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Treaty to Treaty, Volume 2 is a compendium of information and documents regarding European exploration in the Pacific as it relates to New Zealand. In it Bennett traces European activity in the area from 1494 to 1799. His stated focus is on New Zealand, but in the volume he casts his net much wider, considering events and voyages in the Pacific and Asia. The work is the second in a self-published trilogy. Volume 1 presents background essays relevant to the overall topic of early European interest in the region, while Volume 3 centers on voyages and their documents from 1800 to 1840.

Bennett’s introductory section consists of an eclectic mix of material which includes a short and somewhat curious essay speculating about the possibility and probability of European explorers in Australia and New Zealand prior to Abel Tasman’s “discovery” in 1642, six early maps of the region, a list of the rulers of England from 1485 (Henry VII) to 1901 (Queen Victoria), a calendar of European voyages to the Pacific beginning with Fernão Magalhães (Ferdinand Magellan) and ending with the voyage of the London Missionary Society ship Duff under the command of James Wilson, an essay on the Spanish—British rivalry in the New World, a list of politicians and office holders in Britain, Australia and Norfolk Island, and an essay on the background to the Treaty of Tordesillas. The wide-ranging nature of the introductory section is representative of the entire volume. This section would have been enhanced by an examination of the context of the debate surrounding these early voyagers and European discoveries.

The main part of the volume begins with a brief summary of papal bulls and political events leading to the Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal. The Treaty, endorsed by the Pope, divided the New World between the two Catholic kingdoms and began Europe’s fascination with what would become known as the Pacific. Bennett provides a translation of portions of the Treaty as well as an account of political intrigues and strategies which informed it. He then proceeds to chronicle all of the known voyages to New Zealand and the southern Pacific region. Major voyages, such as Magellan’s crossing and naming of the Pacific, Mendaña’s “discovery” of the Solomon Islands and the expeditions of James Cook, are compiled and presented alongside lesser known journeys and expeditions, such as those financed by Jean Ango in the 1530s and 1540s as well as the mysterious 1576 voyage of Juan Fernandez.
In addition, the activities of the British East India Company, the Dutch Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie and other similar organisations are summarised attesting to the wider European interests in the region and how they influenced activities throughout the southern Pacific. Each entry is concise and reasonably well informed with many including bibliographic information for further reading. The presentation is somewhat quirky, in an academic sense, but the wealth of factual detail as well as the presentation in bold of key names, places, and terms makes it a quick and handy reference for voyages to the region.

Bennett returns to the theme of the possibility of other visitors to New Zealand before Tasman in a series of appendices which consider the likelihood of Arab and Chinese explorations in the region by cataloguing the surviving wisps of Portuguese and French cartographic and documentary evidence for the improbable discoveries. It is somewhat surprising that this material is presented separately from the essay in the introductory section as both cover similar themes. All this material would be better placed in an appendix. A brief, but useful index completes the volume.

*Treaty to Treaty, Volume 2* is not your usual academic history book. At times the material presented suffers from the apparent passions of the author. A more careful and considered analysis of the voyages and events presented would have enhanced the volume, as would a more judicious organisation of much of the data. However, the book does inform the reader about which Europeans were in the region, where they went, and when. It also includes some discussion of the contextual issues in Europe, which influenced how the Pacific was perceived, and its exploration deemed desirable. Overall, *Treaty to Treaty, Volume 2* is a credible calendar of voyages and events which influenced the European exploration of New Zealand and the wider southern Pacific region.


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Ilana Gershon’s ethnographic exploration of Samoan migrant experiences contrasts their situation in two countries, New Zealand and the United States, and in two contexts, in their churches and ceremonial exchanges (faʻalavelave), and in their interactions with the state. Her analysis of how Samoans represent themselves to the state in the US and New Zealand—and the complexities of that interface—involves the concept of “reflexivity” to pin down analytically different constructions of “culture” by government officials and community workers, and Samoan migrants themselves. In my opinion, the concept does not add much to an otherwise richly and insightfully considered ethnography.

The book is in two parts roughly corresponding to these contexts. In the migrant imagination “Samoa emerges as a nostalgic utopic space... the site of authentic
The Treaty of Tordesillas was agreed upon by the Spanish and the Portuguese to clear up confusion on newly claimed land in the New World. The early 1400s brought about great advances in European exploration. In order to make trade more efficient, Portugal attempted to find a direct water route to the India and China. By using a direct water route, Arab merchants, who owned land trade routes, were not able to make a profit off of the European trade merchants. After Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, it was clear that conflict would soon arise over land claims by Spain and Portugal. The Portuguese also wanted to protect their monopoly on the trade route to Africa and felt threatened. Previous (Treaty of Shimonoseki). Next (Treaty of Trianon). The Treaty of Tordesillas (Portuguese: Tratado de Tordesilhas, Spanish: Tratado de Tordesillas), signed at Tordesillas (now in Valladolid province, Spain), June 7, 1494, divided the newly discovered lands outside Europe into an exclusive duopoly between the Spanish and the Portuguese along a north-south meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands (off the west coast of Africa). This was about halfway between the Cape Verde Islands. The discussions culminated in the signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas on June 7, 1494. The purpose of the agreement was to resolve the controversy over what part belongs to each of the two parties of the space remaining to be discovered. The western shift of the demarcation line enabled the Spanish to exert their domination over a larger part of what they thought to be Asia. For the Portuguese, situating the line 370 leagues to the west of the Cape Verde islands allowed them to control the route to India going around the Cape of Good Hope. Although the arrangements in the Treaty of Tordesillas resolved Atlantic disagreements, they also fueled other difficulties. In the early 1510s, the Portuguese set foot on the Moluccas archipelago, which was a clove producing area. The Treaty of Tordesillas was notable for dividing lands outside of Europe. It was signed by Spain on June 2, 1494, and by the Portuguese three months later on September 5, 1494. The Treaty. The main reason for the treaty was to ensure a newly discovered land outside Europe was divided in a rational and peaceful manner between the Portuguese Empire and the Crown of Castile. This land was divided along the meridian 370 league that is located on the west side of Cape Verde Island. This aggravated the King, therefore he drafted a letter to the catholic Monarchs claiming that the treaty of Alcacovas signed in 1479 gave Portugal the right to all lands found on the south of Canary Island. This meant the land did not belong to the Castle of Castile.