

# MISSION ATLAS PROJECT

## Isle of Man

### Western Europe

#### Snapshot

Country Name:  
Isle of Man

Country Founded in:

979 (year the parliament of the Isle of Man, Tynwald, was formed). Self-governing crown dependency of Great Britain since 1765.

Population:

75,441 (July 2006 est.)

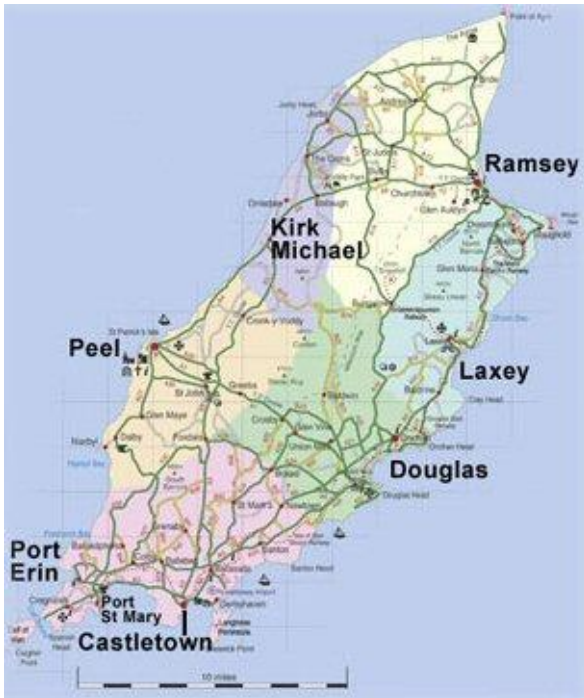
Government Type:

Parliamentary Democracy  
British Crown Dependency since 1765

Geography/location in the world:

A part of Western Europe, the Isle of Man is located in the Irish Sea, at the center between Great Britain and Ireland.





Picture of flag:



Number of people groups:

There are 5 people groups: British, Deaf, Irish, Jew, and Manx.

Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population:

Christianity

There is no percentage available for the major religion on the Isle of Man.

Government interaction with religion:

The government respects the right of freedom of religion.

Sources consulted:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71416.htm>

<http://www.gov.im/isleofman/religion.xml>

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/im.html>

## Country Profile Isle of Man

### Basic Facts

#### Country Name:

Isle of Man

#### Population:

75,441 (July 2006 est.)

#### Demographics:

Isle of Man's population totals 75,441 (July 2006 est.). The population growth rate is 0.52%; the birth rate 11.05 births/1,000 population; the death rate 11.19 deaths/1,000 population; and the net migration rate 5.3 migrants/1,000 population (all 2006 est.). 17.3 % of the population is between 0 and 14 years old; 65.7% between 15 and 64 years; and 17% 65 years and over. The median age is 39.6 years – male 38.4 years and female 41 years. Life expectancy at birth is 78.49 years – male 75.14 years and female 82.02 years. The infant mortality rate totals 5.82 deaths/1,000 live births. The total fertility rate is 1.65 children born/woman. (<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/im.html>)

The population density is almost 132 people per square km (341 people per square mi). More than 40% of the Isle of Man is uninhabited. Douglas, on the east coast of the island, is the capital. Other towns are Ramsey, Peel, Castletown, Port Erin, Port St. Mary, and Laxey. (<http://www.isleofman.com/about/>)

#### Language:

2 Languages are spoken by the people on the Isle of Man: British English and Manx. English is spoken as a first language, whereas Manx is spoken by a minority as a second language. Developed from Old English (as spoken by the Anglo-Saxons), English is a West-Germanic language. Due to the Norman Conquest and other events in English history, Latin and French have influenced the English language heavily. When the Isle of Man was sold to the British Crown in 1765, English replaced Manx as the primary language. English is the world's *lingua franca*. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language))

Manx, also known as Gaelg or Gailck, is a Celtic language spoken only on the Isle of Man. The Manx language resembles the Gaelic dialects of Ulster and Galloway. Settlers from those areas brought the language to the Isle of Man. After the collapse of the Norse kingdom of Mann and the Isles, Manx gained prominence as a distinct language in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Until 1765, almost all of the people of the Isle of Man spoke Manx. The Revestment Act, in which the island was sold to the British crown, set in large-scale emigration and the collapse of Manx economy. The number of people, who spoke the Manx language, dwindled rapidly. Furthermore, immigration from North-West England in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries accelerated the decline of Manx. The English-speaking tourists, who began to visit the island from the 1830s onwards, indirectly contributed to the decline of Manx as well.

In the 1930s, a revival of the Manx language began, which continues until today. Many people today are learning Manx as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language. Some medium nurseries and primary schools on the island now are Manx-speaking only. In fact, due to the popularity of learning the Manx language among all ages, there is a shortage of Manx teachers. In the 2001 census, around 1,700 people claimed to be able to speak, write, or read Manx. (<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/manx.htm>)

### **Society/Culture:**

Celtic and Norse cultures heavily influenced the Manx culture of the Isle of Man. Especially in recent years; the interest in Manx culture has increased. The culture of the Isle of Man has also been influenced by the tourism industry of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and by the island becoming “an international offshore financial centre” during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (<http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/culture.htm>).

