

91436R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Level 3 History, 2018

91436 Analyse evidence relating to an historical event of significance to New Zealanders

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 14 November 2018

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91436.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INTRODUCTION

Many New Zealanders will be shocked to hear that, in the 1860s and 1870s, there were New Zealanders engaged in what some referred to as the 'Pacific slave trade'. Allegedly, the crews of at least 32 New Zealand vessels, such as the Dunedin steamship *Wainui*, 'recruited', kidnapped and coerced Pacific Islanders aboard their ships and transported them to plantations in Fiji or Queensland. Some of those captured were sold to slave holders in Peru. This practice of recruitment was popularly referred to as 'blackbirding'. In the best cases, these South Sea Islanders could be described as poorly informed indentured labourers; in the worst cases, their experiences most aptly fit the label of slavery.

In a recent publication by sociologist Dr Scott Hamilton, it is alleged that in June 1863, the *Grecian*, captained by a Tasmanian whaler called Thomas McGrath, sailed from New Zealand with a crew of Australians and New Zealanders. They sailed to 'Ata, a small Tongan island. Believing there to be more profit in human cargo than whaling, McGrath convinced members of his crew to capture humans instead. McGrath enticed 144 'Atans on board under the pretence of trade. He offered them a meal below deck before trade could commence. Once the Tongans were preoccupied with their meals, the crew imprisoned them below deck using trapdoors and locks. McGrath then sold the captives to a more experienced slave-trade ship bound for Peru, the *General Prim*.

While the extent of New Zealanders' involvement in the 'Pacific slave trade' is contested, there is good evidence to suggest that, in some instances, labour was 'recruited' to New Zealand. In 1870, at least 27 men were recruited from Efate (an island in the New Hebrides group, now known as Vanuatu). For the sum of £10, these men were contracted for three years, supposedly of their own free will, to work for rich businessmen at places such as the Hokianga flax mill.

Opposition to the practice took many forms, and while topical at the time, this particular strand to the narrative of New Zealand history is often overlooked in discussions about our past.

SOURCE A: An extract from Dr Scott Hamilton's blog *Reading the Maps*

New Zealand's Slaving History

By the 1860s ... the gold rushes were over and whaling and sealing were in decline. At the same time that New Zealand was facing an economic crisis, other colonial projects in the South Pacific were suddenly looking very promising.

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block] London responded the following year with the Pacific Islanders Protection Act, which made ships registered in Britain or British colonies legally liable for kidnappings and other abuses committed outside the borders of the empire.

Source: Scott Hamilton, (18 June 2011) 'New Zealand's Slaving History', <http://readingthemap.blogspot.co.nz/2011/06/new-zealands-slaving-history.html>

SOURCE B: Photograph of South Sea Islanders on a sugar plantation in Queensland, Australia, date unknown



State Library of Queensland collections. Accessed from <http://citizenj.edgeqld.org.au/megastories/australian-south-sea-islanders-150-years-what-does-it-mean/>

SOURCE C: Blackbirding: the main recruiting routes 1863–1904



Between 1863 and 1904, about 62 000 islanders were brought to Queensland and Fiji, mainly from Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea, to provide cheap labour for the booming sugar, cotton, and pearling industries.

<http://readingthemap.blogspot.co.nz/2011/06/new-zealands-slaving-history.html>

SOURCE D: United Kingdom Act of Parliament, The Pacific Islanders Protection Act, 1872



http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/online/texts/Pacific_archive/Western%20Pacific/8.%20Pacific%20Islanders%20Protection%20Act,%201872.PDF

SOURCE E: A Memorandum by Bishop J. C Patteson on the South Sea Island Labour Traffic, January 1871

South Sea Island Labour Traffic

The object of this memorandum is to inform the General Synod* of the means frequently adopted in the Islands of the S. W. Pacific to procure labourers ...

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Many of these men, whether they are technically and legally slavers or not, are acting in the spirit of slavers ... It is indeed a mockery to speak of it as a system of emigration ...

J. C. PATTESON,
Missionary Bishop.
Norfolk Island, 11th January, 1871.

* *General Synod* the highest governing body of the Church of England
** *bona fide* genuine, sincere

SOURCE F: A concerned New Zealander writing to the *New Zealand Herald* newspaper regarding 'recruited' labour in Auckland, September 1870

Disgusting results of imported South Sea labour

We had occasion some time since to direct public attention to the fact that certain enterprising persons had imported to this colony a number of South Sea Islanders ...

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Whatever toleration of the Maori may have been justified it cannot be pleaded for those who have placed the naked and depressed savage in our midst ...

**equivocal signification* of doubtful or ambiguous importance

***equitable contract* fair or legal contract

†*vicissitudes* regular change, variation in circumstance

‡*proclivities* tendencies or inclinations towards something

'Disgusting results of imported South Sea Labour', *New Zealand Herald*, Vol. VII, Issue 2077, 21 September, 1870. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH18700921.2.10?query=Disgusting%20Results%20of%20Imported%20South%20Sea%20Labour>

SOURCE G: Dr Rosanne Hawarden's review of *The Stolen Island: Searching for 'Ata*, by Scott Hamilton

Dr Rosanne Hawarden has a doctorate in Business and Administration.

'Shock History: A sensationalist fictional horror story not to be taken seriously'

In this slim book *The Stolen Island: Searching for 'Ata* by Scott Hamilton, a claim is made for a New Zealand/Australia slave trade in the South Pacific during the early 1860s. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This book, *The Stolen Island* on the purported blackbirding of 'Ata should be treated with scepticism as a sensationalist fictional horror story, constructed on limited evidence and unreliable local legends.

Source: <https://www.underwaterheritage.co.nz/book-release/127-the-stolen-island-searching-for-ata>