²⁴“Heritage History - Products.” Heritage-History.com, 2023, www.heritage-history.com/index.php?c=resources&s=war-dir&f=wars_anglospanish#first. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²⁵“War, Peace, Commerce and the Treaty of London (1604).” Ox.ac.uk, 2023, www.history.ox.ac.uk/publication/1337242/ora-hyrax. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²⁶ “The Treaty of Münster, 1648.” Microsoft Word - Treaty of Munster,1648.doc, 2012. <https://bpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.umassd.edu/dist/4/628/files/2016/10/Treaty-of-Munster1648.doc.pdf>. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²⁷ Fisch, Jörg. “The Falkland Islands in the European Treaty System 1493-1833.” Falklandstimeline.wordpress.com/, German Yearbook of International Law , 1983, falklandstimeline.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/the-falkland-islands-in-the-european-treaty-system-1493-1833-jorg-fisch-1983.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²⁸“John Strong | English Statesman | Britannica.” Encyclopedia Britannica, 2024, www.britannica.com/biography/John-Strong. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

²⁹Roberts, Leona. “Our Island, Our History .” Falklands.gov.fk, Falkland Islands Government , 1 Aug. 2013, www.falklands.gov.fk/component/jdownloads/?task=download.send&id=36&catid=7&m=0&Itemid=101. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.



The location of the Falkland Islands³⁰

In 1776, France gave the Islands to Spain under the terms of “Pacte de Famille”³¹, a defensive treaty signed between the two countries. Spain compensated the old French owners and moved a flotilla of 1000 men to the Isle, driving out the British forces stationed on the Islands. In 1771, Spain agreed to let the British re-occupy the Island, but the UK only stayed for three years, leaving in 1774, because of financial reasons.³² In the 19th century, Spanish resources were far stretched and Spain decided to withdraw its troops from the Islands. Taking advantage of the ongoing decline of the Spanish empire, Argentina decided to declare independence from Spain in 1816.³³

In 1820, Colonel David Jewett, commissioned by the Argentinian government, arrived on the Falkland Islands and claimed them for Argentina, without an Argentinian order to do so;³⁴ Argentina learned about the claim only a year later. In 1824, Louis Vernet founded an Argentine expedition to the Isles, which first failed catastrophically. The second settlement in 1826 succeeded better, and Vernet was appointed as the Isles’ commander. However, Vernet overestimated his power and started to

³⁰ BBC. “Falkland Islands Profile.” BBC News, 14 May 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18425572. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³¹“Pacte de Famille | European History | Britannica.” Www.britannica.com, www.britannica.com/event/Pacte-de-Famille. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³² Roberts, Leona. “Our Island, Our History .” Falklands.gov.fk, Falkland Islands Government , 1 Aug. 2013, www.falklands.gov.fk/component/jdownloads/?task=download.send&id=36&catid=7&m=0&Itemid=101. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³³“Argentina and Its Independence from Spain | Britannica.” Www.britannica.com, www.britannica.com/summary/Argentina. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³⁴ Roberts, Leona. “Our Island, Our History .” Falklands.gov.fk, Falkland Islands Government , 1 Aug. 2013, www.falklands.gov.fk/component/jdownloads/?task=download.send&id=36&catid=7&m=0&Itemid=101. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

restrict US shipping near the Islands, resulting in a US warship ending Vernet's rule in 1831.³⁵ In 1833, British forces expelled all Argentinian troops from the Islands, beginning the period of British control.³⁶ The Islands were overtaken peacefully and the local population was let to stay. The British settlement in the Islands grew, and in 1845 Stanley was officially made the capital of the Islands.³⁷

During the First World War, Port Stanley became a crucial station for British ships, benefiting the UK in the Battle of Falkland Islands (1914).³⁸ In the Second World War, 150 Falklanders fought for the British, out of a population of around 2300 people. During the war, the Island was fortified against Axis attacks but most of the civilians continued to live a fairly normal life.³⁹ Right after World War II, relations between Argentina and the UK were mostly peaceful, and disputes between the two countries were handled gracefully. Argentina's first attempt to acquire the Islands, after World War II, came in 1953 when Argentina's President Juan Peron tried to buy the Islands - the United Kingdom declined the offer.⁴⁰ A more violent attempt to capture the Islands came in 1966 when a group of twenty Peronist terrorists captured a DC-4 plane forcing it to Stanley. The young attackers demanded that the Islands be handed to Argentina, but the aircraft was quickly surrounded, and the force had to surrender and was sent back to Argentina.⁴¹

