



Krisztina Osvát

What is known about Australian Aboriginals and New Zealand Maoris social integration?

ABSTRACT

From the European point of view Australia and New Zealand attract attention especially with their natural beauty and natural disaster in the news. In Europe, not too many articles and studies deal with the past or the present of the two countries' Indigenous population. We consider them neighbouring countries, with very similar history. Both lands were colonised by the British and both had significant pre-existing Indigenous population who suffered for many decades from the European settlers and struggled to keep their distinct cultural identity. There are many superficial visitors who believe *Aboriginal* people and Maoris are similar to each other and often treat Maoris as Aboriginals. However, those who have a chance to visit both Australia and New Zealand and explore the Indigenous population of the two countries they feel several differences between them. On the other hand in recent years more media focus on the social problems faced by remote Indigenous communities not only in Australia but in New Zealand, as well. Prominent experts try to analyse what can be the reason of the lower life expectancy and the lower income in these communities. Indigenous people also have a higher crime rate with lower employment and less access to health and education. Indigenous poverty has been not only deep and widespread but persistent. In both countries Indigenous groups are among the poorest populations. Besides these general and common features there is a significant difference between Aborigines and Maoris, the level of social integration. To create a short summary about the present situation of the Indigenous population in Australia and New Zealand this paper provides analysis and comparison on Indigenous and non-Indigenous population of the two countries.

ABSZTRAKT

Ausztrália és Új-Zéland főként természeti szépsége és gyakori természeti katasztrófái miatt kerül az európai híradások élére. Európa szerte viszonylag kevés cikk és tanulmány jelenik meg a két ország őslakosainak történelméről, illetve jelenlegi társadalmi, szociális helyzetéről. E két távoli, szomszédos ország vonatkozásában csak a történelmi hasonlóságokat szokták említeni. Mindkét ország brit fenn-

hatóság alá került, őslakosaik pedig hosszú évtizedeken keresztül folytattak elkeseredett küzdelmet az európai telepesekkel, hogy megőrizték kulturális identitásukat. A felületes ismeretekkel rendelkezők általában nem tesznek különbséget az ausztrál és az új-zélandi őslakosok között és gyakran a Maorikat is Aborigineknek tekintik. Bár azoknak az utazóknak, akiknek lehetőségük nyílik bepillantást nyerni a két ország őslakosainak életébe, számos érdemi különbséget fedezhetnek fel. Az elmúlt pár évben az ausztrál és az új-zélandi média is egyre több figyelmet szentel az ország távoli területein élő őslakosok szociális nehézségeinek bemutatására. Számos kutatás indult annak meghatározására, hogy mi lehet az oka az őslakosok esetében a születéskor várható lényegesen alacsonyabb élettartamnak és a kedvezőtlen jövedelmi viszonyoknak. Mivel magyarázható esetükben a magas munkanélküliség, a magas bűnözési statisztika és a szociális ellátórendszerhez való hozzáférés kedvezőtlen aránya. Az őslakos szegénység nemcsak mély és általános, hanem állandósult jelenség mindkét országban. Ugyanakkor az általános jellemvonások mellett egy markáns eltérés is megfigyelhető, ami a társadalmi integráció eltérő szintjéből adódik. A tanulmány célja, hogy rövid áttekintést és összehasonlítást adjon Ausztrália és Új-Zéland őslakosainak jelenlegi helyzetéről, bemutassa társadalmi integrációjuk eltérő szintjét, elemezve az adott ország nem őslakosokra vonatkozó statisztikáit is.

Keywords: Aborigines, Maoris, level of social integration

Kulcsszavak: Aboriginek, Maorik, a szociális integráció szintje

INTRODUCTION

This paper includes the following information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and Maoris in New Zealand:

- population
- demography
- location
- land issues

This paper uses information from the most up-to-date sources:

- reports on key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage produced by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision Australia
- reports in the Health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples series produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
- reports on 2013 Census produced by Statistics New Zealand.

