

of awakening indigenous people of the Pacific, like Tongans, to their own histories of colonization that have been misconstrued and denied.

Annette Sykes proclaims, “I think it is going to be a really amazing time in the next twenty years. . . . We will be required to look at the revival and the creation of collectives. . . . We’re going to be supported by our relations from Te Moana Nui a Kiwa, the Pacific Ocean, and they are going to need us as we need them to help preserve their ways of life” (123). *Resistance* not only resuscitates Māori knowledges and philosophies but it also affirms that our most powerful weapons against colonization and neoliberalism are our ongoing struggles and collaborations for tino rangatiratanga.

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Memories of War: Micronesians in the Pacific War, by Suzanne Falgout, Lin Poyer, and Laurence M Carucci. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8248-3130-1, x + 275 pages, maps, photos, notes, bibliography, index. Paper, US\$25.00.

This welcome volume joins what is by now a venerable list of anthropological analyses of the effects of World War II on Pacific Islanders (*The Pacific Theater: Island Representations of World War II*, edited by Geoffrey M White and Lamont Lindstrom [1989]; *Island Encounters: Black and White Memories of the Pacific War*, by Lindstrom and White [1990]; and *The Typhoon of War: Micronesian*

Experiences of the Pacific War, by Lin Poyer, Suzanne Falgout, and Laurence Carucci [2001]), and it represents the culmination of a project begun by the latter authors in 1990–1991.

The book’s focus is on Micronesian cultural memories of the war as they have been preserved in songs, dances, stories, and chants. Much of the text is devoted to extensive quotations from interviews with individuals who lived through the war years and recounted their recollections for the authors. Also provided are numerous song texts from different island areas, with a lengthy song from Fais (Yap, FSM) occupying nearly nine pages of the concluding chapter. Most of the cultural memories presented in the book are of fear, suffering, and hardship, but a few are of romance, sadness, and separation. World War II intruded into the lives of Micronesians through no fault of their own; it was someone else’s fight in which they, unfortunately, happened to occupy a major battleground. While some Micronesian islands were more or less razed to the ground (eg, Enewetak, RMI; and Peleliu, Republic of Palau), others were bombed and shelled but spared an amphibious assault (eg, Chuuk and Pohnpei, FSM). Still others, notably some of the smaller outer-island atolls, were barely touched directly by combat activities. But since many Micronesians were located away from their home islands at the war’s outbreak, cultural memories of separation and hardship are widespread throughout the region.

The book is divided into five sections. Part I begins with a chapter outlining Micronesia as a region, after which the authors provide a succinct

discussion of memory in general and cultural memory in particular in chapter 2. Part II contains four chapters offering “Micronesian Understandings of the Pacific War,” and part III likewise consists of four chapters representing “Micronesian Vantage Points.” These two sections of the book contain the bulk of the data presented from interviews and songs. Two chapters constitute part IV, “Cultural Themes in Micronesian Wartime Narratives,” and the two chapters in the final part, “Conclusions,” seek to place wartime memories in a contemporary context. Such a context includes a continued and growing US military presence in the islands. That preparation for possible war remains a lively issue in Micronesia at present is evidenced by the ongoing US missile testing at Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, and by the recent military buildup on Guam in the Mariana Islands (see “Tip of the Spear: Guam is on Point for U.S. in Asia,” *Pacific Magazine*, March/April 2008).

A virtue of the authors’ mode of presentation is that the reader gains a good understanding of and appreciation for Micronesians’ wartime experiences in their own words, and wherever possible the authors attribute interviews and song texts to specific named individuals. Having carried out their questioning exclusively in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the authors had to rely on the work of other scholars (notably Wakako Higuchi) for data on Palau. They essentially exclude the Mariana Islands from consideration, even though some of the war’s more memo-

orable battles occurred there (especially on Guam and Saipan), and the few brief references they make to the war’s impact in Kiribati seem somewhat tacked onto their central concern with Chuuk, the Marshalls, Pohnpei, and the Outer Islands of Yap State, FSM.

Perhaps because they wrote a more extensive volume on the topic in 2001, it was probably inevitable that the authors’ present book would overlap with their earlier one in some respects. For example, half a dozen photographs are repeated from their first book, including the cover photo of this volume, and they also have reproduced a number of song texts and similar materials (eg, “Ankoa”) from *The Typhoon of War*. The overall tone of the volume under review is less formal and more accessible to a general audience than the first book. *Memories of War* is a descriptive book, not an analytical one, and its primary purpose is to record important information for posterity. The book adds to a small but growing body of history about Micronesia, and it illustrates some of the ways that anthropologists can contribute to history. It should be of use in college classrooms in Micronesia (including the University of Guam), and possibly also in some of the high schools (eg, Xavier High School, Chuuk, FSM). It will be of less interest for classroom use in the metropolitan countries.

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