

sees it as an inescapable, unrelenting impetus to adaptation and, often, acculturation by island societies.

The newcomers to the islands are assessed with an equally critical eye as are the Islanders. However, Cook, not as firmly enthroned in the Polynesian pantheon as Campbell implies, is portrayed as he is perceived by most English-speaking Westerners, as a beatified image of the noble, civilized explorer.

However, it must be kept in mind that Campbell makes it quite plain who the potential readership of the book is. It is aimed at the general reader. And it is on that basis that the book should be judged. No specialist historian (or prehistorian) should take it as an affront if a particular field of study—say, a dot of an island with a couple of hundred inhabitants, or a theory of original settlement—has been dealt with summarily. The book indeed is a summary, a synopsis of hundreds of monographs, theses, and specialist studies, which provides an introduction to this huge ocean of islands for the general reader and the novice student.

Although the odd error of fact has crept in—for example, William MacGregor (who, like many others, is omitted from the index) was not the second governor of British New Guinea (161)—the book is fundamentally reliable as a regional history. Campbell's suggestions for further reading seem at times idiosyncratic in view of the fact that he is a Pacific Island scholar and teacher of almost twenty years' standing. The recommended island studies are useful, but some other references are outdated or

unreliable. Students in particular should tread with care here.

Nonetheless those who teach these students will welcome this book. Campbell reduces thousands of individual trees to neat forests. This is not simply a conceptual condensation, but also one of expression. Some recent island and Islander studies can be recommended to students only because they have content unavailable elsewhere; their prose—leadened and labored—is no example for students of history. *A History of the Pacific Islands* is an excellent model for budding writers. Campbell's precision and clarity of prose reflect his familiarity with a massive corpus of information as well as his incisiveness of mind. It may be mundane, but perhaps one token of esteem a practicing university teacher can offer is to say that Campbell's nice phrasing lends itself to the basis for essay and examination questions with the standard appendix of "Discuss." Students appreciate this book; mine have bought out stocks at the bookstore, even though it was originally only a "recommended" text. For them and the general reader, this book is really an essential.

Ian Campbell is to be thanked for giving us this balanced, lucid, and reliable foundation text.

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The Pacific Theater: Island Representations of World War II, edited by Geoffrey White and Lamont Lindstrom. Pacific Islands Monograph

Series no. 8. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1989. ISBN 0-8248-1146-1, xiv + 433 pp, maps, photos, notes, bibliography, index. US\$34.

Pacific historians appear to be a curiously non-territorial academic species. They have tamely allowed some of the choicest parts of their domain to be taken over by interlopers from other disciplines. The best general history is still that by Douglas Oliver (an anthropologist), while it has been left to a geographer (O. H. K. Spate) to write what is not only the best book on exploration but the outstanding work in the whole Pacific history field (namely, *The Pacific Since Magellan*). Now predatory anthropologists by the horde seem to be taking over that prime topic area—the single most dramatic episode in the common history of the Pacific Islands—World War II.

For the two centuries since European contact gave new impetus and new direction to the working out of human destinies in the Pacific, historians have established firm control over the areas of religious, economic, and political evolution. Their monographs abound. The war, however, has not been subjected to any systematic attack, let alone occupation. Rather, it features in historical writing mostly as an event incidental to the working out of other social processes—an interlude. There is, of course, a massive military historiography. Campaign narratives, unit chronicles, and veterans' memoirs abound; but that is writing of an essentially specialized, and mostly technical, kind. It is narrowly concerned with the experiences and achievements of the combatants—transients for whom the

Pacific was merely a temporary battleground—and not with the involvement of those for whom the Pacific was home.

Yet the Islanders were deeply involved in many facets of the war: as observers, as participants, as victims, as beneficiaries; and were still feeling its impact long after it was over. The war is not only central to their history, but in turn their experience and knowledge of it need to be taken into account for a properly rounded understanding of it. Unmatched as a wide-ranging yet detailed study of World War II from the Islanders' point of view, *The Pacific Theater*—the proceedings of an anthropology conference held in 1986—is, therefore, an invaluable work.

Geoffrey White, one of the editors, had a leading part in organizing that conference. An anthropologist, based at the East-West Center and with a special interest in the Solomons, he was also involved during the 1980s in directing a major oral history research project from which several other very useful works have emanated. Indeed, such is the abundance of material that has recently been made available by White and his collaborators that it is now practicable for teachers of Pacific history to add a course on World War II to their established list of offerings.

In such a course *The Pacific Theater* will be necessary reading. Of its seventeen chapters, five deal with the Solomons, four with Papua New Guinea, four with Micronesia, one with Samoa, and one with Vanuatu, plus two survey chapters. Running through all these essays, as one would expect from writers drawing extensively on firsthand testimony, are flavors of immediacy

and human interest. The material is presented in local and personal terms, with direct quotation from informants used to good effect. A feature of the book is its illustration of variety in the Islanders' experience of the war: some were inhabitants of zones of bitter fighting, as in Pohnpei, Palau, and New Britain; some feigned submission to the Japanese invaders, as in Santa Isabel; some were recruited into the armed forces, as in American Samoa; some from Malaita and Tanna served as laborers; and some, as on Sikaiana, Santa Cruz, and Sapwuahfik (in the Carolines), were awed bystanders of the tumultuous events occurring in their neighborhoods. There was also much variety in the cognitive responses of the Islanders to their experience of war and of the ways in which it passed into local tradition. In exploring such issues and relating them to the stories it has to tell, *The Pacific Theater* is a work of remarkable sophistication. Given the number, consistent quality, and thematic unity of the contributions, there is little to be gained from singling out individual essays for particular commendation.

On the other hand, a historian reviewer is surely entitled to make an exception in the case of the one historian among the authors. That is James Boutillier, who writes about the celebrated Solomon Island coastwatcher and guerrilla leader Donald Kennedy. Various of Kennedy's exploits have long been well known, and even mythologized; here they are presented accurately and objectively and within the context of the indigenous cooperation that Kennedy needed in order to function behind Japanese lines. This

was important, not just because of the subtleties of indigenous loyalty, but because of Kennedy's habit of incurring the personal antipathy of those with whom he had to work. In telling Kennedy's story Boutillier has written a good piece of history; that is, up to the standards set by the anthropologists in this book.

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Developments in Polynesian Ethnology, edited by Alan Howard and Robert Borofsky. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1989. ISBN 0-8248-1181-X, ix + 373 pp, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. US\$28.

This volume presents a set of retrospective essays on the ethnology, prehistory, and early contact history of an important region in anthropological research. The essays are not merely reviews of the literature but rather efforts to define and pursue significant problems. The authors are all experienced Polynesian scholars, and their essays are intended for a sophisticated audience of professional anthropologists and graduate students. The volume is required reading for Polynesianists.

The editors and authors use two themes to integrate the volume: a "reconstructionist project" involving an understanding of the Polynesian past, and a "presentist project" dealing with ongoing Polynesian societies. Since one of the editors, Robert Borofsky, is currently working on a volume on contact and change as well as an edited