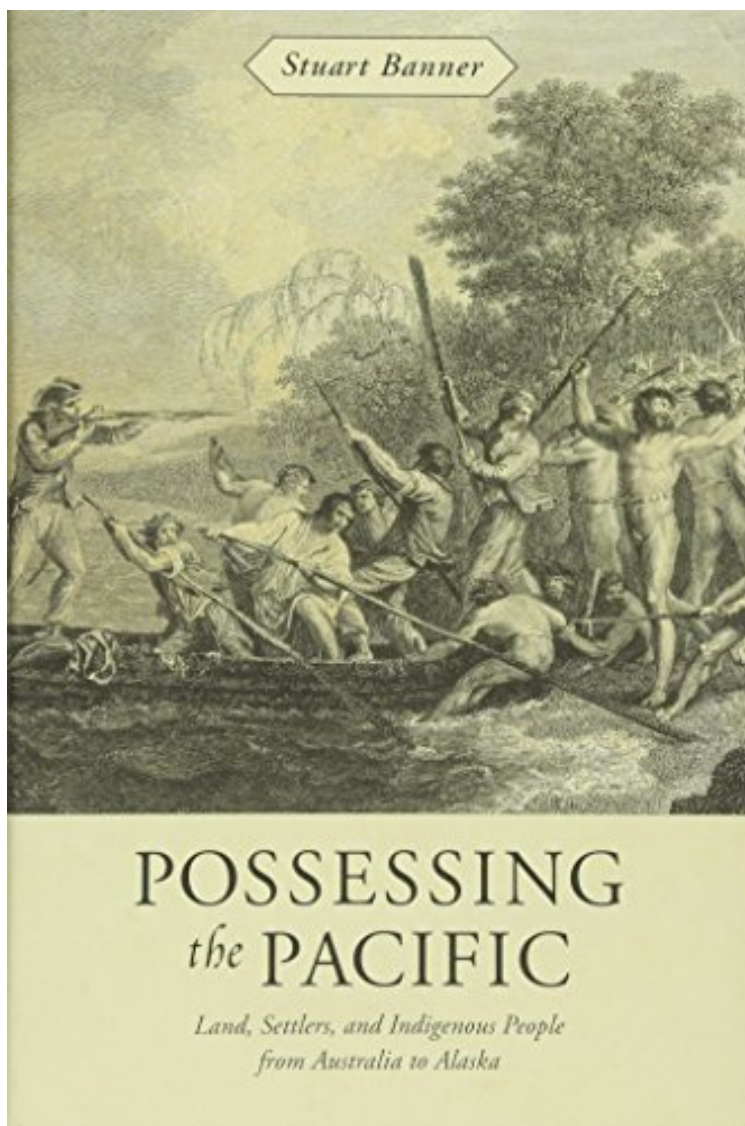


[DOWNLOAD] Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska

Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska

Stuart Banner

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Stuart Banner : Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Very detailed information on a topic I needed to research- well written. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. By Fernando F. Aransay Mr.

Banner accomplishes a thorough, sound, intelligent, logically explained and very well written account of the processes that resulted in the (albeit just nominally) legal transfer of the lands around the Pacific from their aboriginal dwellers to their Anglo-Saxon colonizers. The book certainly deserves all praise. The author manages to show the hows and whys of the different episodes that, mostly along the XIXth Century, followed occupation of the English speaking colonies by the newcomers. And he does it following an intelligent layout that allows the reader to compare the various methods put in place, and the reasons that brought them about. Although it is well focused on the land issue, the book nevertheless provides ample and enlightening insights into the History of these places, and the transformation of the newcomers for both these U.S.A. and British colonies, from mere invaders to owners (and the dispossession that most of the aboriginal peoples suffered as a consequence). Mr. Banner, it seems to me, assesses things in a very equitable way, far from manicheism, and he constructs his cases well, with convincing evidence and a well-built discourse. Being a law teacher, Mr. Banner is sensitive to the great implications that small legal nuances convey, and he refrains from indulging in his own opinions when there are holes or gaps in the sources, but rather pinpoints these. It would certainly be most interesting to compare the experiences contemplated in this book with those other that preceded or overlapped the Anglo Saxons (I am thinking mostly of the Spanish and French in the Pacific), and on a more technical note, to have their legal differences analyzed, but it would certainly be a daunting task. Maybe Mr. Banner will surprise us with another magnificent book on the subject?