The information about the Indigenous populations is getting better but there are still limitations. It is very difficult to make international comparison in the area of Indigenous affairs because the nature of available data and the history of Indigenous-non-Indigenous relations varies greatly from country to country. The aim of this paper to give a short overview about the history and about the present

situation of these Indigenous communities. It also tries to highlight the main differences in social integration between Aboriginal people and Maoris. It hopes to answer questions such as:

- What can be the reason that Maoris' social integration was more successful than Australian Aboriginals'?
- Why could they represent their interests and traditional values more effectively than Aborigines in Australia?
- What could be the reason behind this great difference?

This article is based on processing studies, reports, articles and literature of national and international research into the topic.

COMPARISON OF ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND MAORIS

If we use the terminology "Aboriginal people" we have to take into consideration that this terminology has been constantly changing in Australian Aboriginal studies. Today two distinct groups of Indigenous Australians are officially recognised – the people of the Torres Strait Islands and the Aboriginal people of mainland Australia and Tasmania.

Each has their own flag, which is flown at official events across the country. Nowadays the term "Indigenous Australians" is used to embrace both Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders. Regional names such as Murris or Kooris applied by contemporary Aboriginal groups to themselves are inappropriate to describe the whole of Australia or the deep past (FLOOD, J. 2006).

The indigenous or native population of New Zealand is labeled as Maori. Although Census definitions of Maori have differed over time, The Maori Affairs Restructuring Act 1989¹, The Rununga Iwi Act 1990² and The Maori Land Act 1993³ define a Maori as a person of the Maori race of New Zealand or a descendant of any such person.

Aboriginal society had not been static over the centuries. Aborigines showed themselves able to adapt continuously to the life on the Australian continent. Adaptation, not confrontation, was the keynote of Aboriginal life (PRENTIS, M. D. 2009). Aborigines must have been among the first in very early times to make ocean voyages and settle in a new world. When the Aborigines arrived in Australia men used stone tools and were nomadic hunters and food collectors all over the world, as they had been for hundreds of thousands of years (BROOME, R. 2010). Domestication of animals and cultivation of crops began about 10000 years ago in Europe. Aborigines survived for thousands of years in an often severe environment. To survive in the demanding Australian environment Aborigines needed a vast knowledge and understanding of the land. Although they did not build houses, cultivate the soil or rear animals, Aborigines had an unrivalled ability to find food and water (GIBBS, R. M. 2009). According to the estimations New Zealand was occupied by the Maoris around 1300 AD. They came to the continent from Polynesia. As New Zealand is very far from any other continents it was one of the very last territories that was conquered by the Europeans in the 17th century. As a consequence of New Zealand's more favourable environmental conditions, such as rich soils and reliable rainfall

¹ <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0068/latest/DLM169980.html> last download 19.06.2015.

² <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0034/latest/whole.html> last download 19.06.2015.

³ <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0004/latest/DLM289882.html> last download 19.06.2015.

the Maoris were quick to establish settlements and villages (McLINTOCK, A. H. 2009). Maoris formed vivid trade relationships with whalers and sealers who often visited the islands. Women regularly decorated their dresses with attractive weavings.

To Europeans, civilization meant the European civilization. The European settlers recognized a group if it had a leader and if a group owned and used the land. The Aborigines not only seemed to lack the appearances of „civilization” - such as clothes, reading, writing, agriculture and religion – but also seemed to have no king and in appearance neither owned nor used land. That is why most Europeans could not see the need for agreements with Aborigines before taking the land. Relation between the Aborigines and European settlers of Australia has been harmed from the very beginning (PRENTIS, M. D. 2009). In contrast to the Maoris in New Zealand the Aborigines missed two things which made effective defence possible against the white invaders: developed technology and the capacity for large-scale organized warfare. The Aboriginal tool and weapon kit were made from stone, bone and wood.

