

satisfying account of New Zealand social stratification, albeit at the community level.

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Economics for Historians. By G.R. Hawke. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1980. 237pp. N.Z. price: \$15.25 soft cover, \$41.95 hard cover.

THE BEST thing that a reviewer of this book can do, at least in these pages, is to try to explain just what kind of reader is likely to find it useful. The author, Gary Hawke, is Professor of Economic History at the Victoria University of Wellington and is in an excellent position to mediate between the disciplines of economics and history. However, this book is not for just any student of history interested in finding out about economics. Rather it is aimed at those who have already had some basic grounding in economic principles and who wish to understand more clearly the relevance of those principles to the study of history, especially economic history.

One chapter, the first, will be of more general interest. Here Professor Hawke discusses some differences between the disciplines of history and economics. His stance is not that one is superior to the other; historians and economists typically ask different questions and employ different methods, but both can benefit from understanding what the other is about. Any historian, however ill-informed on economic theory, should find this discussion useful. Hawke's general approach is to emphasize that economic theory, in the words of Keynes, 'does not furnish a body of settled conclusions immediately applicable to policy. It is a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking, which helps its possessor to draw correct conclusions' (pp.7-8). Some of the general features of this 'technique of thinking' are described in this chapter in terms that anyone can understand.

After that the going gets much tougher. Though Hawke describes his book as an introduction to elementary concepts of economics he proceeds along at a brisk pace explaining in very succinct terms the meaning of concepts such as economic rent, quasirent, fundist and materialist approaches to capital, etc. I doubt if many readers who have never studied economics will get very far past the first chapter. It is not that Professor Hawke's prose and explanations lack clarity. It is simply that so much ground is covered in so short a space. My own training in formal economics ended at second-year undergraduate level in 1958 and I found that I had to read very slowly and carefully, often going back and re-reading passages to be sure I had understood them.

The book then is not for beginners but it should be very helpful for its intended readers. Ideally these would be, I imagine, students studying economic history at an advanced level, who have earlier completed some elementary courses in economic theory. The book is particularly geared towards students of British economic history, most of the examples being drawn from there, but this is not of

major importance. The stress is on basic economic concepts and their validity is not geographically confined.

Though this book will probably not be found useful by most history students in New Zealand, it would be in a better world. Let me quote with approval Professor Hawke's final words in this book: 'Many historians doubt the value of economic theory. But it is difficult to think of one familiar with economics who does not find it useful; nor is it likely—at least not until economic theory becomes so well-known that its distinctive contribution is difficult to recognise' (p.214).

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Beyond New Zealand: The Foreign Policy of a Small State. Edited by John Henderson, Keith Jackson and Richard Kennaway. Methuen, Auckland, 1980. 270pp. N.Z. price: \$14.95.

THIS IS one of the now numerous books not created by a writer, a researcher—a mind—seeking to communicate with a public, but concocted to meet a market. It is a 'book of readings' on New Zealand policy, aimed, presumably, at students of international relations.

It is edited by three Canterbury political scientists—though how three people can edit a book is unknown to me. In the introduction John Henderson seeks to establish a new way of looking at New Zealand foreign policy, as the foreign policy of a small state. Small state theorists have identified various characteristics of small state behaviour, such as an emphasis on economic foreign policy and a moral emphasis. But this attempt to give the book a theoretical structure is only occasionally followed up by the contributors, who include diplomats, a peace activist and journalists as well as academics.

There are 43 articles on the historical and global setting, defence, trade, internationalism, the Pacific, New Zealand and Asia, and the making of foreign policy. This will be a useful reference book for students writing essays. But, taken as a whole, the book is a mish-mash. Some of the articles are so sketchy as to be trivial—notably the three pages on relations with Australia, which ought to be a major topic. Richard Kennaway devotes five pages to the great power context and five to New Zealand and the E.E.C. Peter Jones, who is identified as a British Quaker, writes peace propaganda. Most of the articles are sound but, like Keith Jackson's on the Vietnam war, very thin. There are a number of good articles, especially Luke Trainor's on sport and Gleneagles, Tom Larkin on Japan, and John Henderson's several contributions. As a whole, the book is a lucky dip.

When I returned from World War II, after studying at Chatham House, London, I joined the Institute of International Affairs. In Auckland, at least, only W.T.G. Airey, R.M. Chapman, myself and a handful of others gave a serious and sustained attention to foreign relations. Such a book as this, with its numerous academic contributors, could not have been written. It is a testimony