The people seem to be able to combine traditional Manx culture with today’s culture, which often results in contributions to a healthy economy and in a high level of spending money. The population’s general attitude towards life may be summed up in the Manx expression “*Traa Dy Liooar*,” which means, “time enough.”

Local painters, crafters, sculptors, and photographers contribute to the cultural expressions on the Isle of Man, such as exhibitions, galleries, movies, workshops, and performances. Some well-known people in the area of cultural expressions are Archibald Knox (designer of the Art Nouveau movement), T. E. Brown (poet), Sir Hall Caine (novelist), and the members of BeeGees (pop group).

Music plays an important part in Manx culture. Many of the traditional Manx Gaelic songs have been preserved. Annual, Celtic-inspired festivals are Yn Chruinnaght, Mananan International Festival of Music and the Arts, the Manx Music Festival, and the Easter Drama Festival. Visiting local pubs is another opportunity to encounter bands that play Celtic-inspired music. Manx Radio promotes Isle of Man-based artists and their

music ([www.ManxRadio.com](http://www.ManxRadio.com)). (Information taken from <http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/culture.htm>)

Education forms an important part of Manx society. The educational system is independent and technologically advanced. Its teaching standards are high and the number of teachers allows for much interaction with individual students. Pre-school is available for children until the year they turn 5. Many children, therefore, start primary school at the age of 4. There are 35 primary schools run by the state. At the age of 11, children go to secondary school. They continue receiving education until they are at least 16. The Isle of Man has 5 non-denominational secondary schools overseen by the Manx Department of Education. After examinations in year 11, about 1/3 of the students continue their studies on A-level or AS-level.

The independent school King William's College and the Buchan School provide education for day pupils and boarders from ages 4 through 18. Further education in the forms of business and banking degrees and hotel and tourism management can be received on the island itself. Some of the degrees are offered in conjunction with Liverpool University. Adult education, too, is available on the Isle of Man. The school year is divided into trimesters: the fall trimester from early September to mid-December, the spring trimester from early January to late March, and the summer trimester from early April to late July. Apart from official holidays, school children are off on the May Day holiday, Spring Bank holiday, the TT week holiday (motor races), and the Tynwald Day holiday (July 5). (Information taken from <http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/education.htm>)

The Isle of Man's staple diet consists of potatoes and seafood. Farmers on the island grow many potatoes. Although commercial fishing has experienced a decline, there are still fishermen left who fish for herring, salmon, crab, scallops, lobster, cod, mackerel, trout, and ling. The meat from sheep, cattle, pigs, and poultry is popular, too. The Isle of Man produces its own milk and cheese. Local beers are brewed by Okells Brewery and Bushy's Brewery. Some of the beers are ales, milds, and stouts. Kella Distillers produce Manx Spirit, a spirit distilled from Scotch whisky. (Information taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Man))

The Isle of Man's national holiday is Tynwald Day, celebrated annually on July 5. On this day, the Tynwald Midsummer Court convenes at St. John's village. The ceremony is a legal requirement that the 9<sup>th</sup>-century rules established. The Acts of Tynwald or the new laws are proclaimed to the people in both English and Manx Gaelic. Residents may petition for redress of grievance at the foot of Tynwald Hill. The day is also a time when families and friends gather. Apart from the ceremony, a picnic, fair, folk dancing and music, a performance by the military band, a concert by the Ellan Vanin Pipes and Drums, and fireworks form the traditional ingredients of the day. (Information taken from <http://www.gov.im/isleofman/tynewaldday.xml>)

Family life on the Isle of Man benefits greatly “from the availability of good housing, education and health services, to accessible activities, room to move and relative safety”

(<http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/familylife.htm>). Most people buy their own house since rents are high and mortgage rates are relatively low. Leisure time and days out consist of mainly simple activities like “boating; fun fairs; pony trekking; trams and steam trains; animal farms and sanctuaries; leisure centres; fun parks; nature reserves and 17 national glens” (ibid.). During July and August, many people spend time on the beaches.

Soccer replaced *cammag* as the most popular sport. Cammag is similar to Scottish shinty and Irish hurling. Other sports played on the island are cricket, hockey, gymnastics, and rugby. The Island Games started in 1985 and the Isle of Man will host the IV Commonwealth Youth Games in 2011. The Isle of Man TT, the main international motorcycle event, began in 1907 and takes place in late May and early June. Another motorcycle event, the Manx Grand Prix, takes place in late August and early September.

### **Government:**

Although the island is a British crown dependency, it is self-governing. The type of government is that of a parliamentary democracy. The Head of State is the Lord of Mann. Since 1765, the Lord of Mann has been the British monarch. Currently, Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State. The Isle of Man’s Lieutenant Governor represents the monarch. The Isle of Man has no voting rights in the English parliament. The UK is responsible for the defense of the island as well as for the representation of the island at international forums. Although the Isle of Man is not a member of the EU, its relationship with the EU allows for free trade between the Isle of Man and EU countries.

