The Falklands is the name of a group of 200 islands 480 miles near to Cape Horn. The islands have been disputed since the 1700s, by the French, Spanish, British and Argentinians, however, the latter two took reign of the conflict since 1833, from which time the British have occupied and administered the islands, but whose legitimacy to do so has continuously been protested by the Argentinians. Britain occupies and has administered the islands since 1833, however, Argentina never recognized the legitimacy of the British claim to the islands. To understand this issue let’s go through the history of the Islands.

The Falkland Islands became part of a region under Spanish control with the entry into force of the first international instruments to delimit the “New World” soon after its discovery in 1492. The first instruments reflecting Spanish titles in accordance with international law of the period are Papal Bulls and the Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494.

For most of the 16th century only navigators in the service of Spain travelled the maritime routes along the South American coast. In this process the Falkland Islands were discovered by members of Magellan’s expedition of 1520. From that moment on they were recorded on European maps under different names and remained under effective control of the Spanish authorities.

The start of the conflict can be traced back to 1690, with the first documented landing on the islands by Captain John Strong who named them after the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Falkland. In 1713, however, the Treaty of Utrecht ratified Spain’s control over its territories in the Americas, including the Falklands. In 1764, Frenchman, Antoine Louis de Bougainville became the first person to settle the islands. Following this, oblivious of the Frenchman’s presence, a British commodore landed on West Falkland, planted the Union Jack on a vegetable patch and sailed off. In 1766, more British arrived to strengthen the British settlement and discovered the French colony. Spain was angry as they saw these actions as a violation of the Treaty of Utrecht by both countries. France, an ally of Spain at this time, agreed to surrender the land to Spain in return for compensation. Spain appointed a governor who ousted the British from the island in 1769. The manner of the way in which the Spanish expelled them outraged the British who had been considering compromise, but now were inclined towards war. An agreement, however, was reached whereby Britain returned temporarily to the islands and Spain continued to claim sovereignty. The British left after three years leaving a plaque that claimed their sovereignty, however, in practise they acknowledged Spanish sovereignty.

The nature of the conflict changed after Argentina declared independence from Spain in 1816 and in 1820 proclaimed its sovereignty over the Falklands. In 1826 they resettled the islands, causing British verbal protestation. Subsequently, some American sailors were arrested by the Argentine governor for illegal sailing, had their property confiscated and were brought to trial in Buenos Aires. The British consul encouraged the Americans to protest on the grounds that the United States had never acknowledged Argentinian sovereignty and could to do as they pleased on the land. The American captain dispatched a warship to secure the confiscated property, recovered it and sacked the settlement arresting most of the inhabitants, declaring the islands—free of all governmentl. Argentina appointed a new government, who was immediately murdered by the remaining inhabitants. Britain manipulated the disorder and dispatched two warships. In January 1833 the British forced the few remaining Argentines off the island and assumed control of the Falklands. Since then, Argentina has unremittingly contested British
control over the islands.
Within the framework of Resolution 2065 (XX) of 1965 of the General Assembly of the United Nations - which establishes that the controversy between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom concerning the sovereignty over the islands must be solved through negotiations which take into account the dispositions and objectives of the United Nations Charter, Resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly as well as the interests of the population of the islands - a process of bilateral negotiations got under way which analysed various formulas to solve the dispute. No agreement was reached.

In 1982 the conflict of the South Atlantic took place and diplomatic relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom were broken off. These were restored in February 1990.

Falkland Islands, for decades, the subject of dispute between Argentina and Britain. In 1982, Argentine troops landed on the island, which the government sees as its Latin American country. This was followed by a 74-day war, which killed 649 Argentine and 255 British soldiers. So, in March 2013 there was a referendum on their political status, designed to put an end to the dispute with Argentina accessories archipelago. But here is a question: did the referendum put the end to the dispute?

Let's look through the fact and importance of Falkland Island for both of these countries. Firstly for Britain Colonies provided resources to the British Empire, which helped to bolster its trade.

Colonies could also act as a military base to conduct operations from, as well as a port to harbour and provide repair services to shipping, especially mercantile shipping. Furthermore, Colonies were a means of reducing England's dependence on foreign nations. Each colony would provide a raw material to England and this would allow the nation to not have to purchase that product from another nation. That is why the government of Britain did all their best to save the Falkland Islands. Secondly the importance of the Islands for Argentina was political issue. Argentina invaded the islands in 1982 because their military dictatorship had ruined their economy, causing hyperinflation, mass unemployment and poverty. They thought a war and fervent nationalism would distract the public.

He come one more point: why after so many years these two independent countries still have disputes concerning the Island? The reason is simple to state: The areas around Falkland Islands are said to have one of the world's largest reserves of oil, mainly in the north basin. There are reserves in the South and East of Falkland islands as well. The British Geological Survey estimates the oil at about 60 billion barrels. The hydrocarbons in the basins were discovered in 1998 itself by companies like Shell and Amanda Hess. None of those countries want to lose the black gold resources.

In order to end the dispute there was held a referendum in spring of 2013. The referendum on political status was held in the Falkland Islands on 10–11 March 2013. The Falkland Islanders were asked whether or not they supported the continuation of their status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom in view of Argentina's call for negotiations on the islands' sovereignty.

On a turnout of 92%, 99.8% voted to remain a British territory, with only three votes against. Had the islanders rejected the continuation of their current status, a second referendum on possible alternatives would have been held. Brad Smith, the leader of the international observer group, announced that the referendum was free and fair and executed in accordance with international standards and international laws.

As the result was announced in Port Stanley's town hall, the Argentine government of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has made clear it does not recognize the referendum, insisting it has no legal validity. So this means that the dispute didn't come to end.

To conclude, I want to say that The dispute over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands is interesting and complex, with no obvious answer within the realms of international law, hence the fact that is it still an unsolved dispute after so many years. Every analytic in the field of international relations is searching for the way of solving the problem. Counting all pros and cons I want to say that nowadays in the century of dependence on oil-gas resources, mainly
counties have disputes because of these resources. So, what I want to show up is the fact that one of the solutions can be mutual share of the income from the oil and gas. I think that by performance of this action firstly will be beneficial for Great Britain and Argentina in economic, social, political spheres. Secondly, this will be the real example for other countries. All over the world will understand that every dispute can have peaceful solution. Finally, The co-operation between the countries will help in the smooth execution of the oil exploration process.

Reference

4. [http://www.thepicaproject.org/?page_id=750](http://www.thepicaproject.org/?page_id=750)