

the other hand, the supporting notes are excellent and provide good contextualization for Annie's daily musings.

All in all, *Annie's War* is a useful contribution to the New Zealand World War One historiography, providing a very different experience from those we have seen to date and reminding us that the New Zealand experience of the war was diverse.

GWEN PARSONS

*University of Canterbury*

*Changing Times: New Zealand Since 1945*. By Jenny Carlyon and Diana Morrow. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2013. 576pp. NZ price: \$49.99. ISBN: 9781869407827.

This is a timely and useful comprehensive synthesis of New Zealand's history since 1945. The book's 12 chapters are both chronological and thematic. The broad objective is to 'engage with the key themes, ideas, people, places and events that forged the history of New Zealand in the second half of the twentieth century' (p.5). *Changing Times* manages to weave together social, political, economic and cultural history with apparent ease. Major events and individuals are introduced in enough detail to satisfy those encountering them for the first time. Readers who have lived through some or all of the time period can ponder just how and in what ways times have changed – or not. The theme through the book is to weigh up the influence of those advocating for change against the pull of those striving for continuity.

As the authors wade into their content and analysis without devoting much attention to their guiding structures and frameworks, situating this book theoretically and methodologically is an interesting task. Despite the intention to 'tell the story using the experiences and views of New Zealanders themselves' where possible (p.5), this is not a book to draw heavily upon oral histories. Nor is it one to present voluminous and focused research from New Zealand government documents. The sources are incredibly eclectic, and mainly secondary, with *Changing Times* bringing together and summarizing the research and ideas of historians who have previously studied various aspects of the time period. In this way, *Changing Times* works as an introductory reference text. At the University of Canterbury we are already recommending it as an introduction to the time period for students. The clear and flowing prose makes it easy to read and the comprehensive scope makes for a strong source. In contrast to the trend for brief electronic synopses, this is a doorstop of a book, coming in at 520 pages. Enhancing the text, there are carefully selected high quality photos, likely familiar to historians. Paul Moon's general texts on the twentieth century and turning points come to mind as belonging to a similar genre of New Zealand history. These books are more social and cultural in approach, yet also mix in major political and economic events. They are generous and gently inclusive at the expense of thesis and argument. However, a major strength of this book is that the level of analysis goes

beyond the cliché that could result from such a broad historical brief. For example, the book provides a satisfyingly complex discussion of women in paid employment in the post-war years and of the consequent social changes.

The New Zealanders who feature in *Changing Times* are mainly famous. The authors are at their sharpest when discussing Robert Muldoon as ‘truculent’ and his ‘Think Big’ and carless days schemes as demonstrating an ‘autocratic bent’. They suggest that Muldoon lost touch with the ‘ordinary bloke’ and the changing temper of the times (p.210). Beyond prime ministers and other politicians, the voices of literary icons make a prominent appearance, providing definitions of the times through their art. Hence, there is a tendency to draw upon those who self-consciously made identity, which risks overemphasizing their intentions, rather than their impact.

So just what changed during the time period? Readers of the *NZJH* are unlikely to be surprised: the turn away from Britain and towards the United States of America, China replacing Australia as New Zealand’s biggest trading partner, secularism, changing morals and environmental awakening, Parker-Hulme, Mazengarb, Radio Hauraki, Māori Show Bands, television, sport, new leisure pursuits, urbanization, the erosion of the welfare state. Change for and by Māori is integrated through the book. Surprisingly, there is no mention of Māori in the introduction. The focus on the 1948 study of New Zealand democracy by Leslie Lipson sets a largely Pākehā benchmark; it captures the moment and foreshadows the change to come. And while immigration comes into focus during the latter part of the book, especially through ‘a Pacific efflorescence’, it is introduced as one of many factors creating change. The eclectic approach and attempt to give an impression of a big time period is at the expense of really grappling with uneven power relations and change. Likewise, regional and especially rural places risk being downplayed. This is especially true in the conclusions made about New Zealand in the early twenty-first century – which appear to be centred in the North. Auckland’s increasing status during the time period could be stated more strongly. The debates over and implications of treaty settlements are present as a part of the narrative, but the approach taken does not assert them as the key and major factor for change.

Geographically, there is a regional mix through the book. The suburbs of Otara and Porirua are featured and there is attention to farmers and manufacturing. The recent Canterbury earthquakes have introduced new reverberations, and while Tangiwai, Erebus and the Wahine are mentioned, would they be more prominent if the book were written now?

Stripped down, the general approach and reliance upon secondary sources has resulted in an often media-source-driven book that presents representations of the times. Through such a lens it is the culture/economy interface that perhaps gains the most emphasis.

There are some unfortunate typos that have slipped through the editing process, such as New Zealand as ‘her’ (p.5), ‘Sir Edmond Hillary’ (p.184), and awkward tenses on page 342 where it should be ‘had’ not ‘have’. Overall, *Changing Times* is sound, but not profound. It is a useful summary and a good read for students and general readers that falls short of offering new interpretations.

KATIE PICKLES

*University of Canterbury*