In 1965, the UN resolution (2065)⁴² to mediate the dispute had little effect, but discussions between the two parties continued. The talks between the FCO and Argentina intensified in 1971, and a Communications Agreement was signed, which permitted free travel between Argentina and the Falklands. After the agreement, travel to Argentina became more popular, and an increasing number of children received scholarships to Argentinian schools. The children on the Islands generally learned Spanish, taught by Argentine teachers. However, in 1976 tensions between the two countries became heated when an Argentine gunboat shot and pursued a British research ship, in the Falklands. Argentina had also built two illegal military bases on the Falklands' soil, resulting in the UK sending a flotilla to the area.

³⁵ Roberts, Leona. "Our Island, Our History ." Falklands.gov.fk, Falkland Islands Government , 1 Aug. 2013, www.falklands.gov.fk/component/jdownloads/?task=download.send&id=36&catid=7&m=0&Itemid=101. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³⁶Editors, History.com. "Argentina Invades Falklands." HISTORY, 9 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/argentina-invades-falklands. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³⁷ "Our History." Falkland Islands Government, www.falklands.gov.fk/our-history. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³⁸Team, National Records of Scotland Web. "National Records of Scotland." National Records of Scotland, 31 May 2013, www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/first-world-war/battle-of-the-falkland-islands-1914. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

³⁹ FIMNT. "WWII" FIMNT, 2024, falklands-museum.com/wwii. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴⁰Reuters. "Peron in 1953 Tried to Buy the Falklands." The New York Times, 3 Jan. 1984, www.nytimes.com/1984/01/03/world/peron-in-1953-tried-to-buy-the-falklands.html. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴¹"Falkland Islands Information Web - Falklands History - the Argentine Claim." Archive.org, 2024, web.archive.org/web/20071006062959/www.falklands.info/history/history5.html. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴²"Resolution Adopted on the Repots of the Fourth Committee ." Treaties.un.org , The United Nations , 1965, treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_2065-Eng.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

Since the Argentine military coup of 1976⁴³, the country had been ruled by a military dictatorship, which was growing increasingly unpopular. Between 1976 and 1983 the Junta was engaged in the “Dirty War”, or attacks against suspected communists and socialists.⁴⁴ Through the Dirty War operations around 30,000 suspected communists disappeared,⁴⁵ raising fear also among the people of the Falkland Islands. In December of 1981, a power grab took place in the Junta when General Leopoldo Galtieri took power within the three-man leadership. Even with Galtieri in power, the government stayed unpopular, and large-scale demonstrations continued.⁴⁶ Galtieri knew that a rally around the flag effect would be necessary to unify the divided nation.

In the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher was elected as the Prime Minister on the 4th of May 1979, and she quickly began her controversial economic policies. Thatcher started cutting public services and limiting the role of the public sector,⁴⁷ which decreased her popularity quickly. In March 1971, only 16% of the public was satisfied with her government, and in the autumn of 1981, the popularity of the Conservative Party was 27%.⁴⁸ When the first moves of the conflict started to play out, Thatcher understood that a victory for the United Kingdom could increase her popularity, and even give her a second term. Thatcher also saw the question of the Falkland War as a matter of British pride and sovereignty.

On the 20th of December 1981, Argentinian metal scrap workers landed on the Island of Leith, without notifying the British authorities. After the incident, the metal scrap workers informed the UK of a contract to dismantle an old whaling station. On the 9th of March, the workers arrived together with Argentinian marines and flew an Argentinian flag on the Island.⁴⁹ After the incident, the British started quickly to fortify the troops near the Islands. On the 29th of March, a replacement Naval Party 8901 arrived in Stanley, and on the 31st, the Royal Marines detachment disembarked from Endurance at Grytviken.⁵⁰ On the 1st of April, an attack started to look increasingly likely, and the British began to take up defensive positions around the Island. On the 2nd of April at 4 am, Operation Rosario began with Task Force 40 attacking the Island. Thatcher immediately responded and asked her cabinet to prepare

