

Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States

By David Hackett Fischer

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Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States By David Hackett Fischer

Fairness and Freedom compares the history of two open societies--New Zealand and the United States--with much in common. Both have democratic polities, mixed-enterprise economies, individuated societies, pluralist cultures, and a deep concern for human rights and the rule of law. But all of these elements take different forms, because constellations of value are far apart. The dream of living free is America's Polaris; fairness and natural justice are New Zealand's Southern Cross.

Fischer asks why these similar countries went different ways. Both were founded by English-speaking colonists, but at different times and with disparate purposes. They lived in the first and second British Empires, which operated in very different ways. Indians and Maori were important agents of change, but to different ends. On the American frontier and in New Zealand's Bush, material possibilities and moral choices were not the same. Fischer takes the same comparative approach to parallel processes of nation-building and immigration, women's rights and racial wrongs, reform causes and conservative responses, war-fighting and peace-making, and global engagement in our own time--with similar results.

On another level, this book expands Fischer's past work on liberty and freedom. It is the first book to be published on the history of fairness. And it also poses new questions in the old tradition of history and moral philosophy. Is it possible to be both fair and free? In a vast array of evidence, Fischer finds that the strengths of these great values are needed to correct their weaknesses. As many societies seek to become more open--never twice in the same way, an understanding of our differences is the only path to peace.



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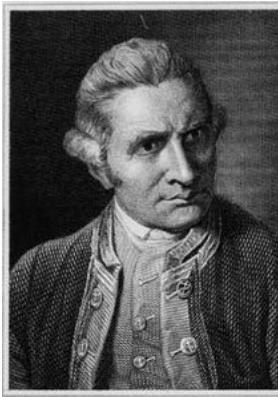
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Take a Look Inside *Fairness and Freedom*



How do we explain differences in relations between Europeans and native peoples in America and New Zealand? Part of the answer lies with the enlightenment-inspired leader **Captain James Cook**, who regarded all people as sharing a common humanity.



How to create a society that offered equitable opportunities to people in search of land? The American solution: continuous acquisition of land to reconcile freedom and liberty with an idea of equity. An example is this **broadside for new lands in Iowa and Nebraska (1872)**.



Betty Friedan gave the new feminism a depth of purpose in her extraordinary book, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), which centered on an old "problem that has no name" and a new goal of "raising consciousness" among women. To traditional ideas of liberty and freedom it added the idea of psychological liberation.



A pivot point in the history of racism was World War II. Under heavy pressure from Afro-American leaders, Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order banning racial discrimination in war industries. The result was a revolution in economic opportunity, for those **welders in New Britain, Connecticut, 1943**, and millions of others.

Review

"Fischer has written an engaging work of interest to both general readers and historians. His excellent introduction to the relative weighting of these key values in New Zealand and the United States should encourage scholars to embark on broader studies of why shared commitments to fairness and freedom have resulted in different balances in the histories of open societies." --*Journal of American History*

"A pioneering, illuminating, and at times startling book...Ambitious and observant...*Fairness and Freedom* is a work of frequently profound historical and social analysis" --*The Atlantic*, also selected as one of the 15 best books reviewed in *The Atlantic* or published in 2012

"[FAIRNESS AND FREEDOM] provides valuable insight into the American identity . . . In an era of increasing inequality, this is a timely argument, and one well worth hearing." --*Washington Post Book World*

"So far it is the best non-fiction book of the year, by a clear mark." --Tyler Cowen, MarginalRevolution.com

About the Author

David Hackett Fischer teaches history at Brandeis University. His books include *The Great Wave*, *Albion's Seed*, and *Liberty and Freedom*. *Washington's Crossing* was a New York Times bestseller and won the Pulitzer Prize in 2005. *Champlain's Dream* was an international bestseller, and won McGill's Cundill Award for Excellence in 2008.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Atwood:

Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

Rosemary Lafleur:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States reserve written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Harry Fulford:

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Carmen Annunziata:

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