

Polynesian and South American place names

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Greetings,

As all anthropologists and historians know, geographical place names have a tendency to persist over the centuries, and often even over the millennia. One population may be replaced by another, and yet they tend to keep the old place names. Often the new population doesn't even know what these old names may mean, or sometimes they may create new folk etymologies for them.

So here are some of the place names in Polynesia and in South America.

All these South American place names come from within the borders of the old Inca Empire — most of them from the heart of the Tiwanaku (Tiahuanaco) area.

S America Polynesia

ACARI AKARI
ACHIRI/TAQUIRI TAHIRI
APLAO ALAO
APURIMAC APOLIMA
ARAPA RAPA
ARICA KARIKA
ATICO ATITU
CALAMA KALAMA
CALANA KALANA
CAMANA TAMANA
CAPIA APIA
COROCORO KORO
CORACORA PORAPORA
ILO/HILO HILO
HUARA HUARA-RAI
HUATA TAHUATA
KEA KEA
KEA-KEA TEA-TEA

KILI KILI
KONA KONA
LAMPA RAMA
LARO RARO
LOA LOA

This is the first part of the list as compiled by Heyerdahl, in his AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE PACIFIC, 1952, pp. 760–761.

On Heyerdahl's theory, these South American place names would have been taken to Polynesia about 2000 years ago by the earliest settlers from South America. But later, a new wave of settlers arrived from North America, and replaced those earlier cultures, while keeping at least some of the old place names.

Regards,

Yuri.

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Winston Churchill's Commentary on Man:
"Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on."