

There are also some basic errors. New Zealand readers might be surprised to see Nga Puhi kaumatua Kingi Taurua referred to as 'the head of the Ngapuhi tribe and proclaimed king, Taurua' (p.281). Unfortunately most of the New Zealand material is based on newspaper articles, which are not the most reliable sources. But perhaps most troubling is Barkan's vision of New Zealand as a kind of *Once Were Warriors* writ large. He has been greatly influenced by the film (not the book) and frames his entire discussion around these harrowing images: the title of the chapter itself is 'Once Were Warriors' as though it were some kind of lament for a lost past. This scenario, he assumes, is the gritty realism of modern Maori life. One has to wonder if this was his first impression of New Zealand and if perhaps he too is being stereotypical in his portrayal of Maori. New Zealand-based researchers — including Ranginui Walker, Mason Durie and even the Waitangi Tribunal — have discussed the root causes of these social and economic problems with much more subtlety than has been done here.

On the other hand, it is good to see New Zealand included in a study such as *The Guilt of Nations*, for two main reasons. First, it reminds us that while conditions in New Zealand are specific to this place, Maori efforts for redress are in fact part of a wider (some might call it a 'postcolonial') process of reassessing the past and reclaiming power, and in fact they have much in common with other indigenous groups who are attempting to throw off the shackles of colonialism. Second, only when the modern Treaty settlements process is seen on an international stage can all New Zealanders appreciate that we are in fact making some headway towards resolution: that even getting to the negotiating table is progress in itself.

*The Guilt of Nations* should not be read as a comparative analysis or as a collection of detailed case studies: the reader wanting this will have to look elsewhere. But it does present a compelling argument on international morality, which will find a natural audience among historians as well as political scientists. The book is substantial and written in a lively and engaging style, but it might have been slightly more accessible if the author had dropped one of his many 'case studies' and inserted some photographs and maps instead. One is left with the impression that there is simply *too much* in this book: that each of the two sections he covers would constitute a book in itself! Overall, however, *The Guilt of Nations* is a book that any reader interested in what critics have termed the global 'guilt industry' should not be without.

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*Anxious Nation: Australia and the Rise of Asia 1850–1939*, By David Walker. University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1999. xv + 312 pp. Aus. price: \$29.95. ISBN 0-7022-3131-2.

THIS IS A REMARKABLE overview of Australia's engagement with Asia since the 1850s influx of Chinese goldminers and the Indian Mutiny. Its core argument is that Australia became a nation at the same time as concern mounted about the rise of the East as a threat to European supremacy. This in turn affected how Australians saw themselves, as an outpost of whiteness. *Anxious Nation* abounds in insights; for example, how fears of and fascination with Asia reinforced the bush legend by emphasizing the bushman's qualities as race hero. The Asian dynamic helps explain the more pronounced masculinism and racism in Australian national narratives. This is an open and interactive study, which illuminates Australia's history and collective identity by exploring a series of real and imagined encounters with its Asian neighbours.

A cultural historian, David Walker interrogates key words such as 'the awakening East' and the 'yellow peril' as a means of entering this rich imaginary world. Such words framed great questions of the age, fuelling anxiety that the 'title deed' to the continent was vulnerable, that Australians had to use it or lose it, to Asia. Walker shows how proximity to Asia made Australia feel special — and at risk, inviting danger narratives. Rather than deal directly with the White Australia policy, addressed by Yarwood, Price and Brawley, Walker explores white Australian mentalities through themes of climate and settlement, imperatives of settling the 'Empty North', blood, race degeneration and mixed marriage. Chapters engage with India, the 'collector's piece of Empire'; anti-Chinese prejudice and the question of entitlement to land ('if white had replaced black because black was not developing the continent, why should yellow not replace white on precisely the same grounds?'); enigmatic Japan; visiting naval displays; and Asian invasion stories. Making the Northern Territory Australian gains new significance alongside misogynist depictions of sexual threats (feminism invited invasion), Asian treatment of women, and 'dragon' ladies. Ideas about climate, character and how to civilize hot Australia disclose the sun's place in Australian thought. The nature of the Australian landmass features beside imagined oriental villains, blood phobias and changing Asia-Pacific awareness. Throughout, Asia is portrayed as threat and lure, an incitement to raise standards, to think big, be global, and to develop a strongly expressed nationalism.

This book is a major contribution to Australian historiography and understanding identity politics. A sophisticated and nuanced survey of the cruder idea that nations are defined by whom they exclude, Asia is the 'other': an enchanting menace. It serves also as a pointer to major gaps in the New Zealand historiography. Why is the discourse between New Zealand and Asia so neglected in our general histories? Why was there so little response to P.S. O'Connor's classic 1968 article, 'Keeping New Zealand White'? Answers to such questions are central, not peripheral, to issues of New Zealand culture and identity. Many of the themes addressed in *Anxious Nation* apply to New Zealand as well. Much of the content could be considered shared; as the editors of *Quicksands* agree, Australia and New Zealand have a shared past, but not a shared history. Differences shaped by geopolitics are also worth examining, and this important book presents a challenge to do so.

Strong on gender-race dynamics and cultural history, this is not a history of defence and trade relations, though it illumines the mindsets that informed those relations. *Anxious Nation* is superbly crafted, researched and structured, a vivid, erudite analysis, witty and sharp, which ranges from literature to geo-politics. Highly recommended, it will be read with profit by the undergraduate and the specialist.

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