

After reading the article below, choose the best answer to each of the **ten questions**. Answer all questions **based ONLY on what is stated or implied in the article**

**Protecting Isolated Tribes**  
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Science 2015, 348:6239

There are about 50 isolated indigenous societies across lowland South America, with limited to no contact with the outside world. Despite displacements, epidemics, and hostile interactions with outsiders, such tribes still manage to survive. How can we ensure the well-being of humanity's last known isolated peoples under such enormous and mounting pressure from external threats?

Generally, the current policy of governments, primarily those of Brazil and Peru, and supported by the United Nations, is a “leave them alone” strategy. There are two implicit assumptions in a no-contact approach, however: that isolated populations are viable in the long term, and that they would choose isolation if they had full information (i.e., if they were aware that contact would not lead to massacre and enslavement). The first assumption is unlikely. Ethnohistorical accounts reveal the real risk of severe depopulation or extinction during intermittent hostile and sporadic interaction with the outside world. Miners, loggers, and hunters penetrate into the homelands of isolated tribes despite government “protection.” Unless protection efforts against external threats and accidental encounters are drastically increased, the chances that these tribes will survive are slim. Disease epidemics, compounded by demographic variability and inbreeding effects, makes the disappearance of small, isolated groups very probable in the near future. The second assumption is also unlikely. Interviews indicate that contacted groups had mainly chosen isolation out of fear of being killed or enslaved, but they also wanted outside goods and innovations and positive social interactions with neighbors.

Controlled contact with isolated peoples is a better option than a no-contact policy. This means that governments should initiate contact only after conceiving a well-organized plan. In the

past, there have been many poorly planned contacts with isolated Amazonian tribes by both missionaries and government agencies. The absence of health care professionals and health monitoring led to many deaths of these vulnerable peoples. One of us (K.R.H.) was on site within weeks of the first peaceful contacts with Aché, Yora, Mascho-Piro, and Matsiguenga communities in Paraguay and Peru when they were extremely isolated and suffering from new contact-related epidemics (from the late 1970s to mid-1980s), even though intermittent contact (mostly accidental) had occurred for 25 years. The most important lesson learned from these experiences is that mortality can be reduced to near zero if the contact team is prepared to provide sustained, around-the-clock medical treatment, as well as food. A well-designed contact can be quite safe, compared to the disastrous outcomes from accidental contacts. But safe contact requires a qualified team of cultural translators and health care professionals that is committed to staying on site for more than a year. For example, foreign missionaries provided great care for the Yora for up to 6 months, but when they decided to take a furlough, dozens of Yora died within a few weeks. Similarly, in 1975, missionaries provided care to an Aché community for a year, but when they took a vacation, many Aché died. Fortunately, there have been some success stories such as a 1978 contact with a band of Northern Aché. Missionaries and anthropologists treated them with antibiotics when primary respiratory infections progressed to pneumonia. They also provided food to the sick.

Given that isolated populations are not viable in the long term, well-organized contacts are today both humane and ethical. We know that soon after peaceful contact with the outside world, surviving indigenous populations rebound quickly from population crashes, with growth rates over 3% per year. Once a sustained peaceful contact occurs, it becomes much easier to protect native rights than it otherwise would be for isolated populations. Leaving groups isolated, yet still exposed to dangerous and uncontrolled interactions with the outside world, is a violation of governmental responsibility. By refusing authorized, well-planned contacts, governments are simply guaranteeing that accidental and disastrous contacts will take place instead.

**Question 1:**

The author focuses primarily on...

- (A) Lessons learned from previous controlled contacts with isolated tribes
- (B) Risks and threats faced by small and isolated human populations
- (C) The safest approach to contact isolated peoples
- (D) Strategies to maximize long-term viability of isolated indigenous populations
- (E) The short-term survival probability of isolated tribes

**Question 2:**

According to the text, which of the following statements about isolated tribes is accurate?

