

but nonetheless important factor in many more than the merely medical aspects of post-European history, and Dr Gluckman is right in stressing the role of 'nationalism' in perpetuating non-western attitudes and motivations. However the sense of Maori identity and the will to maintain it was surely not confined, as he implies, to such limited manifestations of 'nationalism' as Hauhauism and Ringatu. Another question of general historic interest is opened up by the author's speculations about what might have been. Pointing out the failure of nineteenth-century governments to pay any serious attention to the problems of Maori health, he tentatively suggests that land-hunger might well have been a factor in the Pakeha's complacent acceptance of a sickly and declining Maori race. While we must certainly acknowledge the effects of such attitudes on government policies, most of the explanation could well lie in the sort of thinking that until the latter part of the century did not include supervision of the people's health (Maori or Pakeha) among the responsibilities of government. Commonly too, reliance was placed not so much on direct action against low standards of Maori health as on assimilating Maoris into superior (and healthier) Pakeha lifestyles.

Dr Gluckman's book is privately published. This aspect is unfortunate, for not only would a reputable publisher have excluded the many typographical errors (in a work that comments at one point on the poor proof-reading of one of its nineteenth-century published sources), and insisted on a much more polished and organized presentation, but a wider market would have been ensured for what could have been an even more useful contribution to an important aspect of our social history.

RAEBURN LANGE

University of Otago

Oceania and Beyond: Essays on the Pacific since 1945. Edited by F.P. King, Greenwood Press, Westport and London, 1976. xxii, 265 pp. N.Z. price: \$29.24

TO DESCRIBE this book as 'an anthology of sixteen new essays', 'hopefully' with 'a coherent design' is wishful thinking on the editor's part. Few of the essays have the picked quality one would expect in an anthology. Several would not even rate as good journalism. To divide this mixed bag into three parts does not disguise a lack of editorial planning and control. Nor does it comfortably accommodate C. Hartley Grattan's 37-page, distinctively American 'overview' of Australian and New Zealand security policies in Pacific-Asia and W.T. Roy's lightweight, eleven-page review of New Zealand's defence dilemmas in the 1970s.

The editor has made a brave attempt to explain and justify this diversity. The major topic, being examined, he says: 'is not colonialism or imperialism or neo-colonialism as such, but bilateral isolation of the sort that has

separated colony from colony by focusing the attention of the Pacific peoples on a number of different foreign homelands. This peculiar isolation has been until recently, Oceania's most conspicuous common characteristic.' But, since 1945, more than eighty per cent of Pacific peoples have ceased to be colonial subjects and a number of pressures have been working toward integration. The rest are still held by the United States and France for their own selfish, economic or military purposes. Over one third of this book deals with *the rest*.

Americans, says Lazarus E. Salii, chairman of the Congressional Committee on the future status of Micronesia, 'came as liberators and conquerors and, as such, they have remained.' Some of the consequences are briefly considered by other contributors with field experience as well as university degrees. An economy dependent on imported goods, contracted skills and annual outside aid was born, and an American-style, democratic, political structure was erected. Traditional leaders fought hard with their wits to retain or regain power and influence, but were also willing and eager to tap the new sources of wealth, power and prestige. Large numbers of Peace Corps volunteers failed to promote economic development but made minor, lasting contributions in education. A pattern of academic failure resulted from teaching English as a foreign not a second language. Economic and political advancement were purposefully retarded and land problems remained unsolved for selfish, militarist ends. The Marshallese endured appalling hardships – atomic destruction of their homelands, irradiation of their soil, exile, forced relocation, malnutrition, even near starvation and death. All discovered that: 'The Micronesians have the Trust and the United States has the Territory.'

In the South Pacific, American strategic interests, trade, investment and tourism were limited. Delegates to the South Pacific Commission were low-ranking and Congress maintained a ceiling on monetary contributions until late 1972. While regionalism grew and matured, American involvement stagnated.

The French impact was less disastrous but similarly selfish and anarchistic. In New Caledonia, Melanesians living on reservations, were largely irrelevant to the export economy based on nickel mining and dominated by a giant, French-controlled corporation. A majority in favour of autonomy was powerless to implement it. Neither the economic nor the political system seemed capable of generating change. In Tahiti, the presence of civilian and military personnel engaged in nuclear testing brought greater economic advantages than anticipated. Initial outrage against the uncertainties of radiological pollution was consequently abated. Neither metropolitan pacifists, nor territorial autonomists, nor even the Pacific community could effectively reverse one of France's most important defence projects. The socio-economic gap widened and political divisiveness intensified.

How and why eighty per cent of Pacific peoples ceased to be colonial subjects, and moved towards integration is most inadequately examined. The Samoans paved the way because of interrelated, local, New Zealand and United Nations pressures. Yet Felise Va'a confines himself to censuring New Zealand for causing the Mau, achieving outrageously little economic development and ensuring that reforms needed by government and people would be long delayed.

The British Pacific Islands followed, Barrie Macdonald stresses, because of

Britain's genuine desire to be rid of remote entanglements. The decolonization of Papua New Guinea is briefly reviewed in R.R. Premdas's partly theoretical analysis of the constraints and choices before it in formulating a foreign policy. Ideals of independence and non-alignment, he concludes, conflict with political, social and economic realities. Limited successes in diversifying aid, trade and investment imply a neo-colonial relationship for some time to come. A realistic foreign policy 'will be *de facto* one of alliance, but carefully camouflaged by the symbolic rhetoric characteristic of a foreign policy of non-alignment.'

This conclusion does not accord with the spirit of Commonwealth developing in the South Pacific Forum where Papua New Guinea along with other new island states is freely associated with Australia and New Zealand. Nor does it accord with concepts of 'a Pacific Family' and 'a Pacific Way' which have developed in the South Pacific Conference. Happily, a keener appreciation is shown of the advantages of regional co-operation in economic development and diversification than in political and external affairs.

In a fresh, challenging assessment of problems and prospects, J.K. Thomson emphasizes not only the need for unity 'that can harness and mobilise largely untapped mineral, aquatic and human resources', but also for energetic, determined leadership that will instil in the people a new spirit of self-reliance. Yet neither he nor any other contributor really faces up to the problems of overpopulated islands which need outlets for migrants.

As this book clearly shows, the view of Oceania from Guam and Denver is back to front to Wellington's. New Zealand's and Australia's closest friends and neighbours appear to be historically as well as strategically unimportant to Americans. How fortunate they are compared to the Micronesians!

MARY BOYD

Victoria University of Wellington

Dream and Disillusion: A Search for Australian Cultural Identity. By David Walker. Australian National University Press, Canberra 1976. 279 pp. N.Z. price: \$14.30.

DAVID WALKER'S *Dream and Disillusion* is an important contribution to the serious study of intellectual life in modern Australia. It is now clear that we have known surprisingly little about the formation of his four central characters – Vance Palmer, Louis Esson, Frank Wilmot and Frederick Sinclaire – and not much more about the contexts in which men like these defined their work as writers and social critics. Walker's book carries significantly further the detailed exploration of careers and concerns to which A.G. Serle's general survey of Australian cultural history in 1974 looked forward.

Walker shows that in the period 1900 to 1914 Palmer, Esson, Sinclaire and Wilmot shared in a distinctive effort to discover the sources of an Australian