

Zealand's security interests in Southeast Asia — historical, economic, and political links with Vietnam's neighbours and more recent links with the Saigon government — were threatened by Hanoi's actions in South Vietnam. The 'domino theory', now in disrepute, was taken very seriously in its day, and the Japanese sweep throughout Southeast Asia and into the Pacific just two decades earlier was a living memory in the Holyoake Cabinet. In the Cabinet's view, the concept of collective defence, explicit in Article 51, further reinforced New Zealand's legal position.

To be sure, international law is not settled on how practically to distinguish between legitimate self-defence at a distance on the one hand and rationalized aggression on the other. It is possible that New Zealand's military action will be condemned by a future tribunal. But pending an internationally authoritative verdict, and setting aside questions of morality, the author concludes that 'New Zealand's intervention was probably legal'.

This conclusion will leave uneasy those who find Article 51's self-defence rationale stretched to the point of distortion and those who, in historical retrospect, find the government's judgement alarmist or cynical. The author concedes that a strong political element in the case study escapes the framework of legal reasoning, and argues only that he finds the government of the day made its judgements, reasoning, and decisions in good faith and that a *prima facie* presumption of legality prevails until overturned by a more authoritative assessment.

Whether convinced or not, the reader will welcome the insights into legal reasoning exemplified by this book and the clarification of contentious substantive issues of the Vietnam War period.

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The South Sea Whaler. By Honore Forster. The Kendall Whaling Museum, Sharon, Massachusetts, 1985. 157 pp., Price: \$US25.00.

THIS annotated bibliography of writing about whaling in the nineteenth-century Pacific Ocean was compiled by Honore Forster at the Australian National University and published by the Kendall Whaling Museum, a museum of great interest and assistance to all those interested in the whaling industry. It is an essential reference guide for students of whaling, and indeed anyone studying early Pacific maritime affairs.

The book is divided into different sections: contemporary personal accounts; general works; fiction; academic dissertations, articles and chapters in larger books; and newspapers and periodicals. There is also a very good index, with sections on vessels, islands, place names, whaling captains, and miscellaneous names. The production of the book is excellent although there is an occasional misprint.

Anyone interested in the history of whaling, or indeed even in writing nineteenth-century historical fiction set in the Pacific, would find this book useful. As one whose whaling publications are listed in it I can only add that I certainly wish Ms Forster's bibliography had been available when I was working on the subject.

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