BOOK OVERVIEW

These essays offer an in-depth and critical analysis of the complex nature and impact of empire building. *Webs of Empire* centres around the principal argument that colonisation and imperialism was more than a flow of influence from London to the colonies, and was rather a ‘complex mesh of flows, exchanges and engagements that linked New Zealand to other colonies as well as to Britain, the heart of the empire’. This work also offers an analysis of New Zealand’s colonial past and engages with the historiography and craft of the historian. These are new perspectives on New Zealand’s national story and pointed reference that New Zealand history is more than just Māori and Pākehā relations. Ballantyne also discusses the role historians have played in the development of national identity, for example the entrenchment of the view that New Zealand is bicultural. He responds by outlining the influence that other ethnic groups, such as Indian immigrants, have had on the development of the New Zealand landscape.

KEY FEATURES

- Essays cover themes as diverse as Asia–New Zealand connections, India in New Zealand, Māori and Asian interaction, whalers and sealers, Christianity, exploration of written archives, the colonial intellectual life of Gore
- Essays are organised roughly in order of publication – reader is able to trace the development of ideas and changes in interpretation
- Engages with important historiography, discussing print culture and the use of archives
- Draws on extensive range of primary and secondary sources
- Concludes with endnotes and index.

RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

**Level Two**

AS91229 Carry out an inquiry of an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders

AS91230 Examine an historical event, or place, of significance to New Zealanders

AS91232 Interpret different perspectives of people in an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

AS91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

AS91234 Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society

**Level Three**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tony Ballantyne is a Professor of History at the University of Otago and is Head of the Department of History and Art History. His research has focused on varying aspects of imperialism and colonisation. His early work looked at the networks formed via the British Empire in India. His more recent work has centred on colonial New Zealand.
AS91434 Research an historical event or place of significance to New Zealanders, using primary and secondary sources
AS91435 Analyse an historical event, or place, of significance to New Zealanders
AS91437 Analyse different perspectives of a contested event of significance to New Zealanders
AS91439 Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it

**USING WEBS OF EMPIRE IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME**

This book gives teachers and students in-depth information on the complex nature of empire building and related historiography. At Level Two it may be more useful as a teacher resource.

*Webs of Empire* could be used to:
- compare and contrast the colonial experience for different colonies; impact of colonisation on different groups (e.g., ethnic groups) or on the development of New Zealand and/or national identity (AS91229, AS91230, AS91434, AS91435)
- explore perspectives of colonisation and imperialism – this could include a comparison between different colonial experiences, such as India, Australia and New Zealand. Or, it could compare the views on or treatment of different ethnic groups – how was the colonial experience different for Māori, Indians, Chinese, etc? (AS91232, AS91234)
- write an essay on the nature of imperialism and impact of colonisation, or analysing the development of New Zealand's national identity/story and the continuing debates (AS91233, AS91234, AS91439)
- Explore historiography by comparing Ballantyne's explanation of key events surrounding colonisation, imperialism and national identity to other historians, such as James Belich (AS91437, AS91439).

**INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY**

The thematic structure of this text and reference to other relevant historians makes it useful for independent enquiry. Some essays are more accessible than others for Level Two and Three students.

**FURTHER READING**

Tony Ballantyne and Brian Moloughney (eds), *Disputed Histories: Imagining New Zealand's Pasts*, Otago University Press, 2006
Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (ed.), *India in New Zealand: Local Identities, Global Relations*, Otago University Press, 2010

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