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'FOR GOD, COUNTRY AND FAMILY'

POPULIST MORALISM AND THE NEW ZEALAND MORAL RIGHT

A thesis submitted to
the Department of Education
Massey University

In partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts

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1986
This thesis is a study of the discourse of the moral right in New Zealand. It critiques the prevailing analysis on the Left, that such a phenomenon can be explained as an effect of class relations. Rather, the moral right must be examined as a form of hegemonic politics working on the terrain of the sex/gender and sexuality systems. The thesis discusses both the conditions that gave rise to the moral right, and the form and content of its discourse. It is argued that the moral right can be understood through the concept of populist moralism. On the basis of this interpretation of the moral right I put forward some suggestions on how the Left should respond to this movement.
I wish to acknowledge the support and help of my supervisors Dick Harker and Ivan Snook. Their attention to detail has helped me out of the mire of words I often found myself floundering in. I am also beholden to Steve Maharey whose insightful comments and suggestions have been of invaluable assistance in helping me 'get to the point'.

I also wish to acknowledge the material sent to me from the various organisations that I studied. While these groups will undoubtedly disagree most strongly with the conclusions of my thesis, their assistance has provided me with information that was not otherwise readily available.

There are many people who have helped me in practical and personal ways in seeing this thesis to its completion. The following women in particular have in their different ways supported me through a tough time, and I am indebted to them. My thanks go to Helen Charters, Christine Cheyne, Jenny Doyle, Maxine Goldsack and Liz Gordon.
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