The Aborigines did not develop according to the European expectations. They never became food-producers but remained hunters, collectors and makers of stone, bone, shell and wooden implements. The main reasons for it were their unsuitable environment and their isolation. Australia had no Indigenous animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses or asses which could be herded for food supplies. It had no Indigenous grain foods which could be cultivated. They were entirely dependent on nature and were constantly on the move in search of food and water. Since there is a limit to the kinds and yields of foods which nature will produce without assistance, they were never a numerous people.

As Aborigines were not counted in the official Australian censuses before 1971 their total population before that date can only be estimated. A figure of about 300 000 for the whole of Australia in 1788 has often been accepted (GIBBS, R. M. 2009). An anthropologist supplied this figure in 1930, when Aboriginal numbers had declined alarmingly. Aborigines were divided into about 500 regional groups or tribes, ranging in size from about 100 to 1500 persons. A tribe has been defined for Australia as a group of Aborigines having in common a language or dialect, a body of similar customs and beliefs and occupying a certain territory. It is still difficult to know how many Aborigines lived in Australia prior to European settlement. Recent research and investigation has led to the acceptance of the strong likelihood that there were between 500 000 and 850 000 people living in Australia before the Europeans arrived (COX, K.-PARISH, S. 2010). Similar to the Australian case the arrival of the white settlers brought rapid population decline (PRENTIS, M. 2009) to the extent that the Maori were also believed to be on the verge of extinction towards the end of the 19th century. Maoris suffered from introduced European diseases (for instance smallpox) ,as well as Aborigines, to which they had no immunity.

Another contrast with Aborigines that the Maori social organisation has a hierarchical structure (ROBINSON, D. 2002). The largest political unit was the iwi (tribe) within Maori society. The main unit was the hapu (sub-tribe) a highly localised group of about 500 people of common descent made up of several inter-related whanau (extended family groups) bound together by a common ancestor⁴. As a

⁴ Maori Social Structures, Ministry of Justice NZ, <http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/publications-archived/2001/he-hinatore-ki-te-ao-maori-a-glimpse-into-the-maori-world/part-1-traditional-maori-concepts/maori-social-structures> last download 31.01.2015.

result of this they were far more well organised society than the Aboriginals so they had chiefs with whom Europeans could negotiate, trade and make an agreement with. Australian Aboriginals were nomadic people. Traditional Maori society still exists to a large extent in the marae⁵ (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Traditional Maori building in New Zealand