⁴³Reuters Staff. “Argentine Military Warned Brazil, Chile of 76 Coup.” Reuters, 9 Aug. 2007, www.reuters.com/article/world/argentine-military-warned-brazil-chile-of-76-coup-idUSN21219699/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴⁴Borger, Julian. “Kissinger Backed Dirty War against Left in Argentina.” The Guardian, 28 Aug. 2004, www.theguardian.com/world/2004/aug/28/argentina.julianborger. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴⁵Borger, Julian. “Kissinger Backed Dirty War against Left in Argentina.” The Guardian, 28 Aug. 2004, www.theguardian.com/world/2004/aug/28/argentina.julianborger. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴⁶Hilton, Isobel. “Obituary: General Leopoldo Galtieri.” The Guardian, 13 Jan. 2003, www.theguardian.com/news/2003/jan/13/guardianobituaries.argentina. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

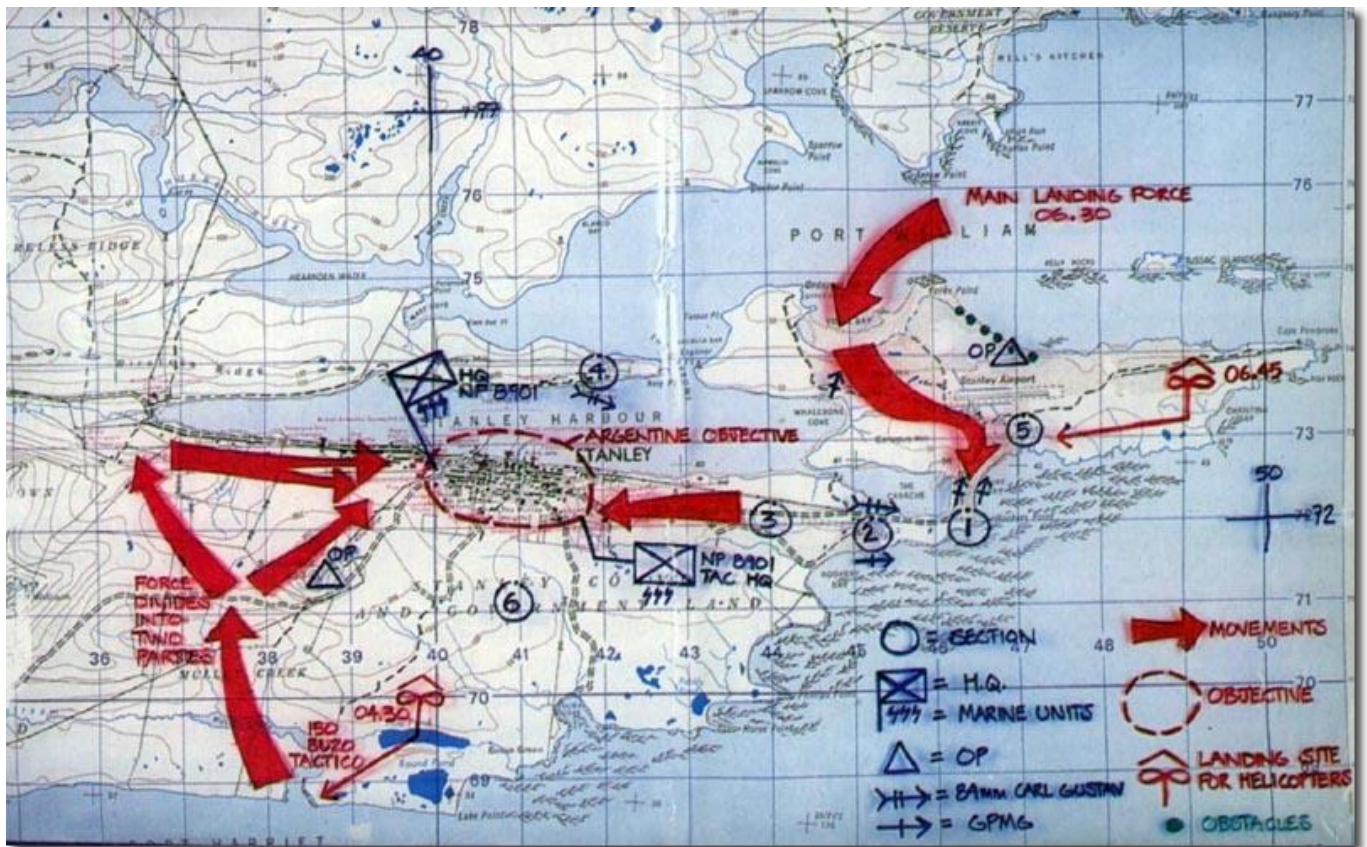
⁴⁷“1980: Thatcher “Not for Turning.”” News.bbc.co.uk, 10 Oct. 1980, news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/10/newsid_2541000/2541071.stm. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴⁸Ipsos. “Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013).” Ipsos, 8 Apr. 2013, www.ipsos.com/en-uk/margaret-thatcher-1925-2013. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁴⁹“Falkland Islands Information Web - Falklands History - the Build up to War.” Archive.org, 2024, web.archive.org/web/20071006063106/www.falklands.info/history/history6.html. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵⁰“The Falklands War: A Chronology of Events.” The History Press, thehistorypress.co.uk/article/the-falklands-war-a-chronology-of-events/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

