

A Controversial Churchman

Essays on George Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand and Lichfield, and Sarah Selwyn

Edited by Allan Davidson

Teacher Notes

History

BOOK OVERVIEW

A Controversial Churchman is a collection of essays about George Augustus Selwyn and his wife Sarah, along with a foreword by Sir Paul Reeves and an introductory overview. Selwyn, as the first Anglican Bishop in New Zealand, was deeply involved in giving leadership to the Māori Church; shaping the organisation and life of the settler church; responding to the conflicts arising from inter-racial politics; influencing the design of church building; undertaking a leadership role as a missionary bishop in Melanesia. Essays also deal with Selwyn's subsequent appointment as Bishop of Lichfield and his visits to North America. The essay on Sarah Selwyn focuses on her role as the bishop's wife and the support she gave her husband. Selwyn's continuing influence is traced in an essay examining how the bishop has been used in Waitangi Tribunal history. A chapter on Selwyn's extensive and surviving correspondence provides insights into his administration, his interests and his influential correspondents.

KEY FEATURES

- the foreword and introduction evaluate Selwyn's ongoing significance
- essays evaluate the influences shaping Selwyn and the impact of his actions
- an essay highlights Sarah Selwyn's role as the wife of a leading figure in colonial New Zealand
- the authors draw extensively on primary sources and original research
- illustrations include photographs of the Selwyns and people, buildings and places connected with them
- concludes with notes on the contributors, abbreviations, endnotes, bibliography and index.

RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

History Level 7

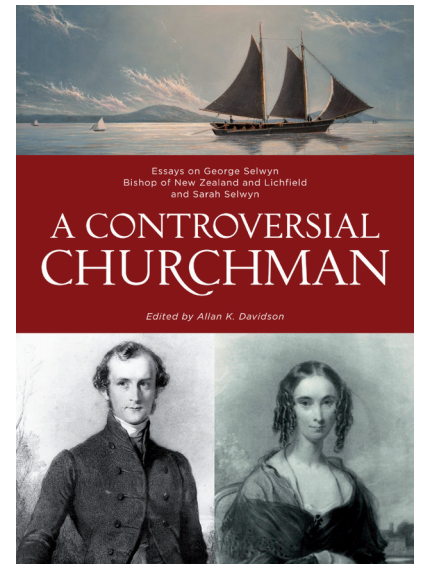
Students will gain knowledge, skills and experience to:

- understand how historical forces and movements have influenced the causes and consequences of events of significance to New Zealanders
- understand how people's interpretations of events that are of significance to New Zealanders differ.

History Level 8

Students will gain knowledge, skills and experience to:

- understand that the causes, consequences and explanations of historical events that are of significant to New Zealanders are complex and how and why they are contested
- understand how trends over time reflect social, economic and political forces.



ABOUT THE EDITOR & AUTHORS

The editor, the Revd Dr Allan Davidson ONZM, has published extensively on New Zealand and Pacific religious history. The essayists are all experienced published authors: Revd Dr Ken Booth, Judith Bright, Rt Revd Dr Terry Brown, Revd Dr Janet Crawford, Revd Dr Bruce Kaye, Revd Dr Warren Limbrick, Dr Grant Phillipson, Professor Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Associate Professor John Stenhouse, Associate Professor Rowan Strong.

Books in School Libraries

Religious Studies Level 3

AS90825 (3.2) Analyse a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand

USING A CONTROVERSIAL CHURCHMAN IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

A *Controversial Churchman* can be used:

- as a source of primary and secondary material on how the actions of individuals are shaped by their background, worldview and their response to the situations they face
- for understanding how nineteenth-century Māori and settler views were in conflict and the difficulty of a leader trying to hold the trust of both groups
- to gain insights into how far the Waitangi Tribunal uses people of the past to give legitimacy to its judgements on colonial actions against Māori
- to assess the importance of imperial networks and influential correspondents in shaping colonial politics.

Students could:

- produce an illustrated biographical poster demonstrating the multi-faceted dimensions of Selwyn as an ecclesiastical leader in nineteenth-century New Zealand. Ideas could include: Selwyn the bishop, the traveller, the sailor, the correspondent, the church architect and builder, the missionary, the educationalist, the politician, husband and father. Other possible formats for presentation of analysis on these biographical themes: Research essay, magazine/newspaper article, podcast, PowerPoint presentation, short video, diary/letter writing, blog
- write an essay examining the causes and consequences of the arrival of Christianity in New Zealand. Or write an essay on how the arrival of Christianity affected New Zealand Society or the forces that influenced the development of the Christian Church in New Zealand.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY

- Search out examples of ‘Selwyn Churches’ noting the reasons for their distinctive architecture and the role they have as heritage buildings in our society today.
- Examine the Introduction and consider the historical approaches taken in this book alongside other biographical writing about Bishop Selwyn.
- Using John Stenhouse’s essay as a guide, undertake a search on Papers Past about Bishop Selwyn and examine the way in which he is portrayed in the colonial press.

FURTHER READING

John H. Evans, *Churchman Militant: George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of Lichfield and New Zealand*, Allen & Unwin, 1964

Warren E. Limbrick (ed.), *Bishop Selwyn in New Zealand 1841–68*, Dunmore, 1983

W. E. Limbrick, ‘Selwyn, George Augustus 1809–1878’, in W. H. Oliver, (ed.), *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Volume One 1769–1869*, Department of Internal Affairs & Allen & Unwin, 1990, pp.397–89. See also <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies>

H. W. Tucker, *Memoir of the Life and Episcopate of George Augustus Selwyn, D.D. Bishop of New Zealand, 1841–69; Bishop of Lichfield, 1867–1878*, 2 vols, Wells Gardner Darton, 1879

- BWB Publishing Trust would like to thank Allan Davidson and Carol Jarman for these teacher notes.

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