Unlike most other European countries, the Isle of Man does not have a written constitution. Instead, the island’s ancient National Assembly, the Tynwald (Parliament Field), has “a general objective aimed at complete government and autonomy in its internal affairs” ([http:// www.isleofman.com/factfile/government.htm](http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/government.htm)). The Tynwald’s original principle declares, “King, Deemsters, Keys and Folk must meet annually ... to give effect to law by hearing it promulgated” ([http:// www.isleofman.com/ factfile/ government.htm](http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/government.htm)). The annual meeting takes place at Tynwald Hill in St. Johns on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The laws are read both in Manx and in English by the First Deemster (Judge).

The Parliament is made up of the Legislative Council or Upper House and the House of Keys or Lower House. 8 Members, elected by the House of Keys, the Lord Bishop, and the Attorney General form the Legislative Council. The President of Tynwald presides over the Council’s weekly meetings from October to June. In order for a law to pass, the Legislative Council has to assent. The Council spends a lot of time revising Government bills into more workable bills. Once a month the Legislative Council meets with the House of Keys to debate, approve laws, and adopt financial motions. 24 popularly elected members, traditionally regarded as the ‘chiefs’ or ‘elders’ of the Isle of Man, make up the House of Keys. Most of the members sit as independents.

The 24 seats in the House of Keys are distributed over the 15 constituencies or Sheadings (see picture). As Departmental Ministers, 9 of the 24 members are responsible for the

Treasury, Education, Home Affairs, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Health and Social Security, Trade and Industry, Tourism and Leisure, Local Government and the Environment, and Transport. Their main objective is “to maximise the Island’s standard living whilst safeguarding its environment and quality of life” ([http:// www.isleofman.com/factfile/government.htm](http://www.isleofman.com/factfile/government.htm)).



The Isle of Man is divided into 17 parishes (see picture). These parishes are small publically elected bodies and deal with local affairs such as rates, trash collections, and local expenditure. The 17 parishes are Andreas, Arbory, Ballaugh, Braddan, Bride, German, Jurby, Lezayre, Lonan, Malew, Marown, Maughold, Michael, Onchan, Patrick, Rushen, and Santon.

Nationalism is a strong presence on the Isle of Man. Not only is there an increase in interest in the Manx language, the nationalist party Mec Vannin aims at attaining Manx independence. Founded in the early 1960s, the party now has around 60 people. The Alliance for Progressive Government (APG), founded in 1991, unofficially opposes the Government as well.

### **Economy:**

In 2003, the Isle of Man’s GDP (purchasing power parity) was \$2.113 billion or \$28,500 per capita. Agriculture formed 1% of the GDP, industry 13%, and services 86%. The industrial production growth rate in 1996/1997 is 3.2%. The inflation rate (consumer prices) was 3.6% in March 2003. Budget revenues total \$485 million and expenditures \$463 million (2000/1 est.).

In 2001, the labor force numbered 39,690. The breakdown of the labor force is agriculture, forestry, and fishing 3%; manufacturing 11%; construction 10%; transport and communication 8%; wholesale and retail distribution 11%, professional and scientific services 18%, public administration 6%, banking and finance 18%, tourism 2%, entertainment and catering 3%, and miscellaneous services 10%. The unemployment rate was below 1.5% in 2006. To recruit and transfer personnel from offshore is easy due to the generous work permit system.

The Isle of Man’s major export commodities are tweeds, beef, lamb, processed shellfish, and herring. The largest export partner is the UK. Import commodities consist of timber, fertilizers, and fish. The main import partner is the UK. The Isle of Man’s currency is the Manx pound that is equal to the British pound.

The Isle of Man’s economy is in its 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of growth. The key industries contributing to the growth are those of financial services and professional services. The

agricultural and fishing industries still contribute to the GDP, but on a much smaller basis than in the past.

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/im.html>

<http://www.lowtax.net/lowtax/html/isleofman/jimecon.html>

<http://www.iomguide.com/economy.php>

<http://www.gov.im/iomfinance/about/economic.xml>

### **Literacy:**

The literacy rate for the Isle of Man is not available. Based on the types and levels of education available on the island (see section of Society/Culture), the literacy rate may well be very high.

### **Land/Geography:**

The political entity of the Isle of Man includes the Calf of Man, a rocky islet off the southwestern coast. The shore of the Isle of Man is lined with tall cliffs and indented by bays. Most of the surface is covered with wooded glens and rounded hills that reach their greatest height in Snaefell (621 m/2,037 ft above sea level).

A mild climate makes possible the growth of many subtropical plants. More than half of the island area is devoted to agriculture; flowers, fruits, vegetables, and grains are produced. Other occupations are the raising of livestock; dairying; fishing; and the mining or quarrying of small quantities of lead, zinc, nickel, iron, copper, slate, granite, sandstone, and limestone.

Native to the island is the Manx cat, characterized by the absence of a tail. The Isle of Man is a popular tourist resort.

