

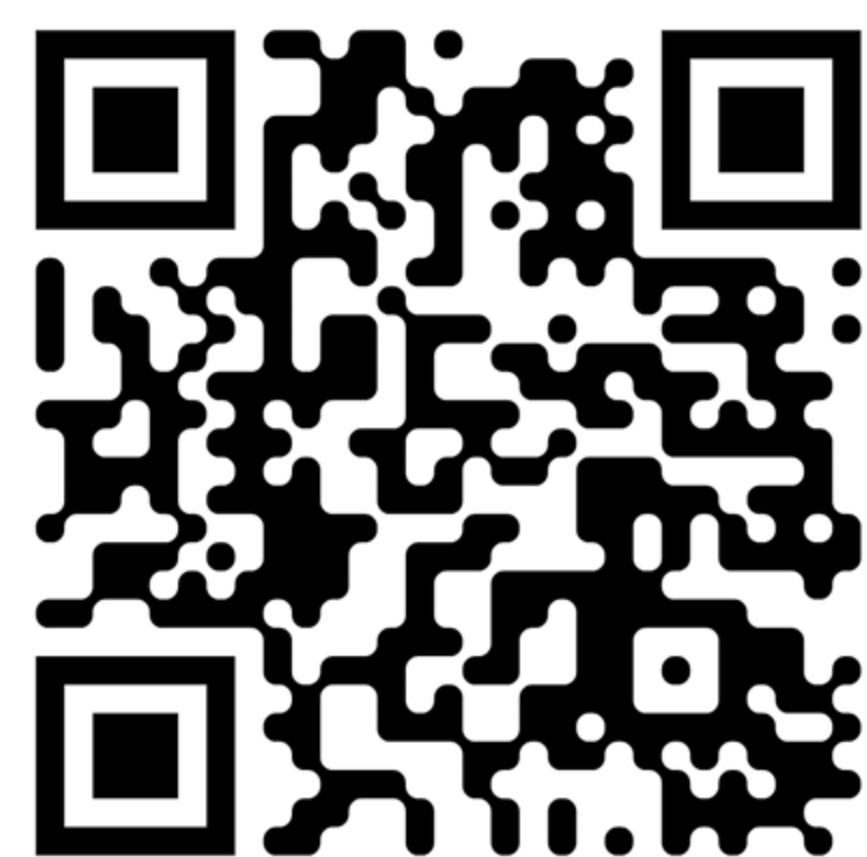
Introduction

The settlement of Aotearoa by the Māori dates back to 850 C.E., where the original inhabitants of New Zealand have continued to preside.

- As a means of gaining sovereignty over New Zealand, British officials introduced the Treaty of Waitangi to provide an opportunity for Māori chiefs and British subjects to come to an agreement.
- For the Māori, the mistranslation of the Māori version have created negative rippling effects for the Māori such as the dismantling of Māori spaces, cultural traditions and economic prospects, which has furthered the disenfranchisement of the Māori people

Objectives

- Within this research paper, I examine the implications the Treaty of Waitangi had on the colonial relationship between the Māori people and the British settlers (Pākehā) pre- and post-treaty.
- As a result of the Treaty of Waitangi, facets of power and relational dynamics were altered interpersonally within Aotearoa leading to the possible dismantling of social, economic and cultural domains of the Māori people of Aotearoa/New Zealand.



Link to Full Research Paper

The Fight for Aotearoa Against Settler Colonialism: The Māori Perspective

Results

Social:

- Heightened Māori inter-tribal warfare through advanced technologies (i.e. musket supplement) by the British
- Intentionally mistranslated the treaty document in written and oral format
- Forced Māori adherence to the Treaty of Waitangi regardless of the personal decision by local tribes
- Impacted the Māori people's ability to give their complete consent and language barriers limited comprehension of the treaty

Economic:

- Stole Māori lands for the purpose of privatization by the Pākehā
- Relocated Māori communities to smaller, polluted sites to inhabit long-term
- Introduced negative health effects on Māori bodies through settlement in foreign spaces
- Facilitated racial discrimination of Māori identity in healthcare
- Limited equal access to educational opportunities, which instigated income disparities between Māori and Pākehā

Cultural Practices:

- Dismantled pre-existing Māori cultural traditions
- Depleted traditional food sources and gathering spaces
- Restricted the accessibility of sacred sites to Māori through the British privatisation of land
- Altered the criteria for Māori membership through an emphasis on blood quantum laws
- Created barriers to Māori identity and belonging through expectations that stress the importance of one's fluency in te reo Māori

Conclusion

The significance of the Treaty of Waitangi illustrates the relevance of colonization in New Zealand with an emphasis on the importance of translation:

- The subjectivity in the meanings and intentions outlined in the treaty illustrates how illegal proceedings and dishonest practices have stolen Māori spaces, impacted the viewing and treatment of Māori publicly, created socioeconomic inequities and impacted cultural traditions.
- The effect on Māori systems of living is drastic in that settler colonial measures have crippled pre-existing Māori cultural practices and community relations and have enabled racially discriminating barriers that Māori have had to fight against to maintain and preserve Māori culture.

Methods

- Researched Māori history pre- and post-colonial contact with an emphasis on changes in individual and community lifestyles after settler colonization. This research highlights the implications of documenting a limited historical perspective of Māori experiences
- Incorporated archival materials and review of current literature in research and writing of a research paper of between 5000 and 6000 words
- Engaged in critical conversations with the PAAS and Humanities departments on pertinent Māori issues

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