a naval task force. At 1:00 pm, the Argentine flag was raised to the Governor's House in Port Stanley, and a small task force of around 100 men ended their resistance.⁵¹



An Argentinian map showing the first movements of Operation Rosario⁵²

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

The UN and international treaties

Before the outbreak of the war, the United Nations was the main international body trying to mitigate the conflict. The United Nations General Assembly passed multiple resolutions, which were generally sympathetic towards the Argentinian side, referring to Argentina's anti-colonialism and the UN resolution 1514.⁵³ However, the UN also stressed the fact that the Islands' residents' freedom to choose, is of paramount concern. Most of the discussions regarding the Islands' future were held between

⁵¹"Falklands War: The First Day, 2 April 1982." News.bbc.co.uk, 2 Apr. 2002, [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/1899334.stm](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-1982-04-02). Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵²Luscombe, Stephen. "The Falklands War." Wwww.britishempire.co.uk, www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armycampaigns/southamerica/falklands/falklandswarmaprosario2.htm. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵³Spence, J. E. "The UN and the Falklands Crisis." Diplomacy at the UN, 1985, pp. 59–72, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-17792-9_5. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

Argentina and the UK, even though only a few treaties were made regarding the Islands.⁵⁴ The 1971 Communications Agreement between the Falkland Islands and Argentina was one of the only official treaties between the parties. The agreement eased travel and communications links between the Islands and Argentina.⁵⁵ Also, the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) is often used as an argument in the discussion about the Islands' ownership.

- Resolution 1514, 14 December 1960 (**A/RES/1514(XV)**)⁵⁶
 - Calls for all nations to end colonialism and other systems of ruling that limit human rights. In the Argentinian interpretation, the Falkland Islands were seen as a colony, which the UK denied based on the Islands' free right to leave the UK.
- Resolution 2065, 16 December 1965 (**A/RES/2065(XX)**)⁵⁷
 - Requests that Argentina and the United Kingdom hold discussions to diplomatically resolve the question of the Falkland Islands. The resolution also indicates that resolution 1514 could be applied to the Falkland Islands.
- Resolution 3160, 14 December 1973 (**A/RES/3160(XXVIII)**)⁵⁸
 - Urges Argentina and the United Kingdom to accelerate discussions, as stipulated in resolution 2065. The resolution also classifies the situation in the Falkland Islands as colonists and thanks Argentina for its endeavours to change the situation.
- Resolution 31/49, 1 December 1976 (**A/RES/31/49**)⁵⁹
 - Further requests that the two countries engage in dialogue over the issue. Condemns the situation in the Islands as colonized and thanks Argentina for increasing the well-being of the Islands' people. The resolution bans unilateral actions, such as invasions.

The United Kingdom's position

In the 1960s, Argentina and the United Kingdom had held discussions, in which the UK was broadly sympathetic to the idea of giving the Islands to Argentina. However, the United Kingdom firmly held the stance that the Islands' residents should agree to the Islands' transfer. As an overwhelming

⁵⁴ Mauro, Joseph . "The Falkland Islands War: Diplomatic Failure in April 1982." Falklandstimeline.wordpress.com, Wake Forest University , 5 Jan. 2008, falklandstimeline.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/falklandislandswar_000.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵⁵ "An Islander's Memories of the 1971 Communications Agreement between the Falkland Islands and Argentina – Penguin News." Penguin-News.com, 2021, penguin-news.com/headlines/politics/2021/an-islanders-memories-of-the-1971-communications-agreement-between-the-falkland-islands-and-argentina/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024