- (A) Their long-term existence is unlikely
- (B) They have managed to survive with scarce resources
- (C) They are immune to epidemics if left in isolation
- (D) Government have guaranteed their isolation and protection
- (E) They require outside goods and innovations

**Question 3:**

It can be inferred from the article that current policy of governments on isolated tribes...

- (A) is based on lessons learned from previous experiences
- (B) is supported by the United Nations and the authors' field research
- (C) is fraught with flaws at multiple levels
- (D) is in accordance with choices of isolated peoples, as indicated by interviews
- (E) is controversial among government staff

**Question 4:**

According to the author, "*Unless protection efforts against external threats and accidental encounters are drastically increased, the chances that these tribes will survive are slim*" (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph). The author implies that:

- (A) Governments have not been able to safeguard isolated tribes
- (B) Accidental encounters have drastically increased because of the no-contact approach
- (C) Isolated tribes are capable of protecting one another from external threats
- (D) Better survival chances could be achieved with additional external encounters
- (E) Additional protection efforts would be incapable of preventing external threats and accidental encounters

**Question 5:**

The author implies which of the following about the “leave them alone” strategy?

- (A) Is opposed by missionaries and government agencies
- (B) Has been employed to protect the Aché, Yora, Mascho-Piro and Matsiguenga
- (C) Has been designed based on interviews of recently contacted groups
- (D) It is based on evidences of defense responses by isolated peoples against external threats
- (E) It is likely to fail in the long-term

**Question 6:**

Which of the following arguments is used to support author's position on planned contact?

- (A) Interactions with outside world may affect the culture of isolated indigenous people
- (B) Growing external threats are pushing isolated tribes into Peru and Brazil
- (C) Expert missionaries are able to provide advice on contact strategies
- (D) Maintaining tribes in isolation is unethical, as without help they are likely to perish
- (E) Previous well-organized contacts were able to provide means for isolated people to fight invasions of miners, loggers and hunters

**Question 7:**

It can be inferred from the passage that the Aché, Yora, Mascho-Piro and Matsiguenga communities in Paraguay and Peru...

- (A) were once under imminent threat of invasion by hunter, loggers and miners
- (B) have had permanent, around-the-clock medical treatment for the last 25 years
- (C) currently have mortality rates reduced to the levels of late 1970s to mid-1980s
- (D) have diseases that require more than a year of continuous antibiotic treatment
- (E) could only have been saved through long-term assistance

**Question 8:**

According to the author's perspective, which of the following is false?

- (A) Previous contacts with isolated peoples provide useful lessons on how to help the few remaining isolated tribes
- (B) Research suggests that isolated tribes fear contact with outside world
- (C) High mortality rate and small population size is a great threat to isolated populations
- (D) Government, through qualified team of professional, should carefully monitor isolated tribes, and design contact plans only in case of epidemic outbreaks
- (E) Modern health assistance may reduce mortality rates of isolated populations

**Question 9:**

According to the author, the “dangerous and uncontrolled interactions with the outside world” (4<sup>th</sup> paragraph) could be avoided by...

- (A) Creating areas of permanent protection for isolated tribes, where they can avoid sporadic interactions with miners, loggers and hunters, as well as epidemics
- (B) Increasing government regulation against intruders in protection areas
- (C) Drastically improving protection efforts, preventing missionaries from reaching the isolated tribes
- (D) Providing health care for the isolated populations, therefore safeguarding them from epidemics
- (E) Well-designed contact plans, assisted by trained professionals

**Question 10:**

From the passage “once a sustained peaceful contact occurs, it becomes much easier to protect native rights than it otherwise would be for isolated populations” (6<sup>th</sup> paragraph) it can be inferred that:

- (A) Governments cannot effectively guarantee the safety of isolated populations
- (B) Socialized tribes are less susceptible to epidemics, therefore have higher survival probability
- (C) Isolated populations are likely to engage in fights against outside world, therefore trained professionals should initiate the first contacts
- (D) Integrating isolated populations into modern society is both humane and ethical, therefore also a governmental responsibility
- (E) Protecting the rights of native people requires active government intervention, especially through public health care system and judicial courts