(See snapshot) Geographic coordinates: 54 15 N, 4 30 W.

A part of Western Europe, the Isle of Man is located in the Irish Sea, at the center between Great Britain and Ireland. The total area of the Isle of Man is 572 square km (221 square mi), all of it land. The island is approximately 48 km (31 mi) long and between 13 and 24 km (8 and 15 mi) wide. The coastline is 160 km (100 mi) long. The Isle of Man is the largest island off the coast of England.

The lowest point of the Isle of Man is 0 m (the Irish Sea) and the highest point is 621 m (2,036 ft; Snaefell). The hills on the island are bisected by a central valley. The extreme northern part of the island is very flat and consists mainly of built-up deposits of glaciers from Western Scotland. An old saying says that from the top of the Snaefell one can see 7 kingdoms: those of Mann, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the sea and heaven.

The climate is temperate with cool summers and mild winters. About 1/3 of the time there is overcast. 9% of the land is arable land. The permanent crops are 0%. 91% is made up of permanent pastures, forests, mountains, and heathland.



The Calf of Man is an island located off the southwestern tip of the Isle of Man. For many centuries, the Calf of Man was a refuge for Christian monks and hermits. Today, the 250-hectare island is a bird observatory and nature reserve. (<http://www.gov.im/mnh/heritage/countryside/sound/landandsea.xml>)

The Isle of Man deals with 2 environmental issues: waste disposal (both household and industrial) and transboundary air pollution.

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/im.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Man)

## History

### *Brythonic Dominance (until AD 800):*

Not much is known with certainty about the island's history during the Brythonic period. The only speculation with some degree of plausibility is that Ectfrid and his Nortumbrians destroyed Ireland from Dublin to Drogheda in AD 684, they occupied the Isle of Man briefly. Later on during the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium, Irish colonists settled on the island. Most likely, they brought the Manx language with them. The Isle of Man was gradually Christianized during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Irishman Maughold (Maccul) is believed to have been the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary to the Isle of Man.

### *Scandinavian Dominance (800-1261):*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vikings plundered the Isle of Man between 800 and 815. They settled on the island between 850 and 990. During this period, the island was under the control of the Scandinavian kings of Dublin. The earls of Orkney ruled between 990 and 1079. The discovery of some Manx coins, minted under Sihtric (king of Dublin) between 1025 and 1065, points to the Scandinavian rule of the Isle of Man.

The Norwegian King Godred Crovan completely subdued the island in 1079 and reigned until 1095. One saga has it that King Orry (King Godred), when asked, "Where is your country?" pointed to the Milky Way and said, "That is the way to my country." Until today, the Milky Way is called King Orry's Road in the Manx language.

Orry was succeeded by his son, Olaf, who maintained a close alliance with Scotland and Ireland. During Olaf's time, the 1<sup>st</sup> bishopric was established on the Isle of Man (1130s). Olaf's son, Godred, succeeded his father in 1153 and reigned for only 5 years. Until 1156, the kingdom consisted of the Hebrides and all of Scotland's smaller western islands, including the Isle of Man.

In 1156, Godred lost a quarrel with the ruler of Argyll and "lost the smaller islands off the coast of Argyll. An independent sovereignty thus appeared between the two divisions of his kingdom" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)). Until 1261, the Isle of Man remained under the suzerainty of Norway. This was only nominal until 1217.

Then the suzerainty became a reality. Due to Scotland's growing power, collisions between Norway and Scotland were inevitable.

*Scottish Interlude (1261-1290):*

The struggle between Scotland and Norway entered its long final stage in 1261, when Alexander III of Scotland sent delegates to negotiate for the cession of the Isle of Man and other islands. No result came of this enterprise, so Alexander fought a military battle – Battle of Largs (1263) against the Norwegian fleet. The desired result occurred only after Norway's King Haakon Haakonsson died the following winter.

Magnus, the King of Man and the Isles, was forced to surrender all the isles with the exception of Man for which he did homage. In 1266, the Norwegian King Magnus VI sold all the islands, including the Isle of Man, to Scotland in the Treaty of Perth. However, only in 1275 did the Scottish army gain absolute rule over the Isle of Man by defeating the Manx army in the Battle of Ronaldsway, near Castletown. Absolute Scottish rule did not, however, last long for 15 years later the Isle of Man had gone over into the hands of the English monarch, King Edward I. Power struggles between the Scottish and English led to confusion for the Isle of Man as it was sometimes ruled by the Scottish and sometimes by the English between 1313 and 1346.

*English Dominance (1290-1866):*

King Edward I exercised English control over the Isle of Man until the Scottish King, Robert Bruce, gained control over the island in 1313, after a 5-week siege of Castle Rushen. From 1313 until 1346, the Isle was under Scottish rule and English rule at different times. The Battle of Neville's Cross gave the English King victory over the Scottish King.

Around 1333, England's King Edward III gave the Isle to William de Montacute as his absolute possession. William's son sold the Isle of Man including sovereignty to Sir William LeScroope in 1392. 7 Years later, King Henry IV had LeScroope beheaded for supporting Richard II. The Isle of Man once again fell into the hands of an English monarch.

