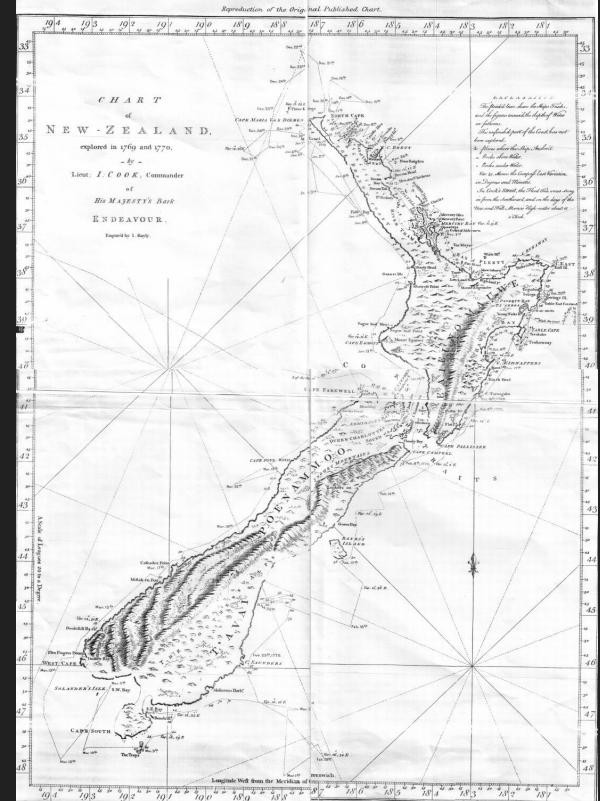


# New Zealand

By Andrew Garber

# Quick History Lesson

- Settled by Polynesians in ~1300ish, and then developed a distinctive culture we now call the “Māori”(M-ouh-ri)
- James Cook was not the first European, but did “successfully” claim it for the British Empire. It was settled in the 1800s, but wasn’t well-developed until the latter part of the century. Australia overshadowed it until post-WWII
- Māori are the second largest group, and over 100,000 live in Australia as well. There have been big recent efforts to revive and celebrate Māori culture, with specific efforts for inclusivity(specifically in language and heritage).



# North vs South Island

New Zealand is made up of two distinct, but equally fantastic islands. North Island is generally the more industrialized one, holding the largest city(Auckland) and a larger population.

South Island is more known for its “slow pace” of life, with unbelievably beautiful glaciers and mountains.



# Human Geography & Culture

The largest city in New Zealand is Auckland, containing about 1.7 million people. It is also *ridiculously* beautiful.

In terms of culture, a greater acceptance and embracing of Māori culture has been the trend of the last 3 decades. Notably, a sense of pride among European-descended New Zealanders of the legacy of the original founders of their nation, and the downstream cultural impact of that.



# 28th Māori Battalion

- Not strictly relevant, but an interesting historical tidbit I thought worth mentioning due to the prevailing cultural situation.
- In the second World War, at a time when laws existed to try and assimilate the Māori into “European New Zealand” culture, of less than 100,000 Māori left, over 16,000 volunteered for war service.
- The most notable formation generated of this was the 28th Māori Battalion of the 2nd New Zealand Division which fought in Africa(Montgomery’s 8th Army) and in Italy.
- Commanded by General Bernard Freyberg(sometimes well, sometimes poorly), the formation fought with distinction. Freyberg said, “no infantry battalion had a more distinguished record, or saw more fighting, or, alas, had such heavy casualties as the Maori Battalion



# The Future for New Zealand

The future looks bright for New Zealand. While it will have to deal with the coming effects of climate change just like everyone else, it is not much more or less resilient to this than the average.

A big stumbling block for New Zealand is its small population and the cost of getting there. Cost of living is fairly high, and the immigration process is not easy, so while desiring big industrial growth, it does not have the specialized talent to support it yet.

Shoutout to Rocket Lab!



Scale-Up NZ Startup Company Density by Region  
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