

choice of the 14, and each biography is quite independent and separate from the others. The style of the biographies is traditional: besides giving details of their achievements, the life histories of their descendants and eminent surviving offspring are also given. Ng displays his considerable insider-knowledge as a community historian.

The strength of the book is in the material evidence: the reproduction of archival documents and old newspaper records. Drawing upon a broad range of images and verbatim reports of contemporary witnesses, the book evokes life as it was for the Chinese in bygone years. It is less successful in interpreting the broader issues underlying ethnicity and identity. There is little attempt to analyse the forces that shaped the Chinese as a marginalized minority. But it is an exemplary work of a historian who has lived through many changes in his community and is devoted to chronicling the many anecdotes that he feels should be kept for posterity. Perhaps it is not realistic to look for sharp focus or incisive analysis in a work that is intended to be an account of the various facets of the history of the Chinese community. As with the previous volumes, the book can best be used for reference purposes, as a source for checking primary materials. It fills an important gap in New Zealand historical studies, which have been largely Anglocentric.

MANYING IP

The University of Auckland

To Fight for the Empire: An Illustrated History of New Zealand and the South African War, 1899–1902. By John Crawford with Ellen Ellis. Reed in association with the Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, Auckland, 1999. 128 pp. NZ price: \$29.95. ISBN 0-7900-0703-7.

NEW ZEALAND sent 6507 soldiers, mainly volunteers, to fight in the South African War. Of these, 97 were killed in action, died of wounds or were accidentally killed. Many more were wounded. Another 133 died of diseases contracted while at the war, with some of these dying back at home in New Zealand. At the time the country had a population of less than a million people.

Imperial jingoism was illustrated at the embarkation of the First Contingent in 1899, with Prime Minister Richard Seddon affirming they were fighting for 'one flag, one Queen, one tongue and one country — Britain'. This optimism had paled by the time of the embarkation of the Tenth Contingent in 1902. Horrific conditions in the civilian concentration camps and the needless destruction of Boer farms and livestock were further realities of this war.

To Fight for the Empire is not the first work to study New Zealand's involvement in the South African War. Two attempts were made, in 1909 and 1929–1931, to write such a history but, due to army interference, the first is lost and the second remains unpublished. The first published official history had to wait 50 years: David Hall's *The New Zealanders in South Africa 1899–1902* was published in 1949 by the War History Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs. Hall focused on the activities of specific contingents and confessed that time constraints meant that official records were not widely researched, nor was he able to access personal reminiscences, letters and diaries. Histories of specific contingents have also appeared, such as in Richard Stowers' *Kiwi versus Boer, the First New Zealand Mounted Rifles in the Anglo-Boer War 1899–1902*. There have also been one or two published personal reminiscences, for example, Frank Perham's *The Kimberley Flying Column*.

REVIEWS

John Crawford's history differs from these previous books. He has adopted a thematic approach, exploring topics such as the varying levels of civilian support (Maori as it differed from Pakeha), access to medical services and, most importantly, the degree to which the New Zealand forces were integrated into the overall British strategy. The work is extremely well illustrated — plaudits to Ellen Ellis — and includes a comprehensive Roll of Honour of all those in the New Zealand contingents who died, from whatever cause. It should also be noted that some New Zealanders served in British or Australian regiments.

In Crawford's view, and to an extent in that of his predecessor Hall, the nature of New Zealand's involvement in the war set the scene for other wars later in the century. This included an acceptance of the general quality of New Zealand soldiers, the development of a national identity while still part of British military strategy, the extensive use of non-regular soldiers, a high level of civilian mobilization and intolerance of any dissent. All these points were echoed during both the First and Second World Wars, to greater or lesser degrees.

New Zealand's record in publishing war history is a worthy one, with many sterling histories of our involvement in both the First and Second World Wars, and Korea. Crawford has now provided an excellent coverage of the South African War. One hopes that similar histories of our involvement in Malaysia and Vietnam are not far off, especially while the participants, both soldiers and their families, are still able to provide the human perspective.

DAVID VERRAN

Auckland City Libraries

Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Australia, Canada & New Zealand. Edited by Paul Havemann. Oxford University Press, Auckland, 1999. 520 pp. NZ price: \$65.00. ISBN 0-19-558407-4.

OVER THE PAST 30 years indigenous peoples have sought radical alterations in the relationships they have with the liberal democratic states that colonial settlers and their descendants have created. *Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Australia, Canada & New Zealand* is a collection of 17 commissioned essays and one transcribed interview which provide a comparative and multi-disciplinary examination of this struggle. Editor Paul Havemann, a legal scholar, has done an admirable job of organizing the book into six parts to highlight the major themes that are explored: Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives: Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Coexistence; Settling the Anglo-Commonwealth; Politicising and Internationalising Indigenous Peoples' Rights Claims; Colonisation, Criminalisation, and Indigenous Peoples' Rights; Administering Indigenous Affairs: Citizenship and Self-Determination; and Constitutionalising Indigenous Rights. Havemann's excellent introductions to each of these sections highlight the main points of the authors' contributions.

The section on settling the Anglo-Commonwealth is essentially the core of the book since it lays out most clearly the fundamental issues and processes that are addressed in the collection, and best demonstrates the valuable insights that solid comparative analyses can provide. In 'Politicising Indigeneity: Ethno-politics in White Settler Dominions', sociologist Augie Fleras notes that indigenous peoples' 'ethno-politics', which encompasses 'identity politics' and the 'politicisation of difference', poses a fundamental threat to the authority of multicultural liberal democratic states. This is because indigenous