

Little space is given by Baker to those who opposed the war effort (apart from the galling accounts of their treatment by the authorities, in particular the 14 conscientious objectors who were sent to the Front in France in 1917). This is intentional on Baker's part. He explains that he wanted to keep those who opposed the war effort in their place as a minority group. Baker claims that too much prominence has been given to them previously by leftist historians. A good deal of attention is given to Sir James Allen who, as Minister of Defence, was largely responsible for introducing conscription and running it, and was Acting Prime Minister twice during the war. Baker argues that Allen deserves a more prominent place in New Zealand history than he has hitherto been given, as New Zealand's effective leader during the First World War. The success of conscription he attributes at least in part to 'the good and sustained intentions of its administrator', who was responsible for avoiding the extremes of inefficiency, unfairness, militarism, and intentional brutality that other conscriptionist nations showed to be possible (p.230).

The strength of this book, however, lies not in the attention to policymakers and administrators but in the voice of the people that clearly comes through. A wide range of sources has been consulted and presented in a clear and interesting fashion. Baker has shown what the average New Zealander felt about the war and conscription and how attitudes changed in the course of the war. He argues convincingly that conscription worked because most people wanted it, or at least accepted it; that it was an expression of popular will, in particular an expression of the belief that there should be an equality of sacrifice.

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'I Shall Not Die'. Titokowaru's War. New Zealand, 1868-9. By James Belich. Allen & Unwin/Port Nicholson Press, Wellington, 1989. 323pp. NZ price: \$29.95.

TWO GOOD books, based on two dissertations, in four years is a most impressive achievement, and the second book, though on a much smaller subject, is as good as the first.

Titokowaru, once a name to frighten settlers, a Maori leader never beaten in a battle, has almost vanished from our history books. Dr Belich has convincingly resurrected his reputation. In doing so he has written what must be the most detailed account of any event or brief series of events in our history.

Titokowaru, at first a 'determined pacifist', became involved in the resistance to the occupation of confiscated land by settlers. The killing of Europeans involved him in conflict with the Armed Constabulary, militia, Volunteers, and 'friendly' Maori, that is, kupapa. The numbers engaged were quite small. At first about 200 Maori faced about 1000 Armed Constables and some 200 Volunteers. Later there were some 600 Europeans and about 450 kupapa. There were only a couple of battles, which the so-called 'rebel' Maori won. Titokowaru was a brilliant defensive leader. Still, I do not see how he can be called 'perhaps the greatest war leader' ever produced in New Zealand. Speaking, not too seriously, as a former Sergeant in the NZ Army Temporary Staff and as a former Sub-Lieutenant in the RNZNVR, I wonder how he can be compared with General Freyberg. In any case, most of Titokowaru's men left him, apparently because of his adultery with the wife or wives of one or more chiefs.

Belich does show that he almost won a limited victory, for some of the European troops ran away, mutinied, or just went home because their term of service had expired. The

southern Taranaki settlers fled. Still, I do not see how the Maori, heavily outnumbered, had any hope of winning the war.

As always, James Belich writes well and wittily, a gift not given to all our historians. The story is exciting, the pace rapid. Maori boys are massacred, prisoners killed — by kupapa. One section is written like a novel, inviting us to visit Whanganui in 1868 and engage in various activities such as visiting the kupapa leader, Mete Kingi, stopping for a morning draught at James Cathro's hotel, and so on. This comes off very well. The only problem is that, while we feel sure that it could be documented, there are no footnotes, only lists of sources for each chapter, so that we cannot follow up, at all easily, any point which interests us.

During a recent discussion of the 'new history', Dr Belich said that previous historians had forced their readers to 'chomp their way through a dry muesli'. Presumably he belongs to a 'snap, crackle, pop' school of history.

Dr Belich is particularly good at writing pen-portraits of his characters, such as Colonels Whitmore and McDonnell, and Titokowaru, but at least once he misses a trick. He says that E. W. Stafford, the longest serving nineteenth-century Premier, had (and he quotes someone) 'an entire want of social magnetism'. In fact, he was noted for his very great attraction to women: the closeness of his relationships is not known, though an historian is working on it.

And a final point, not at all critical: the photograph on p.64 of Lucy Takiara Dalton appears to be one of another woman, often called 'Queen Victoria' or the Queen of Nukumaru. In one Turnbull photograph she clearly wore a moko, which Lucy Takiara, whose father was English, did not — or, at least, it is not to be seen in her photograph in the Turnbull Library. Lucy Takiara spied on her relative, Titokowaru, for the government. 'Queen Victoria' bore arms. I should add that the author drew my attention to the Turnbull picture of Takiara.

I make these remarks because many photographs in our libraries and books are wrongly labelled. I have seen a picture labelled W. P. Reeves which resembled him only in the fact that the subject wore Edwardian dress. Worse, I have published a photograph of Wiremu Kingi, so labelled in the Turnbull, who turned out to be Patohe, a Hauhau leader and (on a postcard) the last tattooed Maori man in Taranaki. Photographs need as much scholarly attention as documents. One problem is that we usually know who signed a letter or other document, but we never know who labelled a photograph.

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Days of Darkness. Taranaki 1878-1884. By Hazel Riseborough. Allen & Unwin Historical Branch, 1989. 267pp. NZ price: \$29.95.

DAYS OF DARKNESS is aptly named. It is a study of the manipulation of the law by the settler-parliamentarians, in order to destroy one of the largest Maori settlements in the country. This was Parihaka, built in 1867 in the midst of the confiscated lands of Taranaki.

Hazel Riseborough sets out to tell, not the Maori history of Parikaha, but the European reactions to its founder and prophet, Te Whiti o Rongomai. She demonstrates with incision the ways in which, despite the promises made in the original confiscatory legislation that reserves for the tribes would be established, no attempt was made to put those reserves into place. Instead, the government in 1871 apparently abandoned its claims to the lands where Parihaka stood. It attempted to purchase Maori land in the area,