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HISTORY, LAW AND LAND:
The Languages of Native Policy
in New Zealand’s General Assembly, 1858-62

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2008
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Samuel D. Carpenter

2008
to J. H. Wright
Abstract

This thesis explores the languages of Native policy in New Zealand’s General Assembly from 1858 to 1862. It argues, aligning with the scholarship of Peter Mandler and Duncan Bell, that a stadial discourse, which understood history as a progression from savage or barbarian states to those of civility, was the main paradigm in this period. Other discourses have received attention in New Zealand historiography, namely Locke and Vattel’s labour theory of land and Wakefield’s theory of systematic colonization; but some traditions have not been closely examined, including mid-Victorian Saxonism, the Burkean common law tradition, and the French discourse concerning national character. This thesis seeks to delineate these intellectual contexts that were both European and British, with reference to Imperial and colonial contexts. The thesis comprises a close reading of parliamentary addresses by C. W. Richmond, J. E. FitzGerald and Henry Sewell.
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Abbreviations

AJHR  Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives
DNZB  Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. All of these biographies have been accessed from http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/, updated 22 June 2007.
HR  House of Representatives
LC  Legislative Council
n.  Footnote reference, usually being a reference to the accompanying text as well
[n.d.]  A publication/document with no date
NZPD  New Zealand Parliamentary Debates
ATL  Alexander Turnbull Library.

Other


Notes on Style

Capitalization/Quotations. For authenticity, the basic approach has been to leave capitalized the words capitalized in the debates. In the text generally however, for ease of reading, only a few words such as ‘Native’ have been spelt in upper case.

Spelling. Some words, such as ‘civilization’ I have consistently spelt with a ‘z’ rather than an ‘s’, including amending spelling within citations if necessary.