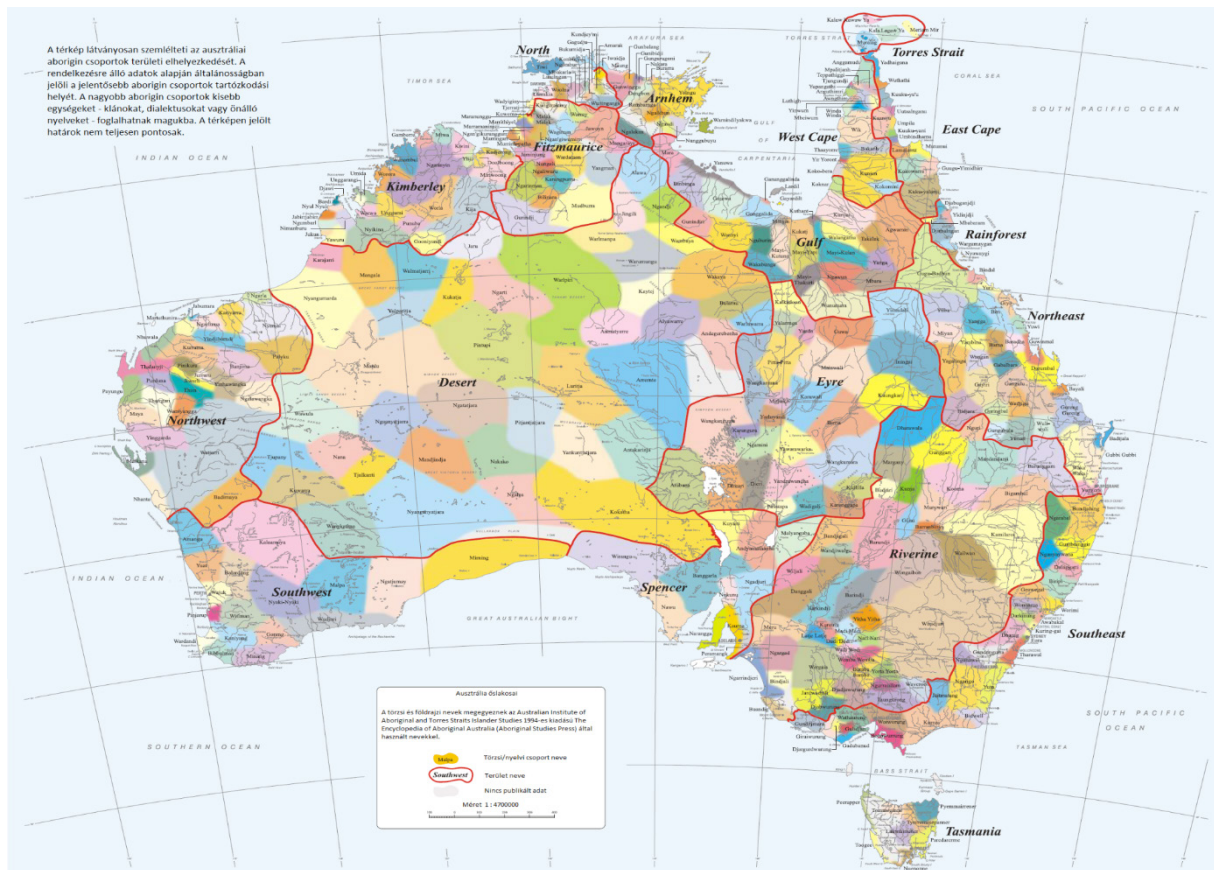
Source: Photo by the author

As a result of a political movement that emerged in the beginning of the 1850s a Maori King was elected in 1858 (MEIJL, T. V. 2003). It meant that the competing tribes managed to unite behind a single Maori King, so they could present a more united interest and work out a common strategy in order to retain control of Maori land. The effective joining of forces was supported by a common language. It is also a significant difference that Maori is an official language of New Zealand.

Compared to Aboriginals, they speak about 250-300 different languages and countless dialects (Figure 2.). Because of this was difficult to unite them against a common threat.

⁵ It is the sacred open meeting area that is associated with a traditional meeting house. The marae is the customary focal point for meetings, discussions, funerals and for welcoming visitors to the area. Social Capital and Philanthropy in Maori Society, 2012 The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, ISSN:1556-5157

Figure 2. Indigenous Language Map



Source⁶: David R Horton, Aboriginal Studies Press, AIATSIS and Auslig/Sinclair, Knight, Merz, 1996. <http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/>, last download 13.09.2014.

Waitangi Treaty was signed in 1840 which entitled Maoris the same rights as British Subjects (FLOOD, J. 2006). However Maori chiefs were divided over signing the treaty and were uncertain about its provisions. Further attempts to restore the provisions of the Treaty were made at various points in the 20th century and have remained the central issue of Maori history and political affairs. Nevertheless, Maoris had a voice in parliament with the creation of special Maori electoral seats from 1867 (MEIJL, T. V. 2003). For Aboriginals in Australia it took about 100 years to get the vote and they still do not have their own electoral representation.

At arrival in New Zealand (Figure 3.) the first thing that everybody notices that every government building has signage not only in English but also in Maori. Newsreaders welcome their listeners with „Kia Ora” instead of Good Evening. They have Maori Television channels and language lessons. Maori party prominently featured in national politics. In contrast to the Australian society in New Zealand nobody wonders at a Maori who has a large tattoo covering his entire face. Maori culture is far more prominent in New Zealand society than Aboriginal cultures are in the Australian society.