⁵⁶"General Assembly - Fifteenth Session ." Documents.un.org, The United Nations , 1960, documents.un.org/doc/resolution/gen/nr0/152/88/pdf/nr015288.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵⁷ "Resolution Adopted on the Repots of the Fourth Committee ." Treaties.un.org , The United Nations , 1965, treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_2065-Eng.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵⁸"Resolutions Adopted on the Reports of the Fourth Committee." Treaties.un.org , The United Nations , 1973, treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_31_60-Eng.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁵⁹"General Assembly - Thirty-Fifth Session ." Treaties.un.org , The United Nations , 1976, treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_31_49-Eng.pdf. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

majority supported staying as a part of the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom could not agree to the Islands' transfer.⁶⁰ The UK also argued that it had held the Islands for the longest time, and thus the Isles were British. The United Kingdom did not perceive the Island as a colonial possession as nearly all of the Islanders identified as British, had broadly British customs and wanted to stay as a part of the UK. The UK bases its argument on the local people's right to choose.^{61 62}

The Argentinian position

The Argentine government highlighted the fact that the Islands belonged to Argentina from 1820 to 1833 when the United Kingdom occupied the Islands. Argentina also emphasised the fact that the United Nations has in multiple resolutions called for a discussion on the Islands' future, with Argentina claiming that the United Kingdom is opposed to such negotiations. At the centre of the Argentinian argument is the UN resolution 2065, in which it is stated that the UK's occupation could be seen as colonialist. Argentina sees the United Kingdom as a colonial occupier of the Islands that historically have been a part of their nearest neighbour - Argentina.⁶³

The United State's position

Leading up to the outbreak of the war, the United States had close relations with both Argentina and the United Kingdom, as the two countries were led by staunchly anti-communist leaders. At the beginning of the conflict, the United States tried to stay neutral, but realising that the United Kingdom was the country's most important ally, the US expressed its sympathies to the United Kingdom. Even though, the United States called for Argentina to end the conflict, the US still tried to negotiate for a diplomatic end to the conflict. The US's pivot towards the UK damaged the US's relations with South American countries.⁶⁴

The Soviet Union's position

The Soviet Union saw the Falklands War as a nonsensical conflict between two capitalist states. Even though the Soviet Union opposed both of the countries involved, it became more sympathetic

⁶⁰ Editors, History.com. "Argentina Invades Falklands." HISTORY, 9 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/argentina-invades-falklands. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024

⁶¹ Norton-Taylor, Richard, and Rob Evans. "UK Held Secret Talks to Cede Sovereignty." The Guardian, 28 June 2005, www.theguardian.com/uk/2005/jun/28/falklands.past. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁶² McEVOY, JOHN. "'No Strategic Value to Us': When the UK Planned to Give the Falklands to Argentina." Declassified Media Ltd, 21 June 2023, www.declassifieduk.org/no-strategic-value-to-us-when-the-uk-planned-to-give-the-falklands-to-argentina/. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁶³ "188 Years after the Illegal Occupation of the Malvinas, Argentina Reaffirms Its Sovereignty Rights over the Islands | Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional Y Culto." Cancilleria.gob.ar, cancilleria.gob.ar/en/188-years-after-illegal-occupation-malvinas-argentina-reaffirms-its-sovereignty-rights-over-islands. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁶⁴ "Milestones: 1981–1988 - Office of the Historian." State.gov, 2023, history.state.gov/milestones/1981-1988/south-atlantic. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

towards Argentina, as it had close trade ties with the Argentinian government. The Soviet Union saw that its support for Argentina could also yield the USSR better trading deals, which, together with the Soviet Union's deep hatred towards the United Kingdom, resulted in the support of Argentina. However, the Soviet support did not result in economic or military benefits, but mostly in broadly sympathetic comments.⁶⁵

