

Suggested Sources for Further Study Inspired by the Radio New Zealand Documentary

NZ Wars: Stories of Waitara

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"Tangata tōmua, whenua tōmuri / People would give their lives before they gave their lands to sale." Photo: RNZ / Great Southern Television

INTRODUCTION

Since 2015 the Denver American Indian Commission, the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management, and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science have collaborated to present a monthly program of indigenous film and discussion. On October 20, 2021 we screened the Radio New Zealand documentary *NZ Wars: Stories of Waitara*. Created and presented by award-winning journalist Mihingarangi Forbes, the film, by combining oral histories, state of the art animations and powerful dramatic re-enactments, brings to life the narratives of Te Ātiawa in their epic battle against the military might of the British Empire.

The film and discussion with Morrie Love and Merv Tano that followed piqued the interest of members of the audience to learn more about the New Zealand Land Wars and several requests for suggested books, films, and other sources that could aid them in their inquiry. As Morrie said, the New Zealand Land Wars have been the subject of many books, journal articles, and other writing over the years, however, most of that scholarship has been produced by non-Maori. And while we've included both Maori and Pakeha sources, *Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance*, because of its multi-media approach, has carved out a special place in our libraries. Also highly recommended is Danny Keenan's *Wars without End: New Zealand's Land Wars—A Maori Perspective*.

SUGGESTED SOURCES

1. This is an excellent website from which to launch your study of the Maori Land Wars generally, and, more specifically, the impacts the wars and land confiscations had on Taranaki:
<http://newzealandwars.co.nz/te-atiawa-claim-taranaki/taranaki-report-kaupapa-tuatahi-1996/>

2. The 1996 Waitangi Tribunal Report that Morrie Love mentioned, *The Taranaki Report: Kaupapa Tuatahi*, can be accessed here: https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt_DOC_68453721/Taranaki%201996.compressed.pdf. See especially: Chapter 3, Waitara, Waitotara, and War; and Chapter 4, The Taranaki Wars.
3. *Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance*, ISBN 0864734050, was published in conjunction with the exhibition at City Gallery, Wellington, 26 August 2000-19 January 2001. The book and exhibition explore the impact and legacy of one of the major events in the history of Aotearoa New Zealand: the invasion of Parihaka Pa, Taranaki, by the Crown in 1881. The book and exhibition brought together the art, poetry, and songs inspired by Parihaka. This could be a hard-to-find item but well worth seeking out. Highly recommended.
4. For a more nuanced examination of the causes of the New Zealand Land Wars, see Alan Ward's New Zealand Journal of History article, *The Origins of the Anglo-Maori Wars: A Reconsideration*, http://www.nzjh.auckland.ac.nz/docs/1967/NZJH_01_2_03.pdf. Although Ward rejects land as the sole motive for the wars, in the case of Waitara and Taranaki, on page 149 he states: "Admittedly, the land-hunger motive is overwhelmingly important in the case of the Taranaki war of 1860-1."
5. *The New Zealand Wars and the Victorian Interpretation of Racial Conflict*, ISBN 9780140111620, by James Belich is useful as a military history and study racial attitudes in New Zealand at the time. See especially Part Two, The Taranaki War and Part Five, Conclusions. Bellich's book inspired the award-winning documentary series, The New Zealand Wars. Excerpts and more information can be found at: <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/the-new-zealand-wars-1998/series>. The book is readily available; not so the documentary series.
6. *The New Zealand Wars/Nga Pakanga O Aotearoa*, ISBN 9781988545998, by Vincent O'Malley is a highly readable introduction to the causes, events and consequences of the New Zealand Wars.
7. *Wars without End: New Zealand's Land Wars—A Maori Perspective*, ISBN 9780143203414, by Danny Keenan. Tensions began early, arising from disputed land sales. When open conflict between Maori and Imperial forces broke out in the 1840s and 1860s, the struggles only intensified. For both sides, land was at the heart of the conflict, one that casts a long shadow over race relations in modern-day New Zealand. *Wars Without End* is the first book to approach this contentious subject from a Maori point of view, focusing on the Maori resolve to maintain possession of customary lands and explaining the subtleties of an ongoing and complex conflict.

Written by senior Maori historian Danny Keenan, *Wars without End* eloquently and powerfully describes the Maori reasons for fighting the Land Wars, placing them in the wider context of the Maori struggle to retain their sovereign estates.