

their collective discussion. Bauer's chapter does not even address the Pacific, which again causes one to question the choice of title.

Although the foreword suggests that the book is a remarkable source of information, it is anything but. Many ideas and "facts" are simply regurgitated common knowledge of the sort found in any economics text dealing with the Pacific. This might be all right if it were written in an intelligent and engaging manner, but the three authors aggravate the problem by producing choppy and at times incoherent discourses devoted to what does not work, economically speaking, in the Pacific Islands. Surprisingly, Pacific Island economists (Te'o Fairbairn comes immediately to mind) are totally ignored as sources throughout. Unfortunately, the economic modernization paradigm, that the Pacific economies will naturally evolve in the manner of Western economies thus putting a premium on Western notions of economic development, is still alive and kicking in all three chapters.

On top of all this, close collaboration in writing and good organization are not evident here. "Facts" and ideas are often annoyingly repeated. Some phrases, like "artificial obstacles" (58) and "paternal collectivism" (59) ought to be better explained. Kasper's chapter in particular could have benefited from editing and reorganization, with particular reference to his paternalism or Eurocentrism and obvious ignorance of current Pacific developments. Indeed, the most lucid and best presented argument in the book is not among the three main authors' contributions but in Peter Jennings' concluding commentary, which displays con-

siderably more personal knowledge of and affinity for the Pacific. He cites more Pacific sources in seven pages than the three main authors have in eighty, and he welds them into an interesting and coherent argument for reducing aid.

Readers interested in the argument against aid should read the August 1991 article, "The Aid Plague," by Rowan Callick, in *Islands Business Pacific*. This is a much more insightful view of the negative impact of aid on the Pacific region and lives up to the title "Aid and Development in the South Pacific" far better than any of the essays in this book.

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The South Pacific: Problems, Issues and Prospects, edited by Ramesh Thakur. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991. ISBN 0-312-06078-7, xviii + 232 pp, map, tables, figures, appendixes, notes, index. US\$59.95.

The title is a little misleading, for the book contains the proceedings of the University of Otago's annual foreign policy school, which in 1990 focused on New Zealand's relations with the other Pacific Islands. It aimed to "contribute to a clearer understanding of the region to which our [New Zealand's] destiny is tied, and to better appreciation of the challenges and opportunities for New Zealand foreign policy" (xiv). It achieves both objectives.

Fran Wilde, then New Zealand's associate minister for foreign affairs, set out the official position at that time,

putting the islands "at the forefront of New Zealand's foreign policy concerns" (35). Within a month of the seminar, however, her Labour government was out of power. The incoming National government, prompted partly by events in the Gulf and Eastern Europe and partly by internal problems, has not given relations with the islands as high a profile.

Four chapters are devoted to the politics of environment and resource exploitation. Peter King emphasizes the greening and domestication of security concerns—Russians and other extra-Pacific actors are of much-reduced significance, while environment and internal instability, corruption, overpopulation, and other internal problems are of growing concern. It is a good chapter, though there is room for alternative interpretations of detail—for example, I would not be sure that the island states "cannot pose a serious threat to each other" (46), or that there is much chance of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (the heads of government of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, plus the leader of the New Caledonia independence movement) granting membership to the OPM (the independence movement in Irian Jaya) as suggested on page 58. Indonesia's leverage over Papua New Guinea is very strong. King considers it "good politics" for island countries to "play off aid donors against each other" (58), but does not note that aid donors increasingly coordinate to protect their interests.

Environmental issues and New Zealand's role in overcoming them are dealt with by Roy Fergusson of the New Zealand Ministry of External

Relations and Trade; fisheries management by David Doulman of the Forum Fisheries Agency; and driftnetting by Mike Hagler of Greenpeace. Richard Bedford ably summarizes population concerns and migration between the islands and New Zealand. Greg Fry's excellent overview of regional cooperation also considers resource and environment questions, as well as identity issues and the growing political role of private capital.

Although the book is mainly concerned with New Zealand's place in the region, one other metropolitan country's view is presented—that of France, by George Martins of the French embassy to New Zealand. It might have been better either to have left it out or to have included similar perspectives of other countries active in the region (eg, United States, Japan, Indonesia). There are no Pacific Islander perspectives of the role of France (they would be very different) or of other outside actors.

The minimal participation of Pacific Islanders is noticeable. Papua New Guinea's ambassador to the United States, Meg Taylor, was invited to write on "Australia and New Zealand from a Distance." The only other Pacific Islander contribution is that invited from Henry Naisali (then secretary general of the Forum Secretariat) on trade. Witi Ihimaera, the only Maori participant, wrote on ethnic issues in New Zealand and their significance for New Zealand's role in the islands region.

Richard Herr sums up and adds his own assessments of New Zealand's relations with the region, including the probability that world events will

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 men-

tion 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 Pacific Islands: Politics, Economics and International Relations, by Te'o I. J. Fairbairn, Charles E. Morrison, Richard W. Baker, and Sheree A. Groves. Honolulu: East-West Center, 1991. ISBN 0-86638-140-6, x + 170 pp, maps, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. Paper, US\$15.

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-