

about natural history and its cultural connections in Polynesia. As little of this adds much to a discussion of voyaging, beyond the fact that seafaring was the mechanism for distribution of people, plants and animals, a more coherent and less problematic book might have resulted by focusing on those areas of the author's expertise.

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- 1 K.R. Howe, ed., *Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors*, Bateman, Auckland, 2006.
- 2 Atholl Anderson, 'Finding Tonganui: East Polynesian Seafaring and Migration to New Zealand', in Frances Steel, ed., *New Zealand and the Sea: Historical Perspectives*, Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2018, pp.30–49.
- 3 Atholl Anderson, Judith Binney and Aroha Harris, *Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History*, Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2014, pp.25–26.

See No Evil: New Zealand's Betrayal of the People of West Papua. By Maire Leadbeater. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2018. 296pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN: 9781988531212

A POWERFUL ACCOUNT of successive government failures and inaction, *See No Evil* charts the complicity of New Zealand politicians, diplomats and agencies with regard to the deliberate denial of self-determination for the people of West Papua. At a time of increasing international support for the liberation of the territory, this book is an important contribution to the limited scholarship that addresses the topic. It starkly illuminates the campaigns of violence and terror that have marred indigenous communities for more than five decades in what has been described as a 'slow genocide'.

Maire Leadbeater is well placed to tackle such subject-matter. A former Auckland City councillor and committed human rights activist, she was a long-time campaigner and media spokesperson for the New Zealand Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament during the 1980s and 1990s, later going on to publish *Peace, Power and Politics: How New Zealand Became Nuclear Free* in 2013. A dedicated advocate for the political independence of East Timor, Leadbeater also penned *Negligent Neighbour: New Zealand's Complicity in the Invasion and Occupation of Timor-Leste* in 2006. Her tenacious quest to expose the injustices and suffering imposed upon oppressed minorities is testimony to her deep commitment to the ideals of peace and liberty.

See No Evil provides a historical analysis of the colonization and subsequent occupation of West Papua. Leadbeater's narrative focuses upon the post-1949 period — the year in which the Dutch relinquished sovereignty of the territory to

Indonesia. The book critically examines several treaties and accords that promised self-determination but ultimately failed to deliver. Violations of both the 1962 New York Agreement and the 1969 Act of Free Choice are woven throughout the narrative to draw attention to the inaction of international governments, including those of New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America. Leadbeater chronicles the succession of Indonesian presidential power from Sukarno to Suharto in order to trace the consequences of dictatorial rule in an age of anti-communist sentiment. She also considers the impacts of foreign trade and investment on challenges to emancipation, with particular attention being given to the Freeport-McMoRan gold and copper mine. The apathy of the international community is balanced in the book by examination of local resistance movements and activists. The past efforts of exiled leaders Nicolaas Jouwe, Ben Tanggahma and Herman Womsiwor are chartered, as is the activism of champions including Arnold Ap, Theys Eluay and Neles Tebay. In her discussion of contemporary freedom fighters, Leadbeater explores the accomplishments of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua and the Free Papua Movement, along with the roles played by key protagonists such as Benny Wenda and Octovianus Mote.

Leadbeater's book is meticulously researched and extensively referenced. She interrogates a variety of sources, the most valuable of which are previously classified government documents. In addition, she draws upon media reports, conference papers, administrative publications, reports and interviews to contextualize the inadequacies of New Zealand foreign policy on the achievement of West Papuan political independence. Despite the book's often confronting subject-matter, its prose remains balanced and composed. Each chapter is prefaced with insightful quotations and subheadings are liberally employed throughout, offering the reader adequate moments for pause and reflection.

While it is difficult to find fault with the book, the concluding chapter is a slight disappointment. Leadbeater mentions the efforts of Māori and Pasikifa film makers and artist collectives to raise awareness of the predicament of West Papua, but fails to adequately acknowledge contributions made by the likes of Paul Bensemann, Johnny Blades, David Robie and Victor Mambor. News outlets including the Asia Pacific Report and the Evening Report are also noticeably absent from her bibliography.

In all, *See No Evil: New Zealand's Betrayal of the People of West Papua* is essential reading for those with an interest in the affairs of the Asia-Pacific region. Students and scholars of history, politics, law and international development will take much from the book, while a general readership will develop greater understanding of the shameful role the New Zealand government has played in the continued torment of the people of West Papua.

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