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event ^{66 67}
June 7th, 1494	The Treaty of Tordesillas divides the earth between Spain and Portugal.
January 27th, 1690	First landing on the Falkland Islands.
November 5th, 1820	Argentina declares the Falkland Islands as theirs.
January 3th, 1833	The UK expels the last Argentinian forces from the Islands.
December 8th, 1914	The UK wins the Battle of the Falkland Islands.
December 16th, 1965	The United Nations issues resolution 2065 calling for discussion.
September 28th, 1966	A group of Argentinian Peronists flies an aircraft to the Falklands.
March 24th, 1976	The military overthrows President Isabela Peron in Argentina.
May 4th, 1979	Margaret Thatcher is sworn in as the Prime Minister of the UK.
December 22nd, 1981	Leopoldo Galtieri becomes the president of Argentina.
March 9th, 1982	A group of metal scrap workers arrive on the Island of Leith.
April 1st, 1982	UK troops take defensive positions on the Islands.
April 2nd, 1982	The invasion begins and the governor surrenders.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The United Nation's attempt

The United Nations' approach rested upon the Islanders' free will to choose their ruling country and the idea of decolonisation. The United Nations' encouragement of discussion and pleas to end colonialism, regarding the Islands, would indicate that the UN would have wanted the Islands to be transferred to Argentina or made independent. However, the idea of transferring the Islands to Argentina

⁶⁵ Mastny, Vojtech. "The Soviet Union and the Falklands War ." Usnwc.edu, U.S. Naval War Collage , 1983, digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4845&context=nwc-review. Accessed 2 Dec. 2024.

⁶⁶ "The Falklands War: A Chronology of Events." The History Press, thehistorypress.co.uk/article/the-falklands-war-a-chronology-of-events/. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

⁶⁷ BBC. "Falkland Islands Profile." BBC News, 14 May 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18425572. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

would have gone against the free will of the residents, on the other hand, the Islands remaining as a part of the UK could be seen to contrast resolution 1514. The UN's attempt to encourage discussions and oppose colonialism did not result in an agreement.

The UK-Argentine attempt

Encouraged by the United Nations, Argentina and the United Kingdom tried to find a diplomatic solution to the question, but to no avail. In the 1960s, it looked even likely that the United Kingdom would agree to hand over the Islands, but the powerful Falklands lobby in Westminster opposed the idea. At the same time, there was a strong consensus in Argentina about the Islands being Argentine property. Given the fact that Argentinian public opinion rejected any notion of the Islands as a part of the UK, and as the population of the Falklands couldn't agree to the Islands' transfer, negotiations reached a stalemate and prevented any form of compromise. In the absence of a diplomatic agreement, war seemed inevitable.

Possible Solutions

Handing the Islands to Argentina

The handing of the Islands to Argentina would satisfy the United Nations, which sees the UK's hold as a colonial possession. This approach would also correct the perceived historical injustice, which the Argentinian government has highlighted for decades. With this proposal, the Islands would also be unified with the country, which most closely neighbours them, making resource infrastructure use easier. On the other hand, the transfer of the Islands could be seen as an injustice against the Islands' inhabitants, who clearly identify as British. Handing over the Islands against the locals' wishes could also be questioned by international courts, such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The United Kingdom would strongly oppose the transfer of the Islands, and thus this would be hard to achieve through peaceful means.

Keeping the Islands as part of the United Kingdom

The continuation of the status quo is also a possible solution, which would please the United Kingdom and the people of the Falkland Islands, but result in a strong Argentinian condemnation. The continuation of the status quo is also difficult because the Islands are highly dependent on Argentinian infrastructure, such as energy and communications links. This plan would also be likely opposed by the United Nations, which sees the Islands as a partly colonial holding. For the United Kingdom to keep the Islands, the country would need to make large future investments in the Islands' defence, meaning a likely cost of billions of pounds. This option would ensure that the Islanders' wishes could be respected.

Transferring the Islands to Argentina after a holding period

One possible solution to the issue would be keeping the status quo for a number of years (for example 90 years) and after the period, gradually transferring the Islands to Argentina.⁶⁸ A similar model had been worked out for Hong Kong, to provide a compromise for the UK and the People's Republic of China. With this model, the United Kingdom could, in the interim, continue its possession over the Islands and Argentina would eventually receive the long-wanted ownership of the Islands. The implementation of the model would require that the people of the Falkland Islands would need to adapt to Argentinian culture, or they would be transferred to some other British territory. As a negative side, the people of the Falkland Islands would need to change their way of life, or abandon their property and leave their homes. An overwhelming majority of the Islands' population would likely oppose this option.

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⁶⁸ "A Hong Kong Model for Falklands | RealClearWorld." Realclearworld.com, 2017, www.realclearworld.com/2010/02/27/a_hong_kong_model_for_falklands_109285.html. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

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