

just as managements of enterprises headquartered in London or Glasgow struggled to assess what was really happening to their operations in Africa, that of the Union Steamship Company in Dunedin frequently felt frustrated in trying to work out how well agents were running their business in Fiji. Drawing in part on the researches of a generation and more of Pacific historians, Steel notes how opportunities for employment as stevedores led some indigenous people to neglect their traditional responsibilities to perform communal work and to resist chiefly authority, particularly in the region around Suva. The final substantive chapter looks at the way indigenous people in Tonga, Samoa and the outer islands of what was officially defined as Fiji travelled and worked on steamships both to facilitate customary traditions and to pursue new opportunities, often getting around official attempts to restrict them.

There is a danger that works that focus on culture will become enmeshed in rather convoluted discussion of theoretical constructs appreciated by only a small subset of the academic, let alone general, audience. While certainly locating her work in a wider intellectual context in her introduction and conclusion, in the main part of this book Steel develops her arguments through accounts of incidents and the words of those involved. She constantly analyses the implied and often unconscious messages embodied in contemporary actions and discourse, but does so plainly and succinctly. Consequently we never lose sight of the fact that this is a history about the lives of real human beings.

This work is part of the long-running Studies in Imperialism Series, published by Manchester University Press under the general editorship of John M. McKenzie. The series has rightly gained a reputation for a high standard of accessible scholarship, and *Oceania under Steam* certainly lives up to that reputation.

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Beyond Gallipoli: New Perspectives on Anzac. Edited by Raelene Frances and Bruce Scates. Monash University Publishing, Melbourne, 2016. 259pp. Australian price: \$34.95. ISBN: 9781925495102.

GALLIPOLI HAS BEEN DESCRIBED by one of Australia's leading war historians as 'surely the most overworked subject in Australian military history'. Another of similar stature, who has a chapter in this book under review, once remarked at a conference at the Australian War Memorial that future research grants should be given only to historians *not* writing books on Gallipoli.¹ Yet here is another book from across the Tasman that treads this well-worn path. There is a difference, though. *Beyond Gallipoli* takes a transnational approach to a campaign that Australians and New Zealanders have tended to claim as their own turf to the exclusion of others. And its subtitle implies some new assessments on this hundred-year-old military campaign will be made. As the editors state in their introduction, their book 'approaches old questions in a new way, offering fresh perspectives on the Gallipoli landing and their legacy, and showcasing the work of leading and emerging scholars from the UK, USA, Canada, France, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Turkey' (p.1). These are ambitious goals.

Beyond Gallipoli emerged from an international conference held at Canakkale, Turkey, on the shores of the Dardanelles over four days in May 2015. That conference, some seven years in the planning by Monash University and the Canakkale Onsekiz Mart Universitesi, certainly did not go according to plan. It was largely taken over by the Ataturk Arastirma Merkezi, the Ataturk Research Centre in Ankara, which stacked the conference with speakers who would belligerently promote the Turkish nationalist agenda and strictly control any questions asked. The international visitors were able to escape some of these tight restrictions so that two different conferences with two vastly different styles emerged from the same event.² That a publication of this quality also emerged from this conference is quite remarkable, although three chapters by Turkish historians were pulled at the last minute when they learned the phrase 'Armenian genocide' would be used in the book. Fifteen papers from the May 2015 conference are featured in *Beyond Gallipoli*.

Beyond Gallipoli does live up to the promise of its subtitle. Several chapters do indeed offer new and often surprising perspectives on Gallipoli. In the opening chapter Robin Prior condenses his book *Gallipoli: The End of the Myth* (Sydney, 2009) into eight pages and finds a couple of more Gallipoli myths to effectively demolish. This is followed by another chapter of penetrating insight, headed 'Between Memory and History', in which Jenny Macleod and Gizem Tongo trace the history of Kemal Ataturk's reconciliatory statement on the Gallipoli dead which has been so often used and misused on Anzac Days. In tracing the history of Ataturk's 'speech' they show how this reconciliation diplomacy has been at the cost of any acknowledgment of or reconciliation with the descendants of the Ottoman Armenians. It was this chapter, or rather the refusal to tone down its language, that caused the withdrawal of three papers by Turkish academics from this book. Kevin Fewster's chapter on how the Great War has been memorialized and commemorated by museums and artists in the centenary period was perceptive and challenging. The chapter by Raynold Lemelin on the New Foundlanders and Labradorians, the only soldiers from North America to fight at Gallipoli, filled a much neglected gap in the history and legacy of the campaign.