Henry IV granted the Isle to Henry Percy (1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Northumberland). In 1405, Henry turned the gift into a lifetime grant to Sir John Stanley. Stanley was also made the patron of the bishopric. A year later, the grant was extended to Stanley's heirs and assigns. The feudal fee was "the service of rendering homage and two falcons to all future Kings of England on their coronations." ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)).

The Stanleys ruled the Isle of Man under a monarchical government. The Stanleys placed the island under responsible governors who generally treated it with justice. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sir John Stanley (1414-1432) "curbed the power of the spiritual barons, introduced trial by

jury, instead of trial by battle, and ordered the laws to be written” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)).

James Stanley (1627-1651), the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl and known as the Great Stanley, and his wife Charlotte de la Tremoille are 2 of the most striking people in the Isle’s history. During the English Civil War, Charles I ordered Stanley to take soldiers and go to the Isle of Man. They were to put a stop to any revolts the Manx were planning.

Stanley brought in Englishmen to teach craft and to breed better horses. He also reduced the exactions of the Roman Catholic Church. At the same time, however, Stanley heavily taxed the people. After King Charles’ beheading (January 30, 1649), one of the generals ordered Stanley to surrender the Isle of Man. Stanley, of course, declined. In 1651, he took a 300-men army to England to join the troops of King Charles II. The King’s supporters were defeated at Worcester. Stanley was taken prisoner, tried, and executed at Wigan. His wife, Countess Charlotte faced opposition from William Christian and his Manx militia. When Cromwell’s army joined Christian’s forces, the Countess surrendered. Cromwell made Thomas Fairfax Lord of Man and the Isles that same year.

The Isle of Man, then, remained under “monarchical government and in the same relation to England as before” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)). With the restoration of King Charles II (1660-1688), the Stanley rule was restored as well. Charles Stanley, the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl, had Christian tried. Christian was found guilty and was executed. When Charles addressed the permanency of the tenants’ holdings, the people neglected agriculture and turned to fishing and contraband trade in rebellion.

In 1704, James, Charles’ successor, pacified the people in the Act of Settlement, securing “the tenants in the possession of their estates in perpetuity on condition of a fixed rent and a small fine on succession or alienation” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)). After James’ death in 1736, the Atholl family assumed sovereignty of the Isle of Man. Between 1756 and 1765 smuggling grew so much that Parliament passed the Revesting Act (1765). The Act purchased the sovereign rights as well as the customs revenues of the island. The Duke and Duchess received an annual sum of money. In 1828, the Atholls also sold the patronage of the bishopric, their manorial rights, and some other rights. Before 1866, the Parliament had received in surplus revenues more than they had paid the Duke. From 1828 until 1866, the English monarch appointed a Lieutenant Governor to govern the Isle of Man.

#### *Home Rule (1866-present):*

In 1866, the Isle of Man received nominal home rule. Since then, the Manx people have progressed and experienced tremendous economic growth. The tourist and finance industries are today the larger sections in Manx economy. During World War I and II, the island was used as an Alien Civilian Internment camp. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century but especially during the 1990s and early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the interest in Manx culture, language, and literature has increased.

After [1866](#), when the Isle of Man obtained a measure of at least nominal [Home Rule](#), the Manx people have made remarkable progress, and at the present day form a prosperous community, with [tax haven](#) status and a thriving [tourist](#) industry.

The Isle of Man was used as a base for Alien Civilian [Internment](#) camps in both the First World War (1914-18) and the Second World War (1939-45).

The early twentieth century saw a revival of music, dance, and the [Manx](#) language, but this proved only partially successful, as the last native speaker of Manx died in the 1970s. In the middle part of the twentieth century, the [Taoiseach Eamon de Valera](#) visited, and became so distressed at the lack of support for Manx that he immediately had two recording vans sent over. As the century progressed, the Manx tourist economy declined greatly, as the English and Irish started flying to Spain for package holidays. The Manx government responded to this situation by making the island a [tax haven](#). While this has had beneficial effects on the Manx economy, it has had its detractors, who have pointed to corruption in the finance industry and [money laundering](#). This has given the biggest impetus to Manx nationalism in recent years, spawning the parties [Mec Vannin](#) and the [MNP](#), as well as the now defunct *Fo Halloo* (literally "Underground"), which mounted a direct-action campaign of spray-painting and attempted house-burning.

