

hearings felt that they, rather than the Crown, were the real defendants, and Belgrave is clearly dubious about some aspects of the wisdom of the Tribunal's strategy. The Tribunal handled the Chatham Islands enquiry 'according to contemporary sensibilities' in attempting to devise a fair solution for the present day, but in doing so has 'simply handed another grievance on to future generations, this time Ngati Mutunga, as had the court hearings of the past' (p.316).

A final chapter deals with the settlement process of the present day. 'Settling claims', as Belgrave observes, 'is the other side of making claims, a process that has proved just as malleable over time'. Crown-Maori settlements have their own whakapapa. Belgrave traces earlier settlements, beginning in the 1920s, before analyzing very trenchantly some aspects of the settlements of the present. He reveals the failure of recent governments to develop a coherent settlements policy, and notes too the unrealistic expectations of governments and other parties as to how long it was all going to take. In this chapter perhaps more could have been said about the role of the Office of Treaty Settlements and the ways in which the settlement process is coming to complicate, frustrate or distort the Tribunal's enquiries.

The case studies and the opening and closing sections of the book are well integrated and Belgrave has certainly succeeded in his aspiration to contextualize the Tribunal's inquiries both historically and in the contemporary world. This reviewer would have preferred perhaps less general history in the case study chapters and even more analysis and reflection on the Tribunal process, but no doubt many readers will welcome the more general background material without which those parts of the text dealing with the Tribunal hearings and analysis would have little meaning. This is an undoubtedly provocative, well-written and interesting book which makes an important contribution to a topic of great national moment.

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Frontier of Dreams: The Story of New Zealand. Edited by Bronwyn Dalley and Gavin McLean. Hodder Moa, Auckland, 2005. 416 pp. NZ price: \$59.99. ISBN 1-86971-006-1.

THE PUBLICATION OF NEW GENERAL HISTORIES OF NEW ZEALAND has accelerated in the past few years, from James Belich's 1,000 pages in two volumes to Michael King's *Penguin History*. *Frontier of Dreams* appeared after my Cambridge *Concise History*, and a 30-chapter *New Oxford History of New Zealand* is in progress. What distinguishes *Frontier of Dreams* from these other histories is its partnership with a lavish television series and the associated visual component, combined with the team approach to writing by historians at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage who filled out storylines drafted for each of the television episodes by historians from the ministry and academia. The result is a large and attractive volume with the sort of cover that you would expect for a book of a television series, a volume which serves both as an accompanying text for an on-screen interpretation of the national story and as a stand-alone history of New Zealand.

This tome is substantial in every sense, testing the range of my kitchen scales at 2.3 kg. It would not transport easily on a bus or on a plane; it is even too heavy to read in bed. Evidently the producers envisaged a coffee table book, and you need to be seated comfortably to read it, and to study its rich and colourful illustrations. Such practicalities matter when a book claims to be the most accessible of New Zealand histories. To my mind this requires being transportable. The claim of being comprehensive is more valid (if not the 'most' comprehensive), and so it should be, at over 400 pages.

Designed for the general reader, this book's strength is dealing with the theme of New Zealand people and culture rather than New Zealand in the world. Thanks to the collaboration with television, sketches and paintings, photographs, advertisements and maps enhance every single page of text. Most of all, the images lend themselves to use in the classroom or the lecture theatre. Indeed, the book's appeal lies in the beautifully reproduced and abundant illustrations, which tell a story in themselves. *Frontier of Dreams* offers a wealth of material for PowerPoint slides, and to help bring to life New Zealand stories. The maps greatly assist the reader (or viewer) to comprehend what happened at key moments; for example, by portraying the sites of early whaling and mission stations, of war in the Waikato in 1863, the ANZAC front line at Gallipoli, and the Western Front in 1916. There is a useful timeline throughout the book, while text boxes tell stories within stories, such as about 'square eyes' with the arrival of television.

This is not a volume to read cover to cover; it is arranged in episodes to match the television series. Hence the national story is written not as a connected narrative but as a series of essays after the style of encyclopedia entries, which together provide a helpful reference point for developing a basic understanding of New Zealand history. At times the writers strive too hard in their aim to encourage New Zealanders to embrace their story. There is no need for colloquialisms such as 'Maori had been getting on his wick lately' (p.73); neither is it necessary to resort to vernacular such as 'kiddie blip' (p.309), in this case to refer to the baby boom. At times the journalese is off-putting, notably in chapter 3. The passages in plain English communicate with the reader more effectively. Where the collaboration with television constrains the ministry's historians is in their having to adopt the genre of a nationalist as well as national history. While based on the latest research, this is a standard story of late settlement followed by rapid nation-building and development, the adventurous mutual discovery of Europe and te ao Maori, and the triumphant, interdependent making of Maori and Pakeha. There are no 'history wars' here.

For this reader the text comes alive with the teenagers in the post-war era. Jock Phillips's chapter 12 on 'Generations' is the exceptional chapter in the volume, structured around the motif of the generation gap between baby boomers and their parents. Phillips — who unlike Belich identifies the key turning point as 1965, not 1973 — provides the most accessible story to date of the era from 1965 to 1984. Overall, however, the pictures outshine the essays. I recommend that the reader become the viewer and browse the superb illustrations. *Frontier of Dreams* adds to the valuable resources provided by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage via www.nzhistory.net.nz and the on-line encyclopedia Te Ara, notably by bringing to light a stunning array of pictorial evidence to enrich our understanding of New Zealand's past.

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New Zealand Identities: Departures and Destinations. Edited by James H. Liu, Tim McCreanor, Tracey McIntosh and Teresia Teaiwa. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 2005. 304 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 0-86473-517-0.

IN 15 CONCISE CHAPTERS, *New Zealand Identities: Departures and Destinations* covers a range of historical and contemporary issues in New Zealand. Identity has been a foundational subject of sociological enquiry, which has often explored the structural ways in which identity plays out at the individual and collective levels, and examined the symbols and meanings attached to culture and identity. Historical approaches in New Zealand have tended to focus upon nationhood and national identity, an approach that is