

The United States is the third power to have control over the Marshall Islands. The people display an ever increasing democratic interest in the affairs of their atolls. Marshallese customs are slowly being combined with democratic procedures.

In the election of officials by popular vote, the official elected is not always one of the aristocracy. With this change the aristocracy still retains its respect and leadership to a large extent but not so strongly as in the old days.

It is increasingly more noticeable in that the people speak up in council meetings and take a more active part and interest in their local affairs. It is noted by the Civil Administration field officers that the court proceedings and decisions indicates an awareness of political justice and a desire to demonstrate their ability to assume the responsibility, if, the proper assistance and guidance is given.