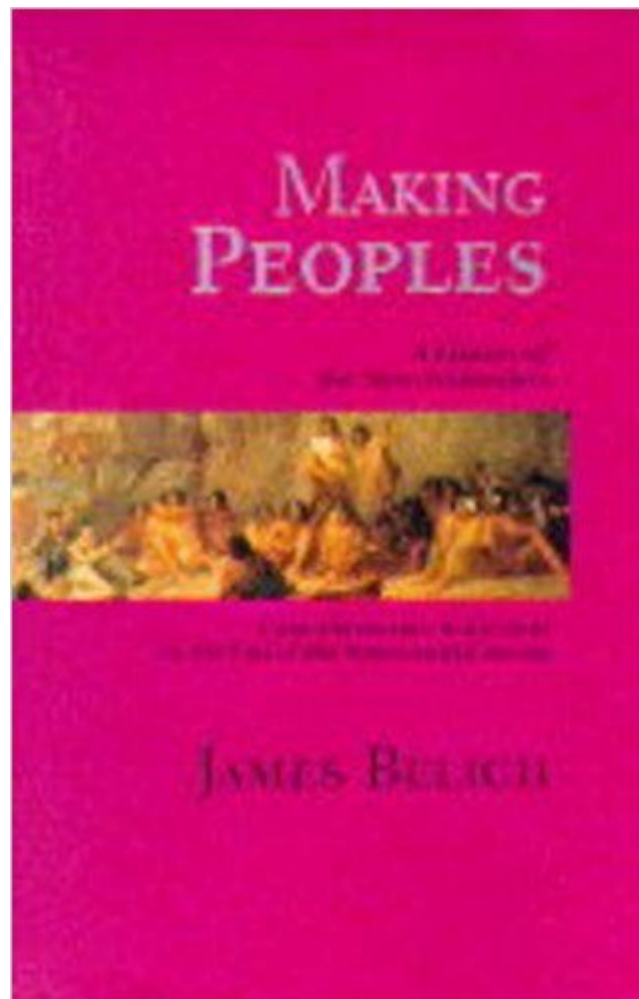


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Making Peoples: A History Of The New Zealanders From Polynesian Settlement To The End Of The Nineteenth Century



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Making Peoples is a survey of New Zealand from the eleventh century to the end of the nineteenth century. It covers Polynesian settlement and its development into the Maori tribes between the eleventh and eighteenth centuries, the encounter between the Maori and Europeans from the seventeenth century, and the foundation between the 1830s and 1880s of the â œPakehaâ • society, the Europeans who settled in New Zealand and maintained mostly European culture and traditions. In tracing this history, Belich seeks to show that New Zealand is a â œhistorianâ™s paradise: a laboratory whose isolation, size, and â œrecencyâ • [sic] is an advantage, in which grand themes of world history are often played out more rapidly, more separately, and therefore more discernibly, than elsewhere. Much of the novelty of Belichâ™s study derives from his attempt to interpret New Zealand history as the product of two of the worldâ™s great colonizers, the British and the Polynesians. He argues that historians of the subject have focused too much on whether a new society, like New Zealand, was shaped most by â œfragmentâ • (the time and place from which most early migrants came) or â œfrontierâ • (the new environment, rich with opportunity). Were newly settled territories shaped by the social context of the metropolitan society from which migrants came? Or by the peculiar nature of the frontier, the peoples that settlers encountered, and the particular challenges that settlers faced in building a new society? Belich argues that it is equally, perhaps more, important to consider the â œethos of expansionâ • â “ the assumptions, hopes, and fears of the colonists â “ which helped trigger colonization, determined its direction and form, and influenced its development in the new land.

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