

Perhaps one framework that could have been explored as a possible theme of the book was the differences in strategy employed by various national-based IWW unions. For example, a major contrast existed between the US IWW, with its ‘dual unionist’ strategy (meaning it set up a new militant industrial union in opposition to conservative, craft-based unions), and the IWW in Australasia, where, as Verity Burgmann details in her chapter about the Australian IWW, Wobblies aimed to ‘bore from within’ existing unions and union federations, such as the ‘Red Feds’ (the first Federation of Labour in Aotearoa New Zealand), and actually had some success.

Further, in seeking to overcome the IWW’s marginalization by historians globally – including in this country – the book sometimes veers towards over-inflating the IWW’s influence. For example, the editors’ claim that ‘the IWW reached almost every corner of the globe’ (p.8) seems exaggerated given the IWW’s negligible presence in Africa and Asia, and its sporadic influence in Europe and South America (apart from perhaps Chile and Argentina, which are not covered in the book).

Wobblies of the World is a welcome addition to studies of the IWW and syndicalism globally and in Aotearoa New Zealand. It covers a broad range of countries, uses multi-lingual sources innovatively, and attempts to overcome the academic–activist divide. Yet overall these innovations are unfortunately let down by its narrative-based chapters that overall lack in-depth critical analysis. Very good, and sometimes excellent, chapters about the French influence over the IWW, and the IWW influence in Australasia, Mexico, Sweden and South Africa (among others) sit uneasily alongside chapters which are little more than fragmentary snippets and biographical vignettes.

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NOTE

1 Marcel van der Linden and Wayne Thorpe, eds, *Revolutionary Syndicalism: An International Perspective*, Scolar Press, Aldershot, 1990.

This Realm of New Zealand: The Sovereign, The Governor-General and The Crown. By Alison Quentin-Baxter and Janet McLean. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2017. 356pp. NZ price: \$65. ISBN: 9781869408756.

THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY continues to attract an ongoing celebrity status in New Zealand, as Prince Harry’s marriage to Meghan Markle in May 2018 demonstrated. At the same time the future of New Zealand’s constitutional monarchy, and particularly whether it should be replaced by a republic, is an issue that has sparked periodic debate in recent decades – albeit on a far more muted level than the media coverage of milestones in the royals’ personal lives. But despite these factors, as lawyer Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter and University of Auckland Professor Janet McLean suggest in *This Realm of New Zealand: The Sovereign, The Governor-*

General and The Crown, the monarchy's specific role in our constitutional system remains for the most part invisible (p.2). Quentin-Baxter and McLean have tasked themselves with exploring the dynamics of New Zealand's democratic constitutional monarchy in order to better inform New Zealanders about the challenges that any future reshaping might present.

This is not a particularly easy task, as this is a complex and (arguably) dry subject area. To give just one example of such complexities, the authors note that the following terms all evoke the monarchy and have legal significance in New Zealand's constitutional arrangements: Sovereign, Queen, Crown, Governor-General, Governor-General in Council and Crown entity. Across 13 substantive chapters, the authors define and explore these particular terms, and their interrelationship with each other and that of other important constitutional players such as the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. The Governor-General's roles and responsibilities in the Executive Branch and in Parliament are respectively explored in Chapters 8 and 11, for example. The final chapter, the Afterword, then considers what introducing a republican constitution would entail, focusing on a 'soft republicanism' model, whereby the Sovereign and Governor-General's roles are transferred to a non-partisan Head of State appointed by the Prime Minister or by the House of Representatives.

This Realm, as its title suggests, locates the development of New Zealand's current constitution within its broader British Empire history. The authors do this by recounting events which will be familiar to all New Zealand historians, such as Captain William Hobson's 'treating' with Māori in 1840. But with their focus on 'realms' (kingdoms), they look beyond New Zealand's immediate borders to explain how the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and the Ross Dependency were all brought into the 'Realm of New Zealand' in the early twentieth century, and how Queen Victoria's once single and indivisible realm had become seven realms from Queen Elizabeth II's accession in 1952 (and is now 16 realms). Yet, as Quentin-Baxter and McLean acknowledge at the outset, theirs is a 'bald and incomplete account of the events and one told entirely from a colonial and British law perspective' (p.9). Their focus is primarily on describing how constitutional issues have unfolded within New Zealand history, and how roles have changed, rather than engaging in the surrounding historiographical debates – the past, in other words, is an ancillary player in their narrative. While the special relationship of Māori to the Sovereign is explored (Chapter 13), including the likely requirement for special consent from Māori if New Zealand changes to a republic, this area is also given relatively minor weight.

Quentin-Baxter and McLean have brought an impressive wealth of academic and practical experience to *This Realm*, situating themselves as 'interested but impartial constitutional lawyers and commentators' (p.5). This means that while they express preferences for particular constitutional features (such as a parliamentary system), they have refrained from advocating for either side of the debate over shifting to a republic. For the most part, they have succeeded in making this subject accessible to a broader audience than constitutional lawyers (to whom this book will certainly appeal). They say they hope their readers will include professionals, students and the general public, and certainly their generous use of sub-headings within each chapter would help make this text a useful teaching resource. Their writing style is concise and their use of first person helps to engage the reader. The bibliography and index are thorough. There are, however, no visual sources such as tables, diagrams

or images, and nor is there a glossary, all of which may have both added appeal and aided comprehension.

When I was a public law student in the late 1990s, Sir Geoffrey Palmer's *Unbridled Power?* (followed by its updated iterations as *Bridled Power: New Zealand Government under MMP*, co-authored with Matthew Palmer) was a pivotal reference. *This Realm* sits alongside these texts, and will be an important reference source for those wanting to better inform themselves when New Zealand's republic debate is reignited.

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