



The Maoris of
New Zealand



It is estimated
that the Maori
people arrived
in New Zealand
in 1300 AD.



Captain Cook navigated the two islands in 1769-1770. He wrote about the advancement of the Maori and how New Zealand would make a good colony.



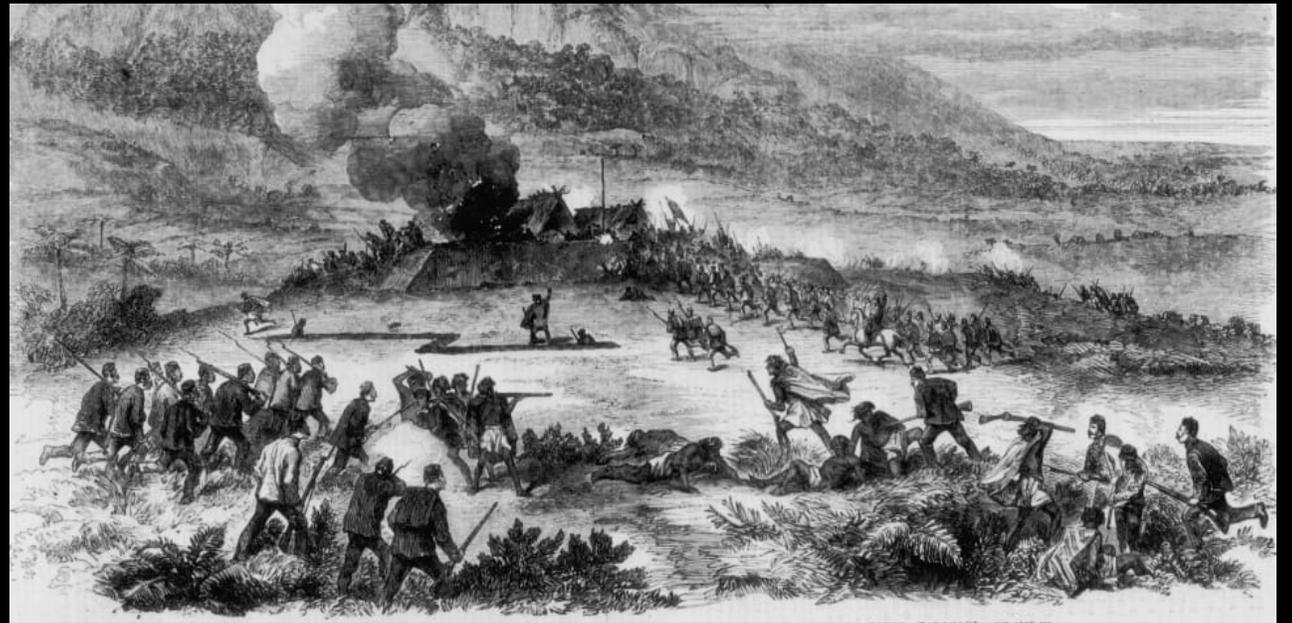
The British assumed formal control in 1840 and this worried the Maoris. Some chieftains began raiding the far north and were suppressed in 1847 by the colonial forces.



In 1857 the Maoris in the North Island elected a King and established a political system intended to support Maoris and allow them to retain their land.



The large numbers of immigrants in the 1850s led to pressure on the Maoris to give up their land. This soon led to wars.



These violent wars continued until 1872 and many on both sides were killed.



Unfortunately, the interference and immigration from Europe has decreased the recognition of Maori culture over the years.



To most Maori, being Maori means recognising and respecting their ancestry, claiming family land and being part of a group with shared recognition as Maoris.

There is an ongoing campaign to restore Maori culture to New Zealand.



In 1987, the Maori language was made an official language of New Zealand alongside English. Many Maori cultural practices are kept alive in New Zealand today. The most well known being the Haka performed by the All Blacks.



However, the biggest issue is the ownership of land. Maori groups recovered land from the government and received money as compensation.



The Maoris continue to campaign for better welfare for Maoris and expression of culture. There are now many Maoris in the New Zealand government.

