**BOOK OVERVIEW**

*Workers in the Margins* draws on oral history of workers and trade unionists. The book stems from doctoral research by the author and has been extended by further research. This history focuses on those workers who were traditionally hired last in times of plenty and the first to be fired in times of economic recession.


While pages 29–36 are on Waterfront ’51: ‘Reds’ in the Unions, the book sets out to provide a wider coverage of trade unions in New Zealand, rather than focusing on this single event. The book concludes with chapters on the impact of Māori sovereignty, hard economic times of the late 1980s and the Employment Contracts Act of 1991.

**KEY FEATURES**

- Includes case studies and personal stories
- Covers the period 1943–1994
- Draws on oral history as well as other research
- Illustrations include photographs and posters
- Concludes with abbreviations, list of illustrations, endnotes, bibliography and index.

**RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS**

**Level 2**

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

**Level 3**

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

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Dr Cybele Locke is an academic at Victoria University of Wellington. *Workers in the Margins* has its origins in her doctoral thesis. She has participated in activist movements of the late twentieth century.
USING WORKERS IN THE MARGIN IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

2.4 Students write and deliver speeches from the perspectives of Māori and Pākehā, men and women, unskilled and skilled workers, in the trade union movement.

2.5 Students use the text to identify and describe consequences of the 1951 waterfront dispute on workers and the trade union movement.

3.2 Students prepare for and debate the topic ‘that NZ in the 1900s was a workers’ paradise’. Students describe the role that marginalised workers had in the trade union movement, analysing what impact these workers had on the larger trade union movement.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY IDEAS

Content in Workers in the Margin is relevant to enquiry topics on: urbanisation of Māori; Māori–Pākehā relations in 1900s; Māori quest for autonomy; the 1951 waterfront dispute; protests; the trade union movement; gender issues, such as equal pay; feminism in New Zealand.

FURTHER READING

http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/the-1951-waterfront-dispute/further-information
http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast
timeframes.natlib.govt.nz/

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