

Introduction:

The Falklands is an area of land which has produced a brief undeclared war between Argentina and Great Britain. Originally, Argentina claimed sovereignty of the Islands, but Britain seized the islands in 1833 and has, since then, consistently rejected Argentina's claims. The Argentinian military junta gave up on the long-running negotiations with Britain and instead launched an invasion of the islands. They say the discussion was chiefly political, but the junta was being criticised for economic mismanagement and human rights abuses and believed that the rebuilding of the islands would reunite Argentinian government. After this goal was set in the juntas mind, a series of claims and battles followed after. The windswept and almost-treeless land is made up of two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, as well as hundreds of smaller islands.

Time line of control

February 1764 - April 1767	France
January 1765 - July 1770	Great Britain
April 1767 - February 1811	Spain
September 1771 - May 1774	Great Britain
February 1811 - August 1829	None
August 1829 - December 1831	United Provinces
December 1831 - January 1832	United States
January - December 1832	None
December 1832 - January 1833	Argentine Confederation
January - August 1833	United Kingdom

August 1833 - January 1834	None
January 1834 - April 1982	United Kingdom
April - June 1982	Argentina
June 1982 - present	United Kingdom

The War

The British captured some 11,400 Argentine prisoners during the war, all of whom were released afterward. Argentina announced that about 650 lives had been lost. Argentina's military government was severely discredited by its failure to prepare and support its own military forces in the invasion that it had ordered, and civilian rule was restored to Argentina in 1983. Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher converted widespread patriotic support into a landslide victory for her Conservative Party in the parliamentary election of 1983.

The Claims

Argentina - Argentina says it has a right to the islands, which it calls the Malvinas, because it inherited them from the Spanish crown in the early 1800s. It has also based its claim on the islands' proximity to the South American mainland.

Britain - Britain rests its case on its long-term administration of the Falklands and on the principle of self-determination for the islanders, who are almost all of British descent.

Past Solutions

Argentina formally brought the dispute over sovereignty to the attention of the UN, in the context of decolonisation, in 1965. A process including resolutions, grievances, and bilateral negotiations carried on for seventeen years, culminating in the 1982 South Atlantic war