

New Zealand might be written from the perspective of their experience, whatever the current cultural readings of that experience may be.

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Immigration to New Zealand. 1854-1938. By W.D. Borrie. Demography Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, 1991. 198 pp. Australian price: \$17.50. ISBN 0-7315-1305-3.

IT IS SURPRISING to me that a monograph written more than half a century ago, essentially unrevised, and without editorial introduction, should be published and presented to the inquiring world as a piece of modern scholarship. That this has occurred is a tribute to the career of W.D. Borrie, founder and former head of the Demography Program at ANU.

Borrie's *Immigration to New Zealand* is primarily a descriptive work detailing governmental policies and individual and group initiatives which attempted to direct and regulate immigration flows and settlement patterns from the beginning of effective representative government until the eve of the Second World War. He links the formation of immigration policy to factors seen as fundamental to New Zealand's national and economic development: 'provincial rivalry', the New Zealand Wars, gold, the international market for wool, policies favouring close settlement, and problems of unemployment and labour shortage. Personalities rather than pressure groups loom large in his discussion, while chronology and legislative change as opposed to thematic concerns or explicitly stated lines of enquiry provide the structural framework.

In its detail this work anticipates later studies, for example, Rollo Arnold's research on the role of English agricultural trade unions in emigration promotion in the 1870s. However, because it makes no attempt to ask questions, or to interrogate and prioritize explanations — often taken at face value from the official sources — Borrie's study fails to add anything substantial by way of interpretative value to New Zealand history. It is curiously dated too, in several ways. For example, the use of language is frequently redolent of the rhetoric (and by implication the assumptions) of nineteenth-century record keepers: immigrants are referred to in terms of 'quality', with many a vague reference to 'inferior' and 'superior' types (pp. 46, 77, 90, 134, 137); Maori are 'tribesmen' and 'hostile natives' against whom European boundaries had to be maintained (p.21); meanwhile governments and policy makers receive approval and opprobrium variously for 'excesses', for plans 'admirably conceived' or carried through with 'commendable enthusiasm' or 'commendable caution' (pp. 26, 30, 37, 95).

A more interesting aspect of this work's contemporaneity is that it was written in (and perhaps inspired by) an era of 'population scare'. By the 1930s new sophisticated demographic measures such as the 'net reproduction rate' (NRR), which Borrie cites but does not explain,¹ suggested that West European populations and their derivatives were

1 Intuitively, the NRR is a measure of the average number of daughters born to women of reproductive age in a given population, making allowance for mortality. If the NRR falls below unity, this is indicative of a population losing the potential to reproduce itself.

no longer reproducing themselves, and in another generation would be aged significantly in composition and beginning to decline numerically. Because of this demographic scenario Borrie sees New Zealand's economic development in the late 1930s, and by implication its immigration policy, at the crossroads. Unfortunately, this preoccupation is not clarified until the final (and most interesting) chapter of the book, where, for the first time, he provides justification for the purpose and chronological sweep of his work. Borrie argues the case for renewed immigration (as natural increase of the Pakeha population could no longer be relied upon to maintain population growth), the deliberate fostering of secondary and tertiary industries at the expense of the primary sector, and a search for new sources of immigrants: Britain, the traditional supplier, was itself in the throes of 'population scare', and could no longer be regarded as having a 'surplus population'. There is a brief suggestion that political refugees from middle Europe might provide the new generation of immigrant recruits.

Had this belated publication been justified on historiographical grounds, we would expect some form of editorial introduction: discussing the contemporary context in which Borrie wrote; explaining why his prognostications did not come to pass; asking questions and drawing generalizations from his evidence, and relating these to issues current in studies of international migration. Without a formal introduction (and indeed without even an index) to this work, Borrie's modest aim that its publication 'assist future scholars in the field' is unlikely to be fulfilled. As it stands the book provides a detailed descriptive overview of immigration policies and possibly a shortcut to the relevant primary sources, but it may also confirm existing prejudices that the outcomes of studying European migrations to New Zealand are predictable and boring. In view of exciting and innovative research currently underway at ANU's Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies, this achievement is disappointing.

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The German Connection: New Zealand and German-speaking Europe in the Nineteenth Century. Edited by James N. Bade. Oxford University Press, Auckland, 1993. 268 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 019-558-2837.

THE 1773 VISIT of Georg and Johann Forster to New Zealand is thought to have been the first direct contact between Germany and New Zealand. Having accompanied Cook as a scientist, Georg later built his career describing his observations in the 1777 classic, *Voyage Around the World*. Some 86 years after Georg's visit, two New Zealanders, Wiremu Toetoe Tumohe and Te Hemara Rerehau Paraone travelled to Austria. Returning to New Zealand with a printing press, a gift from the Austrian Emperor, they too set out on a publishing career, producing the King Movement newspaper, *Te Hokioi e Rere Atu Na*.

However, most interaction between New Zealand and German-speaking Europe was, in the years preceding the First World War, overwhelmingly one-way. German-speakers came to New Zealand to explore, settle, and further their scientific, artistic, business, and spiritual careers. This collection of 25 essays by 20 different authors seeks to illuminate some of the collective and individual contributions of those who came here as visitors and settlers. As the editor notes, the book could more properly be titled the German-speaking