Much of authors’ research material, including their transcribed interviews with over 136 individuals, are scheduled for deposit in the Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai’i.

ROBERT C KISTE  
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This book aims to present English readers with a synthesis of recent French research in the Republic of Vanuatu and the three overseas territories of Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia. It is the revised and updated English version of the proceedings of a 1994 island-hopping conference organized by the French National Committee on Geography. It provides a unique combination of information on the French-speaking Pacific in terms of natural (terrestrial and marine) and human (sociocultural and economic) geography from a historical and contemporary perspective. The richness of the approach is enhanced by the multidisciplinarity of the contributors.

The book begins with a large, 36-page chapter by Gilbert David, on the Republic of Vanuatu, that examines the physical geography, climate, maritime area, environment, socioecono-
diec, Gerard Motiet, and François Merceron, is next—a rather short piece (12 pages, compared to the 44 pages on the human aspects of New Caledonia) on the geography, demographic history, economic cycles, production, and development policies of the territory.

The book then turns to specific natural geography, with chapters on the “Functioning of Coral Reefs and Atolls” by Francis Rougerie, and the “Coastal and Lagoon Environment of Huahine,” Leeward Islands, by Catherine Gabrie and Claude Payri, who make recommendations for the development and management of the natural environment. There follows a series of short chapters on Polynesia: “Aspects of the Distant and Recent Prehistory of the Polynesians,” by Eric Conte (the differences among and fundamental unity of Polynesian cultures); “Tahiti and the Polynesian System,” by Louis Monnier (how Tahiti and its capital Pape'ete are the center of the Polynesian system); “From Eden to Tourist Paradise,” by Philippe Bachimon (the image of Tahiti as a tourist paradise is compared to the reality of the place); and “What Development after the CEP?” by Gilles Blanchet (the crisis and challenges resulting from the scaling down and closing of the nuclear testing center).

The book concludes with three chapters on Wallis and Futuna. The first, by Frédéric Angleviel, Thierry Agostini, F Dupuy, and P Lavault, examines the geography, history, and development challenges faced by Wallis. The second, entitled “The Horn Archipelago: Futuna and Alofi,” by Catherine Courvasier, looks at physical geography only, and the final chapter, by Marc Soule, looks at the human geography of Futuna.

This book is like an assorted chocolate box of French scholarship on the Pacific, and although there is a large variety of samples there is also some unevenness between them. For example there are 44 pages on the human aspects of New Caledonia and only 5 pages on those of Futuna. Some articles are purely natural geography, while others are a mix of natural and human geography or just human geography. Some deal with the deep historical past, while others cover only the past twenty-five years.

There are also some problems of clarity with the grayscale used in some of the maps and tables, which makes them difficult to read, and thus the information is lost. My final comments concern the bibliography. Since the bibliographic references are almost one hundred percent French, it may be difficult for an English reader to find further information on a specific subject. It would have been helpful if the bibliography had included more English titles. A suggested-reading section for Anglophone readers would have been very helpful for the book’s English audience.

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