

Redemption Songs

A Life of Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki

By Judith Binney

Teacher Notes

History

BOOK OVERVIEW

Redemption Songs goes beyond simply tracing the life of Te Kooti, the military leader and founder of the Ringatū faith. It attempts to discover the truth about a figure steeped in so much myth.

Judith Binney also engages with the challenges historians face in presenting an objective history. Using a wide range of sources, she creates a balanced view that attempts to not make ‘the man into a demigod and to avoid venerating him, rather than what he created, otherwise it gets cloudy.’

In presenting varying sources and interpretation (in te reo Māori and English) the author at times allows the reader to draw their own conclusions. She argues that ‘historians must aspire to be independent’, and not controlled by race, religion or gender, and ‘must transcend both self-representation and those European notions of claiming uniquely to possess the historical language which establishes an analytical truth. It must be a discussion which offers intellectual benefits to both Maori and European.’

Binney accomplishes all this by presenting a comprehensive account of Te Kooti, a man living in a land being colonised who sought to find a way to maintain his rangatiratanga and mana and thus left a lasting legacy.

KEY FEATURES

- Chronological treatment, covered in detail
- Includes a detailed whakapapa
- Draws on extensive range of primary and secondary sources
- Includes photos, paintings, maps, documents
- Appendices feature: diaries of, songs for, images of and waiata by Te Kooti
- Concludes with glossary, endnotes, sources and index.

RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Level 2

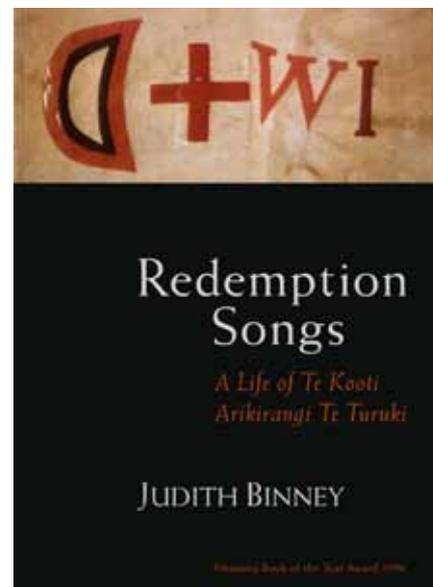
AS91229 Carry out an inquiry of an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders

AS91230 Examine an historical event, or place, of significance to New Zealanders

AS91232 Interpret different perspectives of people in an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

AS91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

AS91234 Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dame Judith Binney was a New Zealand historian and writer. She is the author of numerous books of New Zealand history, many with a focus on Māori individuals and communities. She was Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Auckland. She was awarded a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to historical research in New Zealand in 1997, and made a Distinguished Companion in 2006. She received the Prime Minister’s Award for Literary Achievement the same year.

Books in School Libraries

Level Three

AS91434 Research an historical event or place of significance to New Zealanders, using primary and secondary sources

AS91435 Analyse an historical event, or place, of significance to New Zealanders

AS91437 Analyse different perspectives of a contested event of significance to New Zealanders

USING REDEMPTION SONGS IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

This book gives teachers and students in-depth information on Te Kooti, Māori prophetic movements and the effects of colonisation. At Level One and Two it may be more useful as a teacher resource due to the reading and comprehension level required. It could be used:

- in an historical inquiry as a secondary source, and/or means to identify other historians and sources.
- in an inquiry students could look at colonisation and the consequences for Māori, including the prophetic movements
- to explore perspectives of Te Kooti, both at the time and modern interpretations, including Māori and Pākehā views
- to write an essay analysing the changing nature of Māori and Pākehā relations or the means used by Māori to maintain their rangatiratanga and identity amidst colonisation – i.e., development of religious and prophetic movements and their continuing importance
- to explore historiography by comparing different sources. Analysing Māori and Pākehā means of recording history and the increasing legitimacy and importance of oral history.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY IDEAS

The comprehensive nature of this book, particularly the range of primary sources, makes it useful for independent enquiry. Level Three students may find it more accessible than those at Level One and Two.

FURTHER READING

Tony Ballantyne, *Webs of Empire: Locating New Zealand's Colonial Past*, Bridget Williams Books, 2012

Tony Ballantyne and Brian Moloughney (eds), *Disputed Histories: Imagining New Zealand's Pasts*, Otago University Press, 2006

James Belich, *I Shall Not Die: Titokowaru's War, 1868–1869*, Bridget Williams Books, 2010

James Belich, *Making Peoples: A History of the New Zealanders*, Penguin Books, 2007

Judith Binney, Gillian Chaplin and Craig Wallace, *Mihaia: The Prophet Rua Kenana and his Community at Maungapohatu*, Bridget Williams Books, 2011

Judith Binney (ed.), *The Shaping of History: Essays from the New Zealand Journal of History, 1967–1999*, Bridget Williams Books, 2001

Giselle Byrnes (ed.), *The New Oxford History of New Zealand*, Oxford University Press, 2009

Claudia Orange, *An Illustrated History of the Treaty of Waitangi*, Bridget Williams Books, 2003

Karen Sinclair, *Prophetic Histories: The People of the Māramatanga*, Bridget Williams Books, 2002

■ BWB Publishing Trust would like to thank Katrina de Roo for these teacher notes.

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