The standout chapter for this reader was the one by Bill Gammage. Described in the introduction as 'the most senior and most distinguished of the historians featured in this volume' (p.8), Gammage certainly lives up to this billing. It is sobering to recall that Gammage's ground-breaking book *The Broken Years* (Canberra, ANU Press) was published in 1974, more than 40 years ago. Gammage's chapter, on the origins of Anzac Day, was full of penetrating insights from its opening paragraph.

There are some problems with *Beyond Gallipoli*. As is expected of edited conference proceedings, some chapters are weaker than others and do not live up to the promise of the subtitle. The book could also have benefited from some tighter editing, too, as some of the errors in it are distracting. There are 15 published papers in the book, not the 17 mentioned in the introduction (p.8). In Chapter 6, in analysing Stephen Daisley's novel on Gallipoli, Rapanui and Papanui Station are both used when referring to the same place. The title of Professor Joan Beaumont's superb study of Australia during the First World War is called *Broken Nation*, not its complete opposite of *Unbroken Nation* (p.128). Footnotes need more than just a surname which is what is used extensively in one chapter.

These quibbles aside, *Beyond Gallipoli* does live up to the promise of its subtitle and is well worth reading. It clearly demonstrates that Gallipoli has become far more than just a military campaign fought over a hundred years ago. But as two historians

perceptively noted in this book, while the Gallipoli campaign holds a special place in the collective memory of Turkey, Australia and New Zealand, 'this history is neither a single nor a simple one' (p.34).

NOTES

1 Peter Stanley, *Quinn's Post, Anzac, Gallipoli*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2005, p.xix. The historian who made the comment about the research grants was Robin Prior.

2 For a detailed report on the May 2015 conference see Peter Stanley, 'Headphones, genocide and Fanta: Reflections on the Canakkale Gallipoli conference', *Honest History*, 4 August 2015, <http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/canakkale-gallipoli-conference-reflections-2015/>

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The Broken Decade: Prosperity, Depression and Recovery in New Zealand 1928–39. By Malcolm McKinnon. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2016. 556pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN: 9781927322260.

THE BROKEN DECADE is a comprehensive history of the period between 1928 and 1939 and will likely become the standard account of the era. Whereas popular (as distinct from scholarly) memories of the era tend to see it as a 'slump' beginning in 1929 which was only rectified when Labour rescued and rebuilt New Zealand after being elected in 1935 (echoing, in popular memory at least, the Liberals who revived New Zealand after the 'Long Depression'), McKinnon is much more nuanced in his analysis. His book is structured around four key phases: an 'Indian Summer' between 1928 and 1930 when high export prices and public works spending made for a relatively buoyant economy; a slump in export earnings and a crisis of rising unemployment between 1930 and 1933, accompanied by cuts to wages, public works and, perhaps most controversially, a devaluation of the currency; a partial recovery between 1933 and 1935; and, finally, a fuller recovery under the Labour government, albeit one followed by a financial crisis in 1938 which was only averted by the outbreak of World War Two.

In some respects, *The Broken Decade* affirms and extends, more than it challenges, the scholarly consensus around the Depression. McKinnon observes that, unpopular though they were in retrospect, the policies of retrenchment and strict limitations on relief payments reflected orthodox practice. Indeed, he demonstrates, they were widely supported by most of the major newspapers and New Zealand economists at the time. On George Forbes, Prime Minister and leader of the United-Reform coalition government, about whom Keith Sinclair famously prophesized that 'some dogged researcher' would uncover his 'political merits', McKinnon is less critical than most, acknowledging his tenacity and the tendency of opponents to underestimate him. His treatment of Gordon Coates (and indeed William Downie Stewart) is also largely sympathetic, although he is critical of the inaction of the coalition government