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[http://www.mcb.net/iom/history\\_of\\_mann.htm](http://www.mcb.net/iom/history_of_mann.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)

## Christian History

Tradition holds to the Irish St. Maughold (Maccul) as the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary to the Isle of Man. During the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, the island was slowly Christianized. It seems unlikely that St. Patrick ever set foot on the Isle of Man, yet legend has it that he “established the bishopric” and “cleared the Island of venomous reptiles and toads” ([http://www.mcb.net/iom/history\\_of\\_mann.htm](http://www.mcb.net/iom/history_of_mann.htm)). Irish missionaries continued Christianizing the people of the Isle of Man into the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The largely pagan Vikings for the most part undid Christianity on the island. Christianity was most likely not reintroduced until the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

In the 1130s, the Roman Catholic Church established the 1<sup>st</sup> bishopric on the Isle of Man. Wimund served as the 1<sup>st</sup> bishop. Soon, however, he gave up on his role as clergy as he roamed throughout Scotland and the islands, murdering people and looting their properties ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Isle_of_Man)). In 1134, the abbey of Rushen was founded. This abbey was “a branch of the Cistercian abbey of Furness” ([http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Isle\\_of\\_Man#Church](http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Isle_of_Man#Church)). The importance of this Cistercian abbey lies in that “the Cistercians were exempted from all Episcopal visitation and control, by charter granted by the pope, and were, therefore, only subject to his rule and that of the abbots of their own order” (ibid.). In 1154, the diocese of Sodor was formed, which included the Hebrides, other islands west of Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Due to the Isle’s connection with Norway, the diocese formed part of the archdiocese of Trondheim in Norway (for more information on the diocese, see [http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Sodor\\_And\\_Man](http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Sodor_And_Man)). Until the English Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a continuous struggle took place between the spiritual barons and monks and the laity on the Isle of Man. The barons and monks had great power and much property. In 1458, the diocese of Sodor became a part of the archdiocese of York. Since the 1850s, the diocese has been attached to the archdiocese of Liverpool.

The Reformation on the Isle of Man broke all Manx ties with the Roman Catholic Church and forbade all Roman Catholic practices. Manx trade with Roman Catholic countries, however, provided “a nucleus for a small Catholic community” (<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/parishes/rcath/rc.htm>). The English Reformation on the Island seems to have been a slow process. In 1663, the condition of the Anglican Church was deplorable. Capable bishops, like Isaac Barrow (1663-98), Thomas Wilson (1698-1755), and Mark Hildesley (1755-73), however, nourished the believers back to a living faith. After Hildesley’s death, the spiritual lives of the parishioners were once again neglected. Missions by John Wesley and other Nonconformists, like Quakers and Baptists, led to a successful “establishment and rapid increase of Nonconformity” ([http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Isle\\_of\\_Man#Church](http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Isle_of_Man#Church)). In his *Journal*, Wesley commented on the Manx

people: “A more loving, simple-hearted people than this I never saw – and no wonder; for they have but six papists and no dissenters on the Island” (<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/parishes/rcath/rc.htm>).

In the 1820s, the condition of the Church of England began to improve again. In 1878, the Sodor and Man theological school was founded to train clergy. This school became affiliated with Durham University. Four rural deaneries were established in 1880. Then in 1895 a cathedral chapter with four canons was established, carrying the name of “the Dean and Chapter of Man.” In the 1880s and 1890s, several acts were approved, which gave Nonconformists equal rights with the members of the Church of England. The Burial Acts of 1881 and 1895, for example, “Permit burials to take place in churchyards without the rites of the Church of England, and allow any burial service, provided it be Christian, in mortuary chapels” ([http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Isle\\_of\\_Man#Church](http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Isle_of_Man#Church)).

Nonconformists had not always been treated equally with the Churchmen as the history of the Quakers on the Isle of Man proves. The Quakers, also called Friends, first came to the Isle of Man about 1650. This Nonconformist group, founded by George Fox, believed in an Inner Light that guided the true believer. As in England and Wales, the Quakers made many converts on the Isle of Man. However, “Religious intolerance brought about their expulsion and imprisonment and the confiscation of all their property” (<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/rq1908/text.htm>). Bishop Isaac Barrow, too, persecuted the Quakers.

Persecution, however, had finished by the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Catholic population grew in the 1840s with Irish immigrants, who fled the Irish Famines. Nonconformist groups flourished on the Island. The present situation on the Isle of Man is that Nonconformists, mainly Methodists, probably outnumber Churchmen. 2 Smaller religious groups are the Roman Catholics and the Presbyterians.

## Religion

Percentages or numbers for each individual religious group on the Isle of Man are not available.

### Non-Christian

#### *Jewish:*

The Jewish community on the Isle of Man was established before 1930, at which time it does not appear to have had a synagogue building. The religious orientation of the Jewish community is Orthodox-Ashkenazi (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/community/iom/>). The Jewish Holy Book consists of the Torah (the law), the Nebiim (the prophets), and the Chetoebim (the writings). Christians refer to this collection as the Old Testament. Jews believe in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

#### *Baha'i:*

The Baha'i religion began in Persia in 1844 under the leader and founder Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means "Glory of God." According to Baha'i the world is but one country and all people are its citizens. Baha'i emphasizes the unity of humanity, the equality of male and female, elimination of extreme riches and poverty, religious tolerance, and access for all to education and culture. According to Baha'i, all religions are diverse expressions of the one universal religion.

