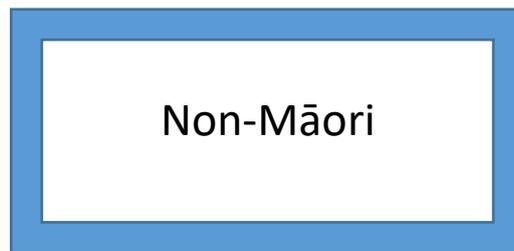


Cultural Awareness & the Treaty of Waitangi - Further Reading

Facilitators: Cathy Sweet, Professional Supervisor in Bi-cultural Practice & Donna Bouzaid, Director of Learning

Two Treaty Partners



Acts of Parliament (more than 560 Acts passed before 1908)

1852 Constitution Act

Saw the establishment of Provincial Government. Only males over 21 who had individual title to property of a certain value were entitled to vote. Very few Māori males were able to do so.

1953 Māori Affairs Act

If Māori land was not occupied or being used then it was declared “waste land” and taken by the Government.

1864 & 1908 Public Works Acts

Māori land could be taken for roads, railways and airports. The Crown often chose Māori land since it could pay the owners less, or nothing at all. Land taken for temporary projects was often not returned afterwards or offered back to past owners at market value.

Examples

1. Port of Tauranga at Mt Maunganui on 96 acres in the early 1950s. Partial repayment to the owners 10 years later. And govt then on-sold unneeded land at prices up to 10 times higher than it had paid.
2. Taurewa Station near Lake Taupō on land taken in 1913 for military training. Govt (Landcorp) recently proposed to sell the farm to private interests.
3. Paraparaumu Airport site – later facing closure.
4. Nelson Airbase 1940 for WWII

1863 NZ Settlements Act

Māori Land in districts where a “considerable number” of Māori were believed to be in rebellion could be confiscated, whether it belonged to the ‘rebels’ or not.

Three million acres went in this way, mainly into the hands of speculators. The confiscation was justified as being needed to establish enough settlers to deter resistance and to cover war costs.

1863 Suppression of Rebellion Act

Suspended basic rights for "certain aboriginal tribes of the colony" seen to be in rebellion against the Crown. Military Courts were established and the penalties they could impose included land confiscation and death. (The act has very similar wording to a suppression act used for Ireland).

Parihaka

Located on the lower slopes of Mt Taranaki. Parihaka became a centre of peaceful resistance from the mid-1860 until the 1890s. Māori from around the country joined Te Whiti-o-Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi who led a non-violent campaign to resist European settlement on land confiscated from south Taranaki Māori.

In 1879 the government started surveying confiscated Te Whiti’s followers disrupted these surveys and ploughed and fenced off land occupied by settlers. Many were arrested and held without trial in the South Island, but the protests continued.

In November 1881, the government sent more than 1500 troops to Parihaka. Te Whiti and Tohu were imprisoned, and the village was demolished. Despite the absence of its leaders, Parihaka was rebuilt. Further ploughing campaigns were followed by arrests without trial.

Urewera

Rua Tapunui Kenana (1869–1937) was a Ringatu prophet and land rights activist.

In 1907 Rua formed a non-violent religious community at Maungapōhatu, the sacred mountain of Ngāi Tūhoe, in the Urewera.

The community, also known as New Jerusalem, included a farming co-operative and a savings bank. Many Pākehā believed the community was subversive and saw Rua as a disruptive influence.

In 1916 police mounted an armed expedition, arriving at Maungapohatu on 2 April to arrest Rua for sedition. He was found not guilty on this charge but imprisoned for resisting arrest