marginalize the islands as large states acquire more comprehensive power, the growing integration of the Asia-Pacific macroregion, and the higher profile of islands relations for New Zealand than for Australia.

The book contains much valuable information and discussion, but also some unintended indicators of less awareness in New Zealand of its Pacific neighbors than is implied in the book. For example the map on page 3 is very inaccurate (Nuku'alofa appears below Suva): perhaps the main feature is a heavy line embracing the South Pacific Commission region without explaining what the line is for, some territories and some capitals are named but not others, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is included even though it has been out of existence for some time, the Cook Islands is misspelt—one could go on.

Similar problems are evident in the "Forum Island Country Profiles" (4-15) in the editor's opening chapter. The profiles are inconsistent and contain many errors. Although there is much valuable information in this chapter, not all readers will share all the author's priorities. Of the "major actors in the South Pacific" the United States is dealt with first, then the USSR (which many would consider almost nonexistent at the time of the seminar and since), and then Australia (15-21). China, then Japan, get brief mentions under "Others," but France is described as "the most substantial power in the South Pacific" (31). The brief paragraph on Japan says its "involvement in the South Pacific has taken the form of joint fishing ventures and fisheries development assistance" (22). No mention is made of the fact that for most of the independent Pacific Island states Japan is the largest aid donor, the largest source of investment in recent years, the largest buyer of raw materials, the main source of consumer durables, the largest and fastest growing source of tourists to the South Pacific Commission region (most hotel construction is by Japanese interests), or of Japanese shareholding in the main airlines operating in the region (including Air New Zealand), or the likelihood of much more, and considerable, Japanese activity on almost every other front.

Nevertheless, it is a worthwhile book, beautifully produced in hard covers. But the price of us$59.95—about six weeks' total per capita income for the average Pacific Islander—will ensure that Pacific Islanders are effectively denied access to it, which undermines the purpose of what it claims to be about.

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The flaw in this short survey of contemporary political and economic issues in the Pacific Islands region is that growth, all growth, is considered good. This 1960s growth model pro-
muligated by international agencies, combined with a commentary dis-
tanced from the peoples of the Pacific for whom the strategies of growth are being debated, leaves the reader with a bleak picture of islands without people. The result is a book that offers a convenient, wide-ranging survey of recent events, but becomes a litany of failed projects, uneven resources, financial insecurity, and impossible GNP targets and projects a dismal future for the peoples of the Pacific region. This might be an interesting read for consultants never likely to visit the Pacific, or about to embark on an island-hopping swing through the region. They will read a tale familiar to them from earlier, now dated, analyses of African and Asian nations in the 1960s and 1970s.

What the authors have overlooked is that economics, politics, and international relations are also about people. There are hardly any island people in this book, few island voices, and none of the daily or domestic lived experiences that constitute a major part of the economic and political life of island peoples. Some references to “cultural factors and traditions” are found, but even this phrasing is qualified by the use of “still,” giving the impression that being Tongan, I-Kiribati, or Maohi inhibits the great goal of island life—economic growth. For example, despite passing references to forest management, the human, localized, often bitter element of this crucial national debate in many island polities is ignored. Logging policy and practices could have been presented as a community or village issue as well as a line entry in multinational balance sheets, World Bank growth indicators, and international conference programs.

The lack of anecdotal evidence leaves the analysis offered by the authors dry and distant. Economics and politics, as indicated by the December 1991 Pacific Islands Political Science Association proceedings, can lean away from theoretical analysis and be more of a social or human science. For example, this text would have been enlivened by the excitement of agricultural experiments, the family and social planning, and the frustrations of Tongan pumpkin, banana, and watermelon growers seeing their capital rotting on the wharf when the ship fails to turn up in time.

Another disconcerting phrase occurs when the authors lament that newly independent island microstates cannot provide the full range of services “normally” associated with nation status. Must island states conform to the ideals and failed models of metropolitan nations or of earlier African and Asian states achieving independence since 1945? The annoying assumption is that “normal” is what is approved by America, Australia, the World Bank, or the United Nations. The authors miss the opportunity to show that island politicians and thinkers are searching for new and relevant local solutions and that “normal” services, institutions, and codes may exist in as many variations as there are cultural groupings and national polities in the Pacific.

The one hundred pages of commentary by the four authors tend to promote the idea that regional identity is a fundamental and unifying concept among dispersed island nations and dependencies, and that regional organ-
organizations are central to the contemporary economic and political life of island peoples. Half the text is devoted to regional and international issues and developments. In regard to economic planning, political institutions, and relations with other nations (on the rim or beyond the Pacific Ocean), it is a misleading convenience to use a regional affiliation rather than Tongan, Ni-Vanuatu, or Palauan. The authors do highlight the need to consider links between islands and their neighbors (in the basin or on the rim), and with rim blocs such as ASEAN. These passages suggest directions for the future that will certainly require greater attention by political scientists.

On the positive side, this publication offers a third of its pages to a nation-by-nation summary. Although marred by several errors and now outdated entries, it will be useful for readers beyond the Pacific who are seeking a quick guide. There are now several almanacs and directories on the Pacific, and they probably sell well beyond the Pacific, and to island peoples about to enter the regional academic, management, institutional, or consultant network. Such readers need to be aware of the dangers of relying too fully on The Pacific Islands. It offers a narrow view and, for me, is misleading and cursory in the picture of the Pacific that it offers.

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Once viewed as one of the most stable regions in the world, the South Pacific displayed dramatic signs of volatility and instability in the late 1980s. The most notable conflicts included the 1987 military coups in Fiji that successfully overthrew the democratically elected Bavadra government; the Bougainville secessionist revolt and ensuing blockade of the island by Papua New Guinea military forces; and the conflict between the Kanaks and the French over independence for New Caledonia. Other major disputes in the period centered on nuclear and environmental issues, including the New Zealand–United States conflict over access of nuclear warships; regional concerns over French and American failure to ratify the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty); and US chemical weapon storage and incineration at Johnston Island.

This new collection of papers by Australian and French academics, edited by Desmond Ball, head of the Strategic Studies Centre, and Stephen Henningham, senior research fellow in the Division of Pacific and Asian History, both at the Australian National University, seeks to analyze recent developments affecting the security of