

power nor assimilated into a metropolitan model but rather are induced to join one side against the other; (4) the condocolonized learn to play off the imperial powers against each other, often to further local interests and pursue indigenous politics; and (5) imperial rivalries are reproduced and internalized by the condocolonized, giving rise to political cleavages that outlast the accession to independence and perpetuate exploitative attitudes toward the institution of government.

In contrast to colonialism's heightening of ethnic and other indigenous cleavages in other parts of the world, condocolonialization superimposed competitive identities along non-indigenous lines.

However, while condocolonialism divided Islanders into two camps, because neither of the condominiumal powers was able to achieve unchecked influence anywhere in the archipelago, the New Hebrides was protected from being overly colonized by either France or Britain. As a result, to take one important example, a critical mass of traditional customs that might otherwise have been eradicated through missionary activity was preserved, and "recuperated and recast into nationalistic *kastom*, enabled the nation to enter independence with a viable sense of Melanesian identity and Vanuatu nationalism" (196).

Ironically, condocolonial competition and neglect provided Vanuatu with the means of overcoming its colonial past. As Miles notes in the book's penultimate paragraph, "The challenge of independence will be to unite the insular peoples of Vanuatu by overcoming the long-standing indigenous, superimposed condocolonial, and emerging mental boundaries

that divide them" (196). Miles' use of the future tense points to his processual rather than narrowly legal conceptualization of "independence," which mirrors his treatment of condocolonialism. The result is a book that not only reads well, but also imparts valuable insights into the choices facing ni-Vanuatu at a time when postmodernism is fundamentally recasting the meaning of postcolonialism.

RON ADAMS

*Victoria University of Technology,
Melbourne*

* * *

Modern Papua New Guinea,
edited by Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi.
Kirksville, MO: Thomas Jefferson
University Press, 1998. ISBN
cloth, 0-943549-51-5; paper,
0-943549-57-4; vi + 424 pages, maps,
tables, figures, photographs, notes,
bibliography, index. Cloth, US\$40;
paper, US\$25.

Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi has responded to a need experienced by many of those who teach about Papua New Guinea by compiling an excellent volume introducing students to Papua New Guinea as a contemporary nation-state. The book will be useful for upper division and graduate students, specialists in Third World development, and Papua New Guinea specialists (3). Readers need some familiarity with development in recently independent nation-states and the cultural diversity of Papua New Guinea. The usefulness is enhanced by a chronology of recent history, and tables and maps that include socioeconomic strata in urban areas,

current and future mining sites, and wilderness preserves. The essays are enriched by substantial references to current sources on Papua New Guinea and comparative development. A persistent theme is the tension between local and state systems and allegiances. The volume is organized into four sections: "The State and National Identity," "Economic Development," "The New Society," and "The People's Welfare."

The first section explores development of the state in Papua New Guinea. Peter Larmour asks to what extent Papua New Guinea meets the criteria for a nation-state, and finds legal, international criteria more definitive than internal ones. Unlike Polynesian societies, colonial rule in Papua New Guinea did not interrupt an indigenous process of state formation. Therefore much state infrastructure is only a few decades old, and power is not strongly centralized through the nation-state bureaucracy. MacQueen finds the role of Papua New Guinea in the international system relatively weak, whether it pursues a multilateral, issue-oriented, or regional policy. Nevertheless, rich natural resources make the country a potentially valuable, though presently not very influential, member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Pamela Rosi discusses the difficulties of contemporary artists, caught between localized artistic roles and traditions and the problems of making a living in the modern sector. King concludes this section with a discussion of the Papua New Guinea–West Irian border issues arising from political boundaries that are not coordinate with the cultural and

economic systems they seek to control. He views the influx of refugees into the Ok Tedi area, an ecosystem under duress, as potentially a political time-bomb.

The articles in "Economic Development" vary in their optimism about the future of Papua New Guinea. Olson and Kan assess the potential for using rich and diverse fisheries resources. Filer argues that the travails of the mining industry signal a pervasive problem of runaway expectations thwarted by the lack of an ethic of mutual cooperation and common good. MacWilliam's economic analysis of agriculture, comparing plantations and smallholder enterprises, describes how smallholder production is under pressure to absorb large numbers of the unemployed. As population burgeons, this economic "sponge" effect at the village level undermines efforts to improve the general standard of living. Kurer compares politics and economic development in African countries and Papua New Guinea, concluding that in both places the development of patronage systems and local elites raises the cost of doing business and threatens to stall economic development. These processes are, in his view, more contained in Papua New Guinea than in some African nations.

"The New Society" describes tensions generated by urban-rural and intergenerational differences and considers the challenges for women of urban and semi-urban lifestyles. King surveys urban settlement along lines of socioeconomic stratification, describing how the benefits of employment are undermined by hard living conditions in towns. As social classes

continue to develop, he predicts greater rifts between urban and rural sectors and increasing difficulties for low-income sectors. Jeanette Dickerson-Putman analyzes intergenerational differences among four age groups of Bena Bena men. She warns that extreme differences in values among age groups make it unlikely that local leadership can effectively control rascalism among youth. Zimmer-Tamakoshi considers the adaptations that some women make to life in towns. Women who maintain the option of returning to village life, economic productivity, or both, seem to be better off. Without these options women may be devalued and victimized in the name of brideprice systems. McIntyre writes powerfully of the inferior position of women as a persistent problem that is only beginning to be addressed, although the language to support women's autonomy and equality is present in the constitution. Women, she says, have realized few of the benefits of wage-paying jobs, mainly held by men, at the same time as they maintain the subsistence sector.

The largest section, "The People's Welfare" (seven articles), further explores problems of rootlessness and alienation among young men, and the exploitation of women. Lawrence Hammar discusses the devastating impact of sexually transmitted diseases as not just a health care issue, but a problem in social relationships between men and women. Two essays on education take up the question of goals—Crossley asks should the system educate for participation in the urban wage and cash economy or provide skills to improve rural life?

Michael Monsell-Davis asks what the impact of schooling has been for youth (mostly male) who eventually return to village communities. Sinclair Dinnen looks at problems of law and order, partly in terms of local and customary expectations that accept certain kinds of violence as solutions. Christine Bradley describes a major public awareness campaign questioning the acceptability of violence against women. The section concludes with two essays on the importance of maintaining environmental integrity in the face of natural resource exploitation. Hughes and Sullivan assess legislation to regulate mining, logging, and oil prospecting. While the legislation itself seems adequate, the infrastructure to enforce it is fragile and underfunded. King and Hughes argue that protecting biodiversity and the ecological uniqueness of Papua New Guinea will be best accomplished by grassroots initiatives from landowners.

The volume covers a wide range of topics with a balanced perspective of realism and constructive evaluation. Clearly Papua New Guinea faces enormous challenges as a modern nation-state, but the authors also describe, often on the basis of their own long-term experience and commitment, efforts to combat the ills that accompany the emergence of a new nation.

KATHLEEN BARLOW
University of Minnesota

* * *