

The Legacy of Guilt

A Life of Thomas Kendall

By Judith Binney

Teacher Notes

History

BOOK OVERVIEW

The Legacy of Guilt follows the story of missionary Thomas Kendall, one of the first lay missionaries in New Zealand, sent by the Church Missionary Society (CMS). Kendall was a devout man, but he lacked the skills to cater for the people he had come to redeem. The book follows Kendall from the trials of his and his family's sea voyage to his troubled end with the CMS. He was at once praised for his exploration into Māori traditions – unlike other missionaries – and vilified by settlers for his emotional and at times idealistic notions of life. The years leading to the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi were difficult years for all inhabitants of Aotearoa. Perhaps those most affected by the rapid changes were those who had the most contact with the Māori, the missionaries.

Originally published in 1968, *The Legacy of Guilt* won the 1970 biennial F. P. Wilson Prize for the best historical writing in New Zealand. The 2005 edition includes a new introductory essay and new illustrations.

KEY FEATURES

- Chronological to some degree, chapters titled by theme.
- Includes excerpts of correspondence.
- Illustrated with a map, photographs and paintings, including depictions of Māori carving.
- Three appendices: a letter from Kendall to Josiah Pratt on the subject of Māori beliefs; a bibliography of Kendall's work in the Māori language; and a description of Baron Thierry's life.
- Concludes with list of abbreviations, endnotes, bibliography and index.

RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

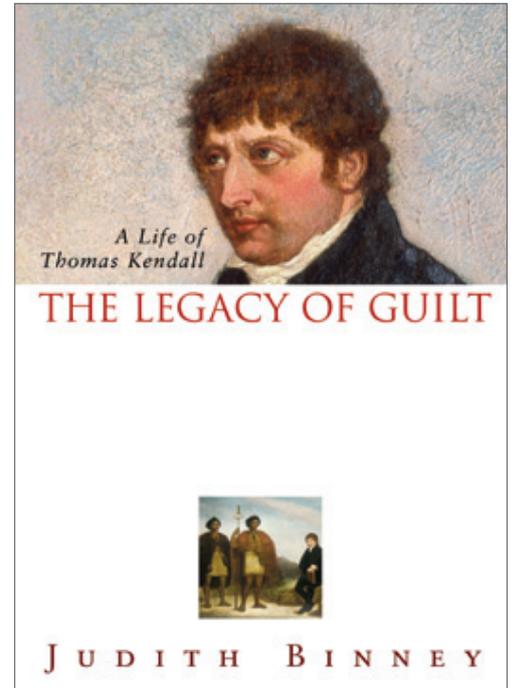
Level 3

AS91434 (3.1) Research an historical event or place of significance to New Zealanders, using primary and secondary sources (event includes an historical development or movement).

AS91435 (3.2) Analyse an historical event, or place of significance to New Zealanders.

AS91437 (3.4) Analyse different perspectives of a contested event of significance to New Zealanders.

AS91438 (3.5) Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.



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

USING *LEGACY OF GUILT* IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

3.1 *Legacy of Guilt* can be used:

- As a source of primary and secondary material for an inquiry into the impact of Māori and Pākehā friendships on beliefs and practices.

3.2 *Legacy of Guilt* can be used:

- As a starting point for analysing the impact of early Māori contact with the British crown in England.
- As a starting point for analysing the impact of the sales of muskets and other weapons to Māori by the Pākehā.

3.4 *Legacy of Guilt* can be used:

- Students can reflect on the varying conflicts amongst settlers and missionaries or missionaries, Māori and the societies/churches that sent the missionaries.
- Brainstorm reasons why the teachings of the missionaries and the rise of Māori prophets was a concern for the Crown e.g. Te Kooti, Rua Kenana, Te Whiti o Rongomai, and Papahurihia.

3.5 *Legacy of Guilt* can be used:

- Write an essay on the causes and consequences of sending untrained lay missionaries into isolated 'new' lands.
- Write an essay on the causes and consequences of the impact of missionary work on traditional Māori practices.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY IDEAS

- Compare the work of Catholic and Anglican missionaries in a selection of areas within New Zealand.
- Investigate why the teachings of the missionaries and the rise of Māori prophets was a concern for the Crown.
- Investigate the dangers faced by missionaries throughout New Zealand e.g. Karl Volkner's murder.
- Was the influence of the missionaries significant in developing relationships between Māori and the settlers?
- How were the missionaries treated by the settlers and were there conflicts in beliefs leading to greater isolation for the men of God?
- Was the treatment of Thomas Kendall by the CMS similar to other lay missionaries throughout New Zealand?

FURTHER READING

James Belich, *Paradise Reforged: A History of the New Zealanders from 1880 to the Year 2000*, Allen Lane/The Penguin Press, 2001

Richard Taylor, *Te Ika A Maui, or New Zealand and its Inhabitants, Illustrating the Origin, Manners, Customs, Mythology, Religion, Rites Songs, Proverbs, Fables, and Language of the Natives*, Wertheim and Macintosh, 1855
Proceedings of the Church Missionary Society, for Africa and the East, 1805–1825, Church Missionary Society London, 1806–1825

George Mackaness (ed), *Samuel Marsden, Some Private Correspondence of the Rev. Samuel Marsden and Family, 1794–1824*, G. Mackaness, 1942

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/>

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>
timeframes.natlib.govt.nz/

- BWB Publishing Trust would like to thank Jenna Teesdale for these teacher notes.

The BWB Publishing Trust: Books in School Libraries

Books in School Libraries sets out to enrich school library collections and enhance New Zealand students' understanding of their country. The project allows supporters to sponsor titles from the Bridget Williams Books catalogue for donation to secondary school libraries.