

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI – Some notable commentaries

(15/1/2024) This resource consists of a collection of some notable commentaries related to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. An annotated precis of the resource is provided, and it is suggested to open the link to view the complete article.



‘Enhancing the mana of Te Tiriti’

2/12/2023: Expert Opinion - <https://newsroom.co.nz/2023/12/02/enhancing-the-mana-of-te-tiriti/> - Margaret Mutu
Act Party leader David Seymour has announced his party’s Treaty Principles bill would go through the parliamentary process “to enhance the mana of the treaty” and to “debate what our founding document means in the modern age”. Margaret Mutu is emphatic that our ancestors did not agree, at Waitangi or anywhere else, to give their mana and tino rangatiratanga (which encompasses sovereignty) to anyone. Not only is that humanly impossible, it’s also logically absurd. In times of peace, human beings do not transfer the power and authority that guarantees their existence and wellbeing to a stranger. To enhance the treaty and to debate its meaning, we must understand what it is and know what it says.

‘Te Tiriti o Waitangi ki te Whare Pāremata’ – Waka Huia TVNZ

2023: Youtube video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5DQ6jmALMI> – Rawiri Waititi (Te Pāti Māori)/ Marama Davidson (Green Party)
I ēnei rā, kei te tohe tonu kia whakamanahia te tiriti ki roto i ngā whakahaeretanga o te ture i ia rā, i ia rā. Ka toro atu a Waka Huia ki ētahi mema Māori o te whare pāremata kōrero ai mō ngā haepapa, me ngā mahi nui kei runga i a rāua hei hāpai ake i te Tiriti o Waitangi. This video examines TToW and its place in Parliament through the lens of Māori Members of Parliament. We investigate Parliament as an entity and its honouring of Treaty Justice, and the ways Parliament recognise Māori as tāngata whenua in Aotearoa, NZ.

‘The Treaty of Waitangi | Te Tiriti o Waitangi – (BWB Talks)

Jan. 2023: Youtube video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfYlaHWfRzA> - Claudia Orange & Carwyn Jones
There was a huge gap – for several decades, between the average understanding in the public and the strength with which Māori feeling had really started to rise.’ Dame Claudia Orange discusses her extensive body of work on the Treaty of Waitangi with Dr Carwyn Jones.

‘Māori Women: Caught in the Contradictions of a Colonised Reality’

25/9/2022: Commentary- <https://e-tangata.co.nz/history/maori-women-caught-in-the-contradictions-of-a-colonised-reality/> - Ani Mikaere
The Waitangi Tribunal is currently hearing claims of prejudice to wāhine Māori as a result of breaches of Te Tiriti by the Crown. It’s one of the “kaupapa inquiries” which deal with issues of national significance. The wide-ranging arguments say that Crown action, and inaction, have marginalised Māori women for far too long. But why the focus on women, when all Māori have suffered the effects of our history? The first Mana Wāhine claim was lodged in 1993, and Ani Mikaere explains why the colonisation of tikanga Māori has been so devastating for wāhine Māori.

“I’m absolutely sure transformation is coming”

3/4/2022: Commentary - <https://e-tangata.co.nz/korero/moana-jackson-im-absolutely-sure-transformation-is-coming/> - Moana Jackson
Moana Jackson spoke with great hope and determination that a more just society for Māori in Aotearoa is possible. The honouring of the Treaty of Waitangi can only happen when colonisation is settled. And colonisation is a complex culture and a complex process of maintaining power imbalances. When power imbalances are entrenched, as they are in this country, then all the other inequities and imbalances follow, whether it’s in health or education or whatever.

‘A pre-condition to the Treaty’

2018: Youtube video- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8miZb4Dks_Y&t=64s – Moana Jackson & Manuka Henare
Hear a kōrero from the ‘He Tohu’ exhibition about He Whakaputanga with Moana Jackson and Prof Mānuka Hēnare. He Tohu is a permanent exhibition of 3 iconic constitutional documents that shape Aotearoa New Zealand. The documents are:

- 1835 He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī – Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand
- 1840 Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Treaty of Waitangi
- 1893 Women’s Suffrage Petition – Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine

‘He Tohu’ is presented by Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga and the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, both of which are part of the Department of Internal Affairs.