*Freethinkers:*

The Isle of Man Freethinkers group was formed in August 2000. It meets monthly in Onchan. The group is affiliated with the British Humanist Association. The Freethinkers group encourages free speech, seeks rational argument, promotes non-religious ceremonies for baby naming, weddings, and funerals, and enjoys contact and sharing ideas. The group is against dogma, religious privilege, intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of beliefs, race, gender, age, sexuality, disability, or lifestyle. For more information, see the Freethinkers homepage: <http://www.iom.freethinkers.co.uk/index.html>.

*National Federation of Spiritual Healing (Isle of Man) Branch:*

"Spiritual Healing is a complementary therapy which involves the transfer of natural energy through the healer to the recipient. It promotes self-healing by relaxing the body, releasing tensions and re-energising the body's own immune system. Healing is very gentle and non-invasive, there [is] no physical manipulation or massage involved, only light touch is used" (<http://www.nfsh.org.uk/content/view/54/61/>). It is spiritual in that body, mind, and spirit are energized. The healing energy is universal and part of nature itself. There is one healing center on the Isle of Man.

*Theosophical Society:*

Founded in New York in 1875 by Helena P. Blavatsky, Henry Steel Olcott, and William Quan Judge, the theosophical society seeks "to advance the spiritual doctrines and altruistic living known as Theosophy" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosophical\\_Society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosophical_Society)). It studies Aryan and other scriptures and investigates the hidden mysteries of nature. The Isle of Man has 1 Theosophical Society.

*Jehovah's Witnesses:*

Jehovah's Witnesses believe they are the restoration of 1<sup>st</sup>-century Christianity. The group publishes two magazines, *Watchtower* and *Awake!* The group's headquarters are in Brooklyn, New York. Jehovah's Witnesses trace their origin to the Bible Studies (late 1870s). A schism occurred in 1917 and in 1931 the believers, who remained supportive of the Watch Tower Society, took on the name Jehovah's Witnesses under the leadership of Joseph F. Rutherford. Jehovah's Witnesses consider their translation of the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. Rejecting the concepts of Trinity and hell, they instead believe in Unitarianism. Using God's name, Jehovah, is a requirement for true worship. Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their rejection of blood transfusions.

### *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which the members are known as Mormons, was founded by Joseph Smith in 1820. The Church claims 11 million members worldwide. In addition to the Bible, the Latter-day Saints consider The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Book of Mormon (1830) as sacred. Although in 1890, the practice of polygamy was officially rejected, polygamy is still present in the state of Utah (USA). The Mormons are known for their extensive research in genealogy. Their views on the main Christian doctrines differ from those held by evangelical Christians.

### *Unitarian:*

Unitarianism has its roots in Arian ideas of the Apostolic period. Its main characteristic is the denial of the orthodox concept of the Trinity. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Reformation era), Michael Servetus promoted Unitarianism mainly in his writings. Unitarians believe Christ is not God; Christ did not exist before his birth; Christ's moral teachings are to be accepted; in a large degree of tolerance; in a minimizing of essentials; in the historical study of the Bible; and formulated creeds are repugnant. There are 4 main groups of Unitarianism: Biblical Unitarianism, Rational Unitarianism, Unitarian Universalism, and Evangelical Unitarianism (See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarianism>). There is 1 Unitarian church on the Isle of Man.

### *Christian Science:*

Founded in Boston, MA, in 1879 by Mary Eddy Baker, the Church of Christ, Scientist considers the Bible and Baker's book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, as the church's key doctrinal sources ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_Christ\\_Scientist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Christ_Scientist)). The church emphasizes healing through prayer. The First Church of Christian Science is in Douglas.

### *Greater World Christian Spiritualist:*

“Christian Spiritualism looks at God, the Bible and Christ in a wholesome and intelligent way, incorporating the experiences of Spirit by people - experiences which have brought to man certain knowledge of spiritual phenomena” (<http://christianspiritualism.org/articles/bibleisChristianSpiritualism.htm>). A spiritual teacher, the Zodiac, lived in the flesh with Jesus. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Zodiac asked Winifred Moyes if he could use her as a medium to deliver some 1,500 addresses. These messages emphasize the Christ way and universal salvation among other topics. There is 1 congregation in Douglas, the Isle of Man's capital.

## **Roman Catholic and Orthodox**

### *Roman Catholic Church:*



The Roman Catholic Church on the Isle of Man is a part of the Archdiocese of Liverpool and as such part of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church. The Pope and the curia in Rome provide the ultimate spiritual leadership for the Roman Catholic Church.

There are 8 Roman Catholic Churches on the Isle of Man. For more information, see <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/parishes/rcath/rc.htm>.

#### *Orthodox Church:*

The Orthodox Church gained its independence in the Great Schism (1054) between the Eastern and Western Catholic Church. The Orthodox Church claims to be the continuation of the original Christian Church as founded by Jesus Christ and the Twelve Apostles. Its beliefs are orthodox. There is no specific information available on the Orthodox Church on the Isle of Man.

#### **Protestants/Evangelicals/Pentecostals:**

##### *Church of England/Anglican Church:*

The Church of England came into being when Henry VIII approved the Act of Supremacy in 1531. The Church broke with the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope in Rome because the Pope refused to annul Henry's marriage. Henry VIII now became the head of the Church of England. Some of its practices and traditions have remained Roman Catholic in character; other aspects have undergone some reform.

