

An Unsettled History

Treaty claims in New Zealand today

By Alan Ward

Teacher Notes

History

BOOK OVERVIEW

Alan Ward wrote *An Unsettled History* 'in the hope of extending the understanding, in the wider community, of the Waitangi claims process, and its historical context' (Preface). The book draws on a considerable body of research work Ward carried out for claimants before the Waitangi Tribunal (e.g., Ngāi Tahu) and contract work for the Tribunal itself (e.g., National Overview of the Rangahaua Whānui project).

Part 1 discusses the importance of the Treaty as a binding pact between Māori and the Crown. Part 2 is the historical section looking at land transactions and the Native Land Acts. Part 3 relates historical grievances to the Treaty process.

Ward is a New Zealander who has lived much of his professional life overseas. This produces a distance, and a closeness, that makes him perhaps uniquely suited to give an impartial overview of discussion surrounding claims under the Treaty through the Waitangi Tribunal. While clearly stating his views he also draws attention in the Introduction to other writers with a different viewpoint).

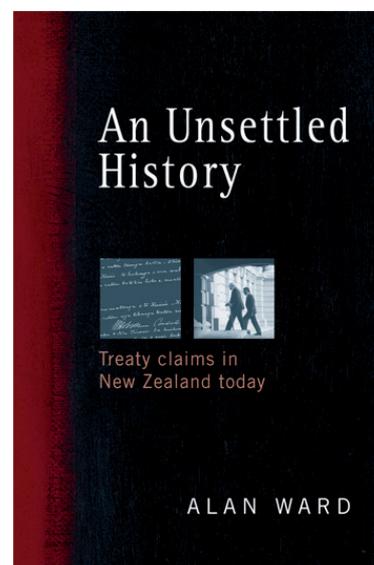
KEY FEATURES

- a thorough summary of modern claims under the Treaty including parties involved, events, and outcomes negotiated
- appendices contain a copy of the Treaty (in English and te reo Māori), important dates for Treaty claims, dates important to New Zealand history between 1840 and 1967 (the admission into the Statute books of the Maori Affairs Amendment Act), and a list of reports published by the Waitangi Tribunal
- twenty-four pages of black and white photographs – putting names to faces and contrasting popular statements by antagonists to the Treaty process to factual evidence
- five maps (pp162–166) showing the alienation of Māori land between 1860 and 1939. For anyone studying this period of history these maps are particularly poignant
- concludes with extensive references, a bibliography, and an index.

RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Level 3

AS91434 (3.1) Research an historical event or place of significance to New Zealanders, using primary and secondary sources (event includes an historical development or movement)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Ward is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Born and educated in Gisborne, he has completed qualifications in history at Victoria University of Wellington (MA (Hons)) and the Australian National University (PhD). His interest is in the advent of the nation state in indigenous Pacific societies with special reference to land tenure and land law. His professional career has involved work in Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu, as well as New Zealand. He has worked extensively for the Waitangi Tribunal and several claimants.

Books in School Libraries

AS91435 (3.2) Analyse an historical event, or place of significance to New Zealanders

AS91439 (3.6) Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it

USING AN UNSETTLED HISTORY IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

3.1 *An Unsettled History* can be used as a starting point for discussion about using primary and secondary material for enquiry on a wide variety of issues of New Zealand history which could include:

- the process towards the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 (which instituted the Waitangi Tribunal) and the development between 1975 and 1985 of the modern approach to claims under the Treaty
- the process of developing a claim including primary and secondary resources used to support the claim
- for research into Treaty claims history. References and the bibliography allow students to follow up primary and secondary source material.

3.2 Use *An Unsettled History* as a starting point for study into significant events such as the Bastion Point occupation by Ngāti Whātua (event), the foreshore and seabed issue (movement or force), customary fishing rights (movement or force), Pakaitore (Moutoa Gardens) occupation in Whanganui (event).

Link claims described in *An Unsettled History* with local museum displays and ongoing claims settlement process.

Possible forms to present analysis on this theme: research essay, magazine/newspaper article, podcast, Powerpoint, Prezi, Lucidchart, Realtime Board, short video, diary/letter writing, short play.

3.6 Write an essay examining trends in Māori responses to colonisation, see p15 of Mason Durie, *Ngā Tai Matatū: Tides of Māori Endurance*, Oxford University Press, 2005.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY IDEAS

Part 2 forms the historical section of the book. It could be used to explore the questions about the Crown's purchase of Māori land and whether this was in accordance of Treaty principles.

FURTHER READING

Tony Ballantyne, *Webs of Empire: Locating New Zealand's Colonial Past*, Bridget Williams Books, 2012 (pages 283–295 in particular; 'Conclusion – Writing the Colonial Past' is an excellent essay for young historians about issues surrounding interpretation of source material)

Vincent O'Malley, Bruce Stirling and Wally Penetito (eds), *The Treaty of Waitangi Companion: Māori and Pākehā from Tasman to Today*, Auckland University Press, 2010

Claudia Orange, *The Story of a Treaty*, Bridget Williams Books, 2013

Alan Ward, *A Show of Justice Racial 'Amalgamation' in Nineteenth Century New Zealand*, Auckland University Press, 1995

■ BWB Publishing Trust would like to thank Christine Hodge for these teacher notes.

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