

Finance Minister Coates intended that the bank should be the means of putting government policy into effect. In this respect there was no difference between Coates and his successor Nash, and Dr Hawke tells the story of Nash's assertion of control over the bank and the sad case of Lefeaux, the first Governor and one-time official of the Bank of England.

Dr Hawke has had access to the bank's records and also to Treasury files; his story of the foundation of the bank is the fullest account to have appeared in print and appears to be definitive. The subsequent discussion of constitutional relations with the government and the administration of foreign exchange and monetary policy is useful, but insofar as the activities of the Reserve Bank are only a part of the total management of the economy, and insofar as the views of cabinet, Treasury and other government departments have frequently dominated those of the bank, Dr Hawke's excellent account is inevitably partial, as seen from the bank's window.

This is a book largely about the development of an administrative institution. Readers who expect to find out who or what controls the supply of money and credit, whether the Reserve Bank has or can exercise any control, and what the effect of control is, will be disappointed. Nor is there much in the way of disclosure of what the bank's views were on the relation of money supply and inflation. Was the bank a monetarist? In one of his few references to inflation, Dr Hawke says '[at] the next board meeting [in 1951], the Governor emphasised the need for stronger measures against inflation. As the Government preferred not to use direct controls and as fiscal measures would have to await the next Budget, monetary controls were needed [p. 156].' One wonders whether this is the author's summary of a serious discussion, or whether this is really how the bank's officers thought.

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Aborigines and Colonists: Aborigines and Colonial Society in New South Wales in the 1830s and 1840s. By R. H. W. Reece. Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1974. ix, 254 pp. Australian price: \$12.

TWENTY-FOUR years ago Marjorie Barnard described the Aborigines as constituting a 'codicil to the Australia story.' That can no longer be said, especially in view of C. D. Rowley's three volumes on the *Destruction of Aboriginal Society*. In a recent lecture on 'Writing History in Australia' (published in *Historical Studies*, April 1975) Manning Clark pronounced the confrontation between Aborigines and Europeans a moment of tragic grandeur, a fit subject for a historian of true genius. Rowley's story did not scale such giddy heights; indeed his examination of Aboriginal-European confrontation is piecemeal and perfunctory. But this was only to be expected since, with one or two notable exceptions, the basic research on which a grand survey could be based had yet to be done. As Reece's monograph demonstrates, that research is now being carried out.

Though he provides a useful overview of European attitudes towards Aborigines and discusses briefly early contacts between the two races in Sydney, Mel-

bourne and the Nineteen Counties, Reece is largely concerned with the clashes arising from European occupation of the Liverpool plains in the 1830s and 1840s. He devotes a full chapter to the Myall Creek *cause célèbre* in which seven Europeans were finally convicted and executed for the murder of twenty-eight Aborigines, following an earlier acquittal by a sympathetic jury. But as Reece makes clear, the Myall Creek convictions were an exception to the general rule of frontier 'justice'. They were the result of several fortuitous circumstances: the humanity of two supervisors willing to report what they had seen; the diligence of a local magistrate in collecting evidence; and the determination of the administration to carry through the prosecution despite considerable settler opposition. Thereafter those involved in the slaughter of Aborigines were much more careful to cover their tracks.

Reece's careful examination of the Myall Creek trials and their aftermath is the best part of a useful, though in some ways limited, book. His topic is too narrowly defined — as 'an account of the "Aboriginal problem" as it really was and as it was seen by philanthropists, squatters, and colonial administrators', though not, unfortunately, by Aborigines themselves. Despite some valuable discussion on Gipps's Aboriginal policy, Reece does not regard his book as a history of official policy during the 1830s and 1840s; and he does not regard it as an exhaustive description of Aboriginal-white relations. It will be left to others to examine Manning Clark's moment of tragic grandeur.

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Church and State in Tonga: The Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries and Political Development, 1822-1875. By Sione Lātūkefu. Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1974. xvii, 302 pp. Australian price: \$7.95; N.Z. price: \$10.15.

IN the nineteenth century, Wesleyan missionaries believed that it was they who had brought about a political revolution in Tonga by leading the country from the darkness of heathenism and chiefly tyranny into the enlightenment of a constitutional monarchy with 'Christian laws'; later writers have tended to agree. This book seeks to assess the role played by the Methodist missionaries in Tonga's political development in the half-century preceding the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in 1875. Dr Lātūkefu traces the growth of the Wesleyan mission and its support from 1826, the political and pastoral roles of the missionaries, and the change, both political and social, taking place in Tongan society in the nineteenth century.

In discussing Tonga's political development, the author considers two general processes which are central to the study of Polynesian history: the emergence of strong, centralized 'monarchies'; and the conversion of their leaders to Christianity. Dr Lātūkefu's approach to the first of these processes is coherent and convincing. He gives, for the outsider, a clear outline of traditional Tongan society, discussing both these features that it shared with other Polynesian