

5.4 What happens if you don't adopt the package?



In 2018, an American religious missionary was killed by indigenous people when he landed on isolated North Sentinel Island, part of the Andaman island chain, in the Bay of Bengal. The Sentinelese reject any contact with the outside world. It is illegal for an outsider to visit their island.

Background: In the 19th and 20th centuries a number of traditional peoples including Native American tribes, the Maori in New Zealand, and the Aborigines of Australia, have tried to live according to their pre-agricultural cultural traditions. They resisted becoming settled and adopting the “civilization package.” Often this meant war with more populous and technologically advanced invaders who wanted to control their tribal lands and resources. Generally traditional peoples were overwhelmed, their ways of life were destroyed, and they either died off or were absorbed by the dominant “civilization.” According to the National Geographic Enduring Voices Project, by 2100 more than half of the world’s more than 7,000 languages will disappear along with the people who spoke them (<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/enduring-voices/>, accessed December 1, 2018).

Instructions: You are members of a team affiliated with UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). You have been asked to develop a global policy to define the relationship between industrialized (modern) societies and traditional people in the 21st century. The question you must address is, “Should traditional people be allowed to live in traditional ways on protected reserves, even if this means denying their children access to medicine, education, technologies, and human rights available to children in more developed countries?”