

# THE WEIGHT OF OUTSIDE CIVILIZATIONS

"FOR OVER TWENTY-FIVE CENTURIES WE'VE BEEN BEARING THE WEIGHT OF SUPERB AND HETEROGENEOUS CIVILIZATIONS, ALL FROM OUTSIDE, NONE MADE BY OURSELVES, NONE THAT WE COULD CALL OUR OWN." -DON FABRIZIO



Only after a vote in 1948 was Sicily made an autonomous region of Italy and able to govern itself for the first time.

**Lipari**  
Obsidian tools made here drew attention to Sicily from as early as 4500 BC.

The Strait of Messina's was thought to be home to monsters Scylla and Charybdis, as written in Homer's *Odyssey*.

**Messina**  
SPQR Only 3 km wide this strait gave Romans access beginning in 262 AD.

The Normans had little impact on the island other than the introduction of feudalism, their loose control left Sicily open to internal conflict.

**Naxos**  
The first colony founded on Sicily by Greeks in 734 BC, and was quickly followed by Siracusa and Catania.

**Himera**  
Colonized by Greeks, its location caused it to be continuously fought over during the Punic Wars.

**Segesta**  
Along with other north-east settlements this was the heart of Elymian society.

**Enna**  
The Sicani, who were the first people to settle on the island made this location their home

**Catania**  
Founded in 730 BC by Greeks. Home to Sicily's first university founded under Spanish rule, which otherwise limited cultural growth through the inquisition.

**Agrigento**  
Founded in 580 by Greeks, the city has slowly moved farther inland over the centuries as a response to Vandal, Viking, Barbary and Saracen pirates.

**Mazara**  
Originally founded by Phoenicians as a trading post the city was the first to be conquered by Muslims in 827 AD.

Bourbon rule utilized the fertile inland to export grain. The food surplus nearly doubled the population, which ironically gave Sicily the forces to overthrow foreign rule for the first time.

**Gela**  
Founded by Greeks in 688 BC, the city was repeatedly destroyed until eventually re-built under Swabian rule

**Ragusa**  
The Sicels, who the island is named after settled here.

**Siracusa**  
Founded in 733 BC by Greeks, the Byzantine Empire made the city its capital after deporting all its residents to Napoli.



MAJOR COLONY  
 EARLY SETTLEMENT

DATE	10,000 BC	800 BC	750 BC	264 AD	468 AD	535 AD	902 AD	1091 AD	1194 AD	1285 AD	1734 AD	1860 AD	1948 AD	
RULE	SICANI	ELYMIAN	SICEL	PHOENICIAN	GREECE	ROME	VANDAL	BYZANTINE	MUSLIM	NORMAN	SWABIAN	SPANISH	BOURBON KINGDOM	AUTOMOMY