

Not Aunty Tariana's Holocaust

Four decades of genocide, slavery, female infanticide, and cannibalism officially came to an end on February 6th, 1840 with the signing of the TOW and assertion of British sovereignty. Maoris were liberated from the cataclysm of intertribal warfare, and guaranteed the rights and responsibilities of British subjects.

Intertribal warfare from the early 1800s brought utter devastation to Maori tribal life, to the extent that remnants of many tribes actively sought British protection for their survival. Introduction of the musket into this culture of warfare and subjugation saw a dramatic increase in the kill ratio, and a vicious downward spiral which decimated many tribes.

Of the estimated 150,000 Maoris in New Zealand around 1810, between 50,000 and 60,000 had been killed, enslaved, or driven out of their lands by 1840 as a consequence of intertribal warfare. Archaeological evidence indicates that life-expectancy was no more than 40 years, and often much less. Population growth was negative.

This was not Aunty Tariana's holocaust. This was the real thing!

Arguably the most horrific rampage of the era was that of the Ngati Toa under The Beast Te Rauparaha. The coming of the Ngati Toa and allied tribes to the Cook Strait area in the early 1820s saw brutality on the classic Maori model. Locals were killed, enslaved, eaten, and ethnically cleansed on both sides of Cook Strait, down to Banks Peninsula, and out to the Chathams, where the peaceful inhabitants were annihilated.

With the signing of the TOW, the Ngati Toa were no longer free to continue this brutality. Today, as compensation for historic loss of this freedom to rape and pillage, \$50,000,000 and co-governance deals throughout the region, are given to their part-Maori descendants under the Te Tau Ihu Claims Settlement Bill concluded in secret by Attorney General Finlayson.

The status quo of 1840, established through genocide, slavery, and cannibalism, is now the reference point for Finlayson's TOW deals. Real or imaginary post-TOW grievances are dredged up and embellished, and pre-TOW atrocities are left to disappear into a manufactured history.

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