

Unfit for Heroes: Reconstruction and Soldier Settlement in the Empire Between the Wars. By Kent Fedorowich. Manchester University Press, Manchester and New York, 1995. 243 pp. UK price: £40.00. ISBN 0-7190-4108-2.

THIS WORK is part of the long running series, *Studies in Imperialism*. According to the series' general editor, this book represents the 'new' imperial history, emphasizing 'the interactive character of Empire'. The title is a little misleading in that the focus is primarily upon immigration of 'Imperial' soldiers, and the reaction to requests from the metropole by constituent parts of the Empire for land for these men and women. Reconstruction involved more than just land settlement and, as the figures quoted by Fedorowich suggest, only a very small proportion of the total of 'Empire' soldiers serving were actually assisted onto the land. The model used has its more compact antecedents in J.M. Powell's 1980 article, 'The debt of honor: soldier settlement in the dominions, 1915-1940', in the *Journal of Australian Studies*. Fedorowich has, however, taken the model much further and amassed an impressive array of archival material from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and South Africa, explaining primarily the development and operation of imperial immigration schemes after World War I and, to a lesser degree, endeavouring to provide a comparative framework for soldier settlement and reconstruction in the 'white' dominions. The scope of the task undertaken does, however, appear too great for a single publication of this relatively small size. By focusing upon the imperial connection as the explanatory principle, the individual motivations which prompted the various dominions' national, state and provincial governments to provide soldier-land-settlement as part of their 'reconstruction' programmes play a secondary role. As such, this work complements but does not replace the works of people such as Morton and Write in Canada, Marilyn Lake in Australia, and Leah Leneman in Scotland.

Fedorowich provides a good general study of the response of Britain and the 'white' dominions to the demobilization of citizen armies of unprecedented size, and reveals the attempts at imperial co-operation in turning the ex-soldiers into the stuff for winning subsequent battles against such perceived threats as industrial-induced, genetic population decline, spreading, Bolshevik-inspired political instability and labour unrest, and possible 'Imperial' mercantile impoverishment brought about by the 'new' post-war economic and trading environment.

For the imperial government the prospect of a demobilizing army flooding an already well-supplied labour market, altered by women's participation and modern efficiencies, required the institution of policy initiatives that would allay the potential for significant social unrest, particularly of the kind that had engulfed Russia in 1917 and Germany after the armistice. The partial answer lay with assisted emigration to the dominions, which would siphon off the unwanted men (and women) to the vast and under-populated regions of empire and work to strengthen those racial and commercial bonds, which had so recently been reinforced by mutual sacrifice in war and the participation of the dominions in the imperial War Cabinet. The British government could also call upon earlier soldier-settlement precedents, including those in New Zealand, which Fedorowich so well reveals in his first chapter. Paralleling official overtures, made at times during the war, were the actions of representatives of the Royal Colonial Institute, such as the novelist and 'great Imperialist', Sir Henry Rider Haggard, in taking to the dominions a message expounding the advantages to be gained by sowing the seeds of 'yeomanry' in the fertile soil of empire.

For their part, each of the individual dominions responded in terms of their own perceived best interests. The Canadian provinces were seeking populations of English

migrants and enthusiasm for soldiers was mirrored in an increasing 'nativist' disinclination for migrants from southern and eastern Europe. Homesteading the lands alongside the advancing railway systems was intended to open up the vast expanse of unoccupied territory. The commonwealth and state officials in Australia were supportive of soldier-settlement, both for returning 'diggers', and for migrants. Without the coercive war-time ability to conscript reinforcements for active service, the prospect of a farm after the war might well have provided Australian men with some recruitment incentive. The promise of a contented and passive rural yeomanry populating the empty spaces was to give practical expression to the mythology of the bushman and act as a counter to the pernicious attractive power of the two great urban population sinks, Melbourne and Sydney. The positive reception of Rider Haggard's message in South Africa appears, from Fedorowich's research, to reflect the most complex response by any of the dominions to calls by the imperial centre for room and land for its migrating soldiers. Immigration and soldier-settlement formed part of a larger debate in South Africa between the 'ultra patriotic' English-speaking minority population and the resurgent nationalism of the Afrikaner majority, which had rebounded in the years after the Anglo-Boer war. Also serving as a catalyst for dispute was the position of the 'poor white' class, those rural Afrikaner who had been forced, for a number of reasons, to migrate to industrial urban centres. Calls by Afrikaner nationalists for a return to the countryside were antithetical to the notion of a large influx of imperial soldiers soaking up both land and scarce finance. The conflict of agenda meant that, of all the dominions, South Africa received the smallest number of assisted imperial migrants and settled on the land the smallest number of its own and immigrant soldiers.

New Zealand receives scant mention, primarily because this country would not, beyond sympathetic utterances by Prime Minister Massey, commit itself to an imperial soldier-settlement scheme when there was insufficient land available to meet the needs of New Zealanders, and very few imperial soldiers were settled upon the land via the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act. Nothing new is added by this work to the story of soldier settlement in this country that cannot already be found in a small range of published articles, and in several Masters' theses. For New Zealand's significant contribution as a post-war destination for British migrants, Fedorowich has admitted borrowing heavily from the impressive work of Steven Constantine. The footnotes reveal the uneven focus which can be explained by the length of time Fedorowich apparently spent at educational and research institutions in the former dominions, other than New Zealand.

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Ngā Tohuwhenua Mai Te Rangi: A New Zealand Archaeology in Aerial Photographs. By Kevin Jones. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 1994, 296 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 0-86473-268-6.

IN THIS STUDY of archaeological sites as observed by aerial photography, Kevin Jones, of the Department of Conservation, has cast a distant but focused eye on New Zealand's historical landscapes of the pre-contact and colonial eras. The book is divided into 18 chapters. The first discusses the role that aerial photography can play in archaeology. The next five (part 1) look thematically at archaeological sites of Maori origin. The following