##### *Baptist:*

The Baptist denomination began as a British group in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1609 under the leadership of John Smyth and Thomas Helwys. In 1612, Helwys returned to England and founded the first Baptist church on English soil in London. Despite fierce persecution, the denomination experienced tremendous growth throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Some Baptist distinctives are priesthood of the believer, separation of church and state, and believer's baptism by immersion. The Baptist denomination on the Isle of Man is gathered in 4 churches (in Douglas, Onchan, Port St. Mary, and Peel).

##### *Methodist:*

John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist denomination in the USA in the early 1740s. The idea of "Christian perfection," or holiness of heart and life is important in Methodist thought. John Wesley visited the Isle of Man twice.

The actual start of Methodism on the Isle of Man was around 1775. Today, the Isle of Man has both Dependent and Independent Methodist churches, 5 in total. For more information on the history, see <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/methodism/rise/rise.htm>.

*Pentecostal:*

With roots in the Holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement originated in the USA in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. An important Pentecostal doctrine is that speaking in tongues is the biblical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, Pentecostal doctrines are formed along the same lines as orthodox doctrines. The Isle of Man has 3 Elim Pentecostal churches (in Douglas, Ramsey, and Peel).

*Non-Denominational:*

No information is available on Bethel Non-Denominational Church in Ramsey, Isle of Man.

*United Reformed Church:*

“The United Reformed Church is the result of a union between the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales in 1972 and subsequent unions with the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Reformed\\_Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Reformed_Church)).

The church has its roots in the Reformed, Calvinist, and Congregation traditions. The 2 United Reformed Churches on the Isle of Man are located in Ramsey and Douglas.

*Society of Friends:*

The Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers, was founded by George Fox in England in the year 1652, shortly after the Civil War in England. Fox began a religious revival among people dissatisfied with the Church of England. During the restoration of the monarchy, starting in 1660, many Quakers were imprisoned and killed. A typical Quaker doctrine is that of the “Inner Light.” “This Light exists within every person, and represents the continuation of the Light that shone in Jesus himself. Its essence, the Inner Light is Christ. It is through this Light, therefore, that God exists among everyone, and can know every individual on a personal basis” (<http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/quak.html#beliefs>).

The Quakers first visited the Isle of Man in the 1650s. There is a Quaker burial ground at Kirk Maughold in the northeast of the island. For more information on the history of Quakerism on the Isle of Man, see <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/rq1908/text.htm>.

*Salvation Army:*

The Salvation Army was begun by William Booth, a London pastor, and his wife, Catherine, in 1852. In 1878, the name Salvation Army was adopted. Today, the Salvation Army is present in 106 countries worldwide. Their mission is to share the Gospel. Social

ministries form a major part of the movement's activities. The Salvation Army has been present on the Isle of Man since 1883.

## **People Groups**

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British (69,000)

The British on the Isle of Man are English-speaking people from Great Britain, mainly from England. Some of them speak Manx as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language. Most of the British people belong to 1 of the many Protestant or Roman Catholic churches.

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Deaf (number unknown)

No information found on the deaf on the Isle of Man.

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Irish (7,100)

The Irish are a Celtic people from the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest of the British Isles. The Irish are from either the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland (belonging to Great Britain). The main language used by the Irish is English. Celtic is only spoken by about 13% of the Irish. The majority of the Irish are Roman Catholics. There is a small Protestant minority in the Republic of Ireland and a large Protestant group in Northern Ireland.

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Jew (50; 35 in 2004 according to another source)

The Jews are the smallest ethnic group on the Isle of Man. This has not always been the case. "During the Second World War there were on the island some 1,500 German-Jewish civilian internees, whose spiritual and material welfare was zealously watched over by the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council" (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Community/Iom/chistory.htm>). Today there is 1 Jewish congregation, the Isle of Man Hebrew Congregation.

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Manx (100)

The Manx are a Celtic people. The Manx culture and language developed in relative isolation. English is the primary language on the Isle of Man. There is, however, a renewed interest in the Manx language and culture. The majority of Manx profess the Christian faith.

James B. Minahan, *One Europe, Many Nations: A Historical Dictionary of European National Groups* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000).

## **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should not consider the peoples on the Isle of Man to be evangelized. Among the many Catholic and Orthodox persons

- certainly are many unsaved persons. Evangelicals should seek means to share revival fires with the existing churches.
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should help the believers on Isle of Man to begin evangelization among the Roman Catholic peoples. Believers could be trained in the newest means of sharing the Message of Christ with the Roman Catholic peoples.
  3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should place emphasis on reaching such groups as the Freethinkers and the *National Federation of Spiritual Healing (Isle of Man) Branch*.
  4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should journey to the Isle of Man and observe the needs of evangelical witness and churches on the Island.

Pictures:

See separate folder.

Links:

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/im.html>

<http://www.gov.im/>

<http://www.isle-of-man.com/index.shtml>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Man)