⁶ This map indicates only the general location of larger groupings of people, which may include smaller groups such as clans, dialects or individual languages in a group. Boundaries are not intended to be exact.

Figure 3. New Zealand



Source: Edited by the author

DEMOGRAPHY

As a background to considering income poverty among Indigenous people it is useful to compare briefly their demographic characteristics and geographic location in the two countries.

According to 2013 Census there were 598 605 people of Maori ethnicity living in New Zealand which is 33 275 (5.9%) more than at the 2006 Census (MACPHERSON, L.2013). Maori is a youthful population but as a group are growing slightly older. The median age of Maori in the 2013 Census was 24 years – about one year older than at the last census (MACPHERSON, L. 2013). The number of Maori aged under 15 years continued to grow. The largest increase in the Maori population since 2006 was in the working-age group of 15-64 years followed by those aged 65 years and over.

According to the latest statistics of the World Bank, New Zealand's Maori population was estimated to be 670 650 people in 2014, which was 15% of the total population⁷. Australia's Indigenous population was estimated to be 698 583 people in 2014, which was about 3% of the total population⁸. The Indigenous estimated resident population is determined using information from the Census, birth and death registrations and migration data.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are also a young population with a median age of 20.5 years compared to 36.1 years for the non-Indigenous population. The younger age profile of Indigenous Australians is mostly due to their higher fertility rates and higher mortality rates at all

⁷ World Bank 2014. September, <https://www.data.worldbank.org>. last download 31.12.2014.

⁸ World Bank 2014. September, <https://www.data.worldbank.org>. last download 31.12.2014.

ages compared with non-Indigenous Australians. The fertility rate for Indigenous women in 2011 was 2,74 babies per women compared with 1,92 for all Australian women (AIHW 2011)⁹.

Life expectancy is a broad indicator of a population's long-term health and wellbeing. There is a strong connection between low life expectancy for Indigenous Australians and poor health. According to the 2013 figures of ABS (Table 1.) life expectancy for Indigenous Australians has increased over the past five to seven years and it means that slightly narrowing the gap compared to non-Indigenous people.

Table 1. Life expectancy comparison data Australia

	Life expectancy
Indigenous-Male	69,1,1 years
Non-Indigenous-Male	79,7 years
Indigenous-Female	73,7 years
Non-Indigenous-Female	83,1 years

Source: Edited by the author based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS),194/2013 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Life Expectancy Increases <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003?OpenDocument> last download 19.06.2015.

Indigenous Australians experience high levels of chronic illness, preventable diseases, mental and physical disability which results in a reduced quality of life¹⁰. Maoris also have lower life expectancy, as well as lower income than other New Zealanders (Table 2.). In 2011, 19,3% of Indigenous people were living the poverty line compared with 12,4% of other Australians¹¹. The median income for Australian Indigenous households was just over half that of Australian non-Indigenous households in 2011-2013 (465AUD compared with 869AUD)¹². In 2013 Indigenous adults were imprisoned at 13 times the rate for non-Indigenous adults in Australia¹³. Similar to the Australian Indigenous population, Maoris also have a higher crime rate with lower employment and less access to health and education.

⁹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australia's health series no.14. Cat. no. AUS 178. Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/australias-health/2014/indigenous-health/#t1> last download 31.01.2015.

¹⁰ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision 2009, Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009, Productivity Commission, Canberra, http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/90129/key-indicators-2009.pdf last download 31.01.2015.

¹¹ 2012 Poverty Report https://www.melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/hilda/Stat_Report/statreport-v9-2014.pdf last download 19.06.2015.

¹² Closing the gap, Prime Minister's report 2014, <http://www.naccho.org.au/download/aboriginal-health/Closing%20the%20Gap%20PM%20Report%20Feb%202014.pdf> last download 19.06.2015.

¹³ Key Indicators Report, http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/111609/key-indicators-2011-report.pdf last download 19.06.2015.

