in the late colonial period, provides the basis for the wide-ranging discussion in chapter 9. Class is shelved as a tool of social analysis in favor of the continuing relevance of more familiar, albeit transformed, patterns of competitive leadership, extended kinship, and gender. These underlying social dynamics are introduced rather late in the book, given their significance to many of the problems discussed earlier. The final two chapters provide further illustration of the progressive entanglement of social and economic forces—old and new, internal and external—and their varied, often disruptive, impacts across a range of contemporary contexts including politics, law and order, decentralization, Bougainville, and the state. Again, one could query the late appearance of this discussion and, in particular, the abbreviated account of the weakness of the postcolonial state. This is particularly so, given the centrality of the postcolonial state as a political and economic actor and the areas of continuity shared with its colonial predecessor—an important, if undeveloped, strand running through Connell’s account.

Connell has produced a useful reference book for scholars and others interested in contemporary Papua New Guinea—one to be valued for its empirical data and marshalling of an extensive literature, rather than for any fresh insights into the broader dynamics of recent change. The attempt to combine social and economic dimensions is not altogether successful, but that does not detract from Connell’s valiant attempt. Ultimately, the value of this book lies in its richness of detail and the sheer breadth of ground covered rather than its coherence and focus—much like Papua New Guinea itself.

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The 1990s have seen a burgeoning involvement of nongovernment organizations in the Pacific, along with a new emphasis on small, community-controlled development projects and environmental sustainability. These changes are reflected in this volume, which touches on the major sectors to which Pacific countries have looked for economic growth: forestry, fisheries, mining, tourism, and agriculture. (Manufacturing is significantly not included.) Most of the papers gathered here were presented at a conference held at the School of African and Oriental Studies in London in 1995, funded by the European Union’s information organization (ECSEIP).

Both the strengths and weaknesses of the volume grow out of its origin as a conference. It is regrettable that the editors do not tell us more about the conference—how it came about, who
the participants were (in more biographical detail beyond the names and affiliations given), and which papers were added after the conference.

One aspect of the conference that is nicely conveyed is the flavor of debate between discussants and presenters. John Cameron faults Sitiveni Halapua for assuming that tinkering with Pacific Island government planning bureaucracies would assure sustainable development. Andrea Tuisovuna, in turn, tweaks Cameron for inattention to cultural variation and urban-rural differences in nutritional change.

Discussants did not respond to all of the papers. Indeed, the most controversial paper of the set, Colin Filer on mining in Papua New Guinea, met no (published) critique. Filer contends that the resistance of Melanesian landowners to various mining projects (Bougainville, Ok Tedi, Mount Kare) reveals extreme political fragmentation rather than capitalist exploitation or environmental degradation. In doing so, Filer should have managed to draw debate from both the theoreticians and the environmentalists.

Contrary to its ambitiously general title and introduction, the book does not quite deliver on its hope to relate “Europe” and the “Pacific Islands.” The “Pacific Islands” of the title are somewhat unevenly covered, and the “Europe” of the introduction turns out to mean primarily British scholarship. Forewarned of a tilt toward the Solomon Islands and forestry, readers may view this as a strength of the book, as several of the papers could be reordered to make an expanded case study. A good point of entry would be Edvard Hviding’s appraisal of the effectiveness of customary marine tenure systems in protecting the reef and Marovo Lagoon in the western Solomon Islands. He points out that resistance to destructive logging stems from soil erosion that damages coastal fisheries. Tim Bayliss-Smith continues the discussion of Marovo Lagoon, dealing with its agricultural history.

Then Jaap Schep describes an ecotimber project initiated locally by the United Church, the Solomon Western Islands Fair Trade project (SWIFT), which markets sustainably harvested sawn timber in Europe. (In the Baining area of New Britain a similar project harvests timber for markets in the United Kingdom, as reported in Max Henderson’s paper.)

Other papers visit the Solomons more briefly. Hugh Govan cites the Solomon Islands Development Trust as one of his case studies of bottom-up development, as does Akuila Yabaki in his overview of aid agencies. And Suliana Siwatibau briefly recaps Solomon Islands forestry as one of her horror stories of privatization. The inclusion of these and other Pacific Islander participants enriches the collection.

Especially toward the end of the book, the intended audience becomes unclear. The debate between Paul Sillitoe and Tim Bayliss-Smith would strike sparks in a university classroom, Sillitoe rejecting the neo-Marxist theoretical framework that Bayliss-Smith advances to understand land use and agricultural intensification. In contrast, the same students would doze over Peter Burns on ecotourism or John Cameron on nutrition policy—both intrinsically interesting topics dried out
Tom Spencer's paper on the future effects of global warming on coral reefs fits uneasily with the rest of the volume. Its natural science perspective is complemented by Christian Clerk's social science commentary to smooth over the discontinuity. More problematic is the short shelf life of any 1995 paper in this field, given the questions raised by El Niño-related events as well as by new research. Researchers throw in new variables as fast as even the science weeklies can keep up. For instance, in the 21 May 1998 issue of Nature, reports from new computer simulations indicate that rising ocean temperatures may substantially reduce the capacity of the oceans to take up carbon dioxide, hence increasing the pace of greenhouse effects over 1995 predictions.

This book will be valuable to Pacific scholars, libraries, and policymakers. Its usefulness would have been enhanced by an index, but it is in other respects nicely produced.

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This book represents an exciting new direction in the anthropology of contemporary Pacific societies—a venture into understanding the complexities and intricacies of the built environment. Well organized and written in an English that eschews jargon and excessive technical language, it should be accessible and useful to a broad audience, both in the Pacific and elsewhere, from architects, urban planners, and social welfare agents to researchers and scholars in the social sciences and history, as well as students, politicians, and the ordinary person.

The basic premise is that houses provide shelter but homes extend far beyond that simple concept. People not only construct, use, move, and destroy houses to produce, shape, and define individual and communal identity, but in turn homes direct and reflect history, technology, demographic and economic conditions, social interactions, and political influence, not to mention cultural values and symbolic representations.

The focus of this collection is on domesticity, on dwelling units or houses rather than on ceremonial or utilitarian structures, such as churches, canoe huts, animal shelters, or the like. Although the latter are not missing from the social and physical landscape about which these authors write, they