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978-0-521-27869-0 - The Making of New Zealand: An Economic History

G. R. Hawke

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## **The Making of New Zealand**

This book provides a comprehensive up-to-date account of the economic history of New Zealand. It is for use as a textbook for courses on the subject, and gives a clear and readable account that will be accessible to those without a background in economics. It will also be of interest to economic historians as a comprehensive, up-to-date study of New Zealand, which illuminates broader questions of the international economic development. It covers the period since European settlement, with particular emphasis on the post-war economy. It deals with the economic problems encountered in establishing a trading economy in New Zealand and in maintaining it and adapting it to the evolving international economy. It looks closely at the development and performance of different sectors of the economy, the influence of the government and the response to international economic conditions. It also considers the way in which New Zealand society has been shaped by the problems encountered and by the solutions to those problems.

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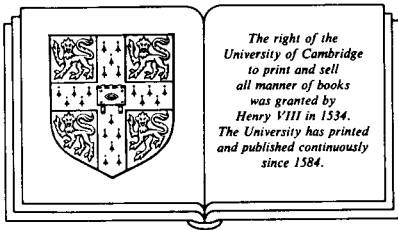
# The Making of New Zealand

**An Economic History**

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[More information](#)

## Contents

|  | <i>page</i> |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| <i>Preface</i>                                     | vii         |  |
| 1 New Zealand and its people                       | 1           |  |
| 2 The land and its produce to about 1890           | 22          |  |
| 3 Manufacturing and services to about 1930         | 42          |  |
| 4 Economic aggregates in the nineteenth century    | 66          |  |
| 5 The consequences of refrigeration, 1890–1930     | 84          |  |
| 6 Government and society before the 1930s          | 103         |  |
| 7 Depression                                       | 122         |  |
| 8 Reaction to Depression                           | 144         |  |
| 9 Controlled economy, 1938 to about 1968 and after | 163         |  |
| 10 Population and employment after 1945            | 180         |  |
| 11 The international context                       | 204         |  |
| 12 Agriculture since 1938                          | 231         |  |
| 13 Protected industry and sheltered services       | 250         |  |
| 14 Construction and investment                     | 278         |  |
| 15 Government and the economy after 1938           | 299         |  |
| 16 Before and after 1967–68                        | 322         |  |
| <i>Further reading</i>                             | 338         |  |
| <i>Index</i>                                       | 357         |  |

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Preface

The title of this book deliberately echoes J.B. Condliffe's *New Zealand in the Making*.<sup>\*</sup> First published in 1930, and issued in a revised edition in 1959, together with a companion volume,<sup>\*\*</sup> Condliffe's book has had a long life as the best single introduction to New Zealand economic history and any successor will have to be a worthy study. But changes in perception of what constitute 'economic' problems, and gains in knowledge about our past, make a successor desirable, as would readily have been acknowledged by Condliffe, whose liveliness of mind continued to his recent death. The title, *The Making of New Zealand* also hints at other works, notably *The Making of Victorian England* by Kitson Clark,<sup>\*\*\*</sup> but while I would happily acknowledge such a comparison, it was really the ambiguity of the title which attracted me. It suggests concern with both the things made in New Zealand and the things which have made New Zealand distinctive; both the products of New Zealand and what has produced a New Zealand society. That defines the kind of economic history which this book is intended to be.

It is premature in that in certain areas inadequate research has been published, but that is always true to some extent and the desire of students and others for a modern economic history of New Zealand outweighs the arguments for delay. I have already benefited from the reaction of my own students in Wellington, as I have from comments by colleagues here and elsewhere, notably but not only Professors S.L. Engerman, R.W. Fogel, E.L. Jones, W.H. Oliver and C.G.F. Simkin, and Drs T.B. Layton and T.G. Parsons. I have benefited even more over many years from association with Professor J.D. Gould and am glad that, while publication of this book coincides with his retirement from teaching, he will continue to share in the process by which it will eventually need revision.

I have also gained much of value by my cooperation in recent years with successive members of the Economic Monitoring Group of the New Zealand Planning

\* London: Allen & Unwin & Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1930; second revised edn, London: Allen & Unwin, 1959.

\*\* *The Welfare State in New Zealand*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1959.

\*\*\* London: Methuen, 1962.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

viii      **Preface**

Council and its secretariat. This includes many positive contributions, as well as evidence for my belief that a knowledge of New Zealand economic history is desirable if only to prevent policies and analyses from being determined by current fashions and myths about the past.

The last stages of authorship were completed while I enjoyed the hospitality of Professor N.G. Butlin and his colleagues at the Australian National University.

G.R. HAWKE