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Irreplaceable

By Mark Smith

In one place this weaves together how and why Native Hawaiians fared far better than aboriginal Australians and native tribes in California but not as well native Tongans. For anyone wanting a background in native land rights or the sweep of "first world" imperialistic powers across the Pacific in the late 1800's and early 1900's this is a seminal and invaluable work

During the nineteenth century, British and American settlers acquired a vast amount of land from indigenous people throughout the Pacific, but in no two places did they acquire it the same way. Stuart Banner tells the story of colonial settlement in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. Today, indigenous people own much more land in some of these places than in others. And certain indigenous peoples benefit from treaty rights, while others do not. These variations are traceable to choices made more than a century ago--choices about whether indigenous people were the owners of their land and how that land was to be transferred to whites. Banner argues that these differences were not due to any deliberate land policy created in London or Washington. Rather, the decisions were made locally by settlers and colonial officials and were based on factors peculiar to each colony, such as whether the local indigenous people were agriculturalists and what level of political organization they had attained. These differences loom very large now, perhaps even larger than they did in the nineteenth century, because they continue to influence the course of litigation and political struggle between indigenous people and whites over claims to land and other resources. *Possessing the Pacific* is an original and broadly conceived study of how colonial struggles over land still shape the relations between whites and indigenous people throughout much of the world.

From Publishers Weekly

This investigation of 19th-century white settlement in the Pacific explores why colonists' strategies for appropriating land from native people varied so widely from place to place. Banner (*How the Indians Lost Their Land*) identifies three central factors: the speed of white settlement, the extent of native people's political organization, and, most importantly, agriculture, which colonists equated with ownership. When colonists encountered indigenous farming people, the colonists recognized the natives' land ownership. Thus, when the British arrived in New Zealand, they conceded the agricultural Maori's property rights, and tried to buy the land. But when American settlers arrived in California, the non-agricultural native population struck them as primitive, and the settlers refused to acknowledge Indian ownership. Banner sketches the ongoing impact of these colonial encounters, underscoring that indigenous people's property rights today are based on what unfolded 150 years ago. Occasionally, Banner states the obvious, as when he notes that the British ability to take control of New Zealand boiled down to the Brits having more "power" than the Maori. Yet his overarching argument is an important one: dispelling the myth that colonization patterns were driven by policies set at home. This original and significant study will appeal to readers hoping to understand an issue whose ramifications are still felt today. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Fascinating, convincing, and beautifully written, this is popular legal history that tells an important story about British and American settlers' perception and treatment of native rights to Pacific lands. A major new book in the field. (Bruce Kercher, Macquarie University, Australia)

In a style that is lucid and direct, Stuart Banner builds an extensively researched comparative study of settler societies that span the Pacific Ocean. He forces us to rethink the prevailing interpretations of the rise of Anglo-American dominance and the dispossession of indigenous peoples in the nineteenth century. (Michael Adas, author of *Dominance by Design: Technological Imperatives and America's Civilizing Mission*) Remarkable for its breadth, vision, and mastery of native title and land expropriation issues, *Possessing the Pacific* is graced by brilliant writing. Stuart Banner's meticulous research, good judgment, and crisp prose combine to make this book a marvelous contribution to comparative history. An all-round

triumph! (John Weaver, McMaster University, Canada) This comparative study of the ways that the lands of Australasians, Polynesians, and North American Pacific coast tribes were taken by British and American governments is rich in evidence and wise in analysis. A wonderful addition. (Peter Karsten, University of Pittsburgh) [Banner's] overarching argument is an important one: dispelling the myth that colonization patterns were driven by policies set at home. This original and significant study will appeal to readers hoping to understand an issue whose ramifications are still felt today. (Publishers Weekly 2007-11-19) About the Author Stuart Banner is Norman Abrams Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles.