

The Great Multicultural Society we live in... NEW ZEALAND??! ..

In the society we live in who has the power? Who controls the social values?

WHO HAS THE POWER? THE PAKEHA

Maori values and culture are trivialised into the tourist and entertainment industries. They are taught as historical curiosity in schools instead of being seen as a way of life which has importance for all people living in this land. Even after the Springbok tour, people still believe New Zealand is racially harmonious and don't see that apartheid in South Africa is just another version of the covered-up racism in NZ.

THE FACTS:

If you are born Maori in NZ it is likely your life will be shorter, you'll be sick more than if you were white, you'll probably leave school without a qualification, are likely to have a low paid job - or no job at all - and are likely to pay high rent for a home you'll probably never own.

At school you'll study a history and a language that is not your own. All your life you'll be living under laws and dealing with institutions that do not practise or respect your values and culture.

...The Maori people lived on this land with their own lifestyle before the white settlers arrived, so why has their culture been undermined? How did they get to the bottom of the heap???

The Treaty of Waitangi...

British settlers came to Aotearoa over 150 years ago to claim the land, sea and resources for themselves so they stole the land from the Maori people.

They enforced this by using the meaningless Treaty of Waitangi. The treaty was not an honest agreement (as we are taught in school) but a pack of lies. The British used it to buy time and deceive the Maori until they had enough military force to wipe out the Maori opposition and set up the New Zealand we know today.

Maori people have always protested at the British invasion and have always struggled to keep their land and culture, but we hardly ever hear this side of the story.

The Treaty of Waitangi -which is a lie- is what we celebrate on February 6th every year as proof that we live in a Great Multicultu-
Society -which we don't.

-The Land-

Many whites think that the Maori are better off with a European way of life and the dream of a quarter acre section. But they ignore the fact that this dream has included the destruction of native forest, pollution of rivers, sea and air and the destruction of fisheries and wildlife. These values do not apply to Maori culture. The land is the basis of Maori life and spirituality -wairua. It is not a possession for one person but is held together for family and tribes. It is not only for those living but a resting place for those who have died and a future for those to come. In taking land from maori people the British are trying to take their life and spirituality and identity.

SUMMARY:

Maori people have had their land stolen and their language and identity abused; they are treated as second-rate citizens in their own country. White NZ has imported British customs culture and holidays; we hail British Royalty and send glittering cards with snowflakes at Xmas time. Pretending that it snows in December is like pretending NZ is one big happy family.

Waitangi Day celebrates white rip-offs and ignores the effects this has had on the Maori people of Aotearoa.

-Protest Waitangi-

- Think and talk about Waitangi with your friends and family.
- Look at the history of what whites have done to this land eg read 'Te Riri Pakeha' by Tony Simpson
- Look at what you know or don't know about Maori culture.
- Go see the movie 'Patu' and relate racism to Aotearoa, not just South Africa and apartheid.
- Write to your local MP and to Parliament on Waitangi.
- Attend public meetings in support of Waitangi protest.
- Ring up talkback shows eg Radio Pacific.
- Donate money to P.O.W. (People Opposed to Waitangi) P.O.Box 61140 Otara.
- See Race Against Time -a documentary on racism in Aotearoa.
- Womin -attend a concert on January 21st to raise money for Waitangi protest. march, this week.

P-R-O-T-E-S-T O-N W-A-I-T-A-N-G-I D-A-Y

Saturday 7pm 21st January 1984

At 2 St Benedicts St

NEWTON

(off Upper Queen St)

LESBIAN ACTION GROUP

P.O.Box 1236 AK.