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‘Atholl Anderson, The Welcome of Strangers: A History of Southern Māori’

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Atholl Anderson, *The Welcome of Strangers: A History of Southern Māori* (Bridget Williams Books), 460pp. Hardcover. NZ\$59.99. ISBN 978-1-9910-3393-2.

The history of Māori in New Zealand has long been seen as a beacon among the Indigenous peoples of the former British Empire. Their struggles to maintain cultural integrity, coupled with resistance to colonialism and subsequent developments have meant that Māori are seen as an example of relative success within the indigenous space. What this view does not consider is the relative fragmented nature of Māori society prior to colonisation; this was not a unified people, but rather a group with deep social kinship across several interconnected tribal identities across both islands.

Atholl Anderson's *The Welcome of Strangers: A History of Southern Māori* is, by far, the most seminal work focusing on the Māori society that existed on the South Island. It charts the origins and migrations of the Waitaha and Kati Mamoe peoples, as well as the arrival and establishment of the Ngai Tahu. It also shows the complex interrelationships between the different groups and later Pakeha invaders and settlers. As a Māori archaeologist and member of the Ngai Tahu iwi himself, Anderson brings a depth of cultural understanding and authenticity to the text. His insights into daily life and economic growth of Māori society on the South Island is particularly valuable; too often the non-Aotearoa narrative focuses on life on the North Island, especially around the Māori wars. Anderson skilfully weaves the images of pre-colonialism with the impacts of colonialism and the Treaty of Waitangi; it may be a good consideration for future editions of this book to look at the cultural integrity and development which came in the twentieth century, and to give a perspective on current issues facing Southern Māori iwi (or at least a companion edition).

This version of *The Welcome of Strangers: A History of Southern Māori* is an update to the original 1988 edition of the book. The previous edition was strong as an academic text and groundbreaking in its premise; this edition, however, is possibly one of the most beautiful texts in my collection. The beauty of the artworks adds an understanding to the text and appreciation of the beauty of the South Island. The full colour maps help orientate the reader as to the many and varied sites occupied over the course of the last millennia. It really is a statement piece for any library.

This book, when first published, was transformative for the study of Māori culture. This edition, as such a beautiful tome, should help widen its appeal to the more general reading audience. It is a fantastic and timely story, and one which every New Zealander should be aware.

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