Table 2. Comparison data

	Maoris	Non-Maoris
Life Expectancy	71,13 years	78,84 years
Prison	6 times more likely than Non-Maoris	none available
Unemployment	13,3%	7,3%
Poverty	29,8% of children in poverty, are Maoris	13,25%

Source: Edited by the author based on Statistics New Zealand, 2013 Census

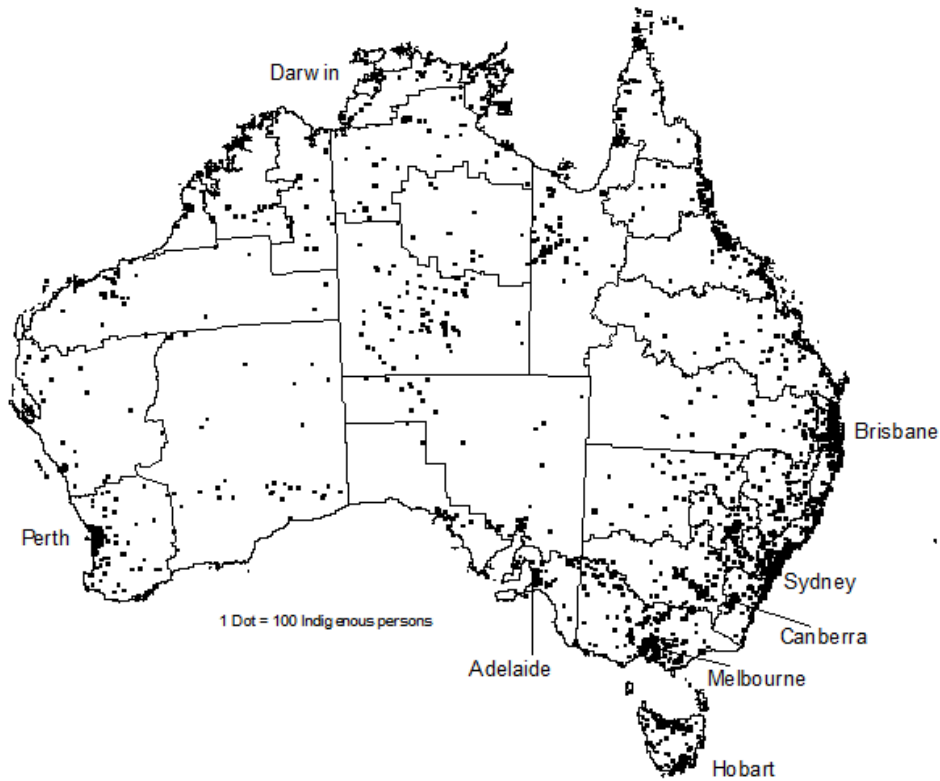
The unemployment rate for Indigenous Australians was around 5 times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians in 2012¹⁴.

¹⁴ Key Indicators Report, http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/111609/key-indicators-2011-report.pdf last download 19.06.2015.

LOCATION

Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world, with over two-thirds (69%) of the population living in major cities¹⁵. The Indigenous Australians live in all parts of the nation from major cities to remote tropical coasts and the fringes of the central deserts (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Indigenous population density in 2006

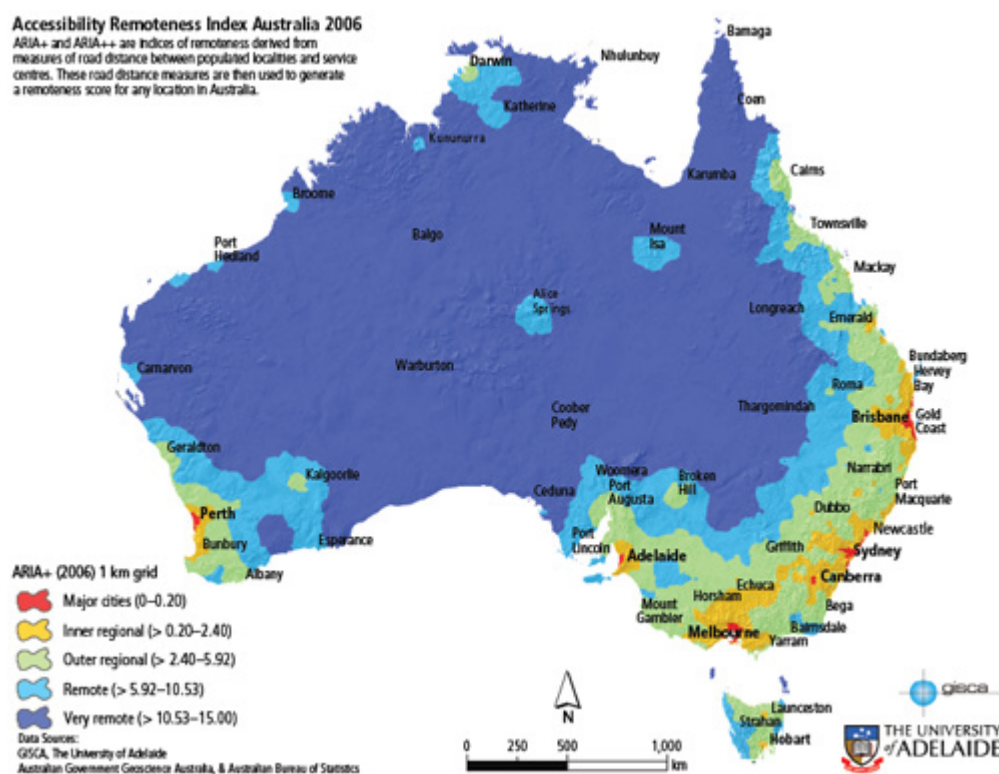


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Australia, 2006 (cat. no.4713.0)

The majority of them live in metropolitan or regional areas. More than 35% live in *Major cities*, 22% in *Inner regional areas*, also 22% in *Outer regional areas*, 8% in *Remote areas* and about 14% in *Very remote areas* (Figure 5).

¹⁵ Australian Government, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Facts Sheet 2011 March, <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/factsheets/2011/fs201103.pdf> last download 31.01.2015.

Figure 5. Accessibility Remoteness Index Australia 2006



Source: Australian Government, Australian Institute of Family Studies <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/families-regional-rural-and-remote-australia> last download 19.06.2015.

The standard method to define remoteness for statistical purposes in Australia is categorising regions in terms of the road distance from services. One of the defining features of geographic remoteness is that many services are less accessible, communities being cut off on occasion because of flooding or poorer access to healthy food sources. Evidence also shows higher rates of poor housing and overcrowding in remote areas, which have a negative impact on health (AIHV 2011)¹⁶. In 2012–2013, 23% of Indigenous Australians lived in overcrowded households. In very remote areas the proportion was 53–63%¹⁷.

The Northern Territory (Figure 6.) has the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians. In 2011, around 30% of its population identifying as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. In most other jurisdictions, Indigenous people made up less than 5% of the population, with the lowest proportion (less than 1%) in Victoria.

¹⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare <http://www.aihw.gov.au/australias-health/2014/indigenous-health/#t7> last downloaded 19.06.2015.

¹⁷ Closing the gap, Prime Minister's report 2014, <http://www.naccho.org.au/download/aboriginal-health/Closing%20the%20Gap%20PM%20Report%20Feb%202014.pdf> last download 19.06.2015.

Figure 6. Estimated Aborigin population by states



Source: Edited by the author based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres State Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026. Canberra 2014. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/6D211D3E50EA82E0CA257CC9001438D8?opendocument> last download 31.01.2015.

In comparison with Maoris, according to recently published data from 2013 Census more than 80% of Maori lived in urban environments (MACPHERSON, L. 2013). This fact carries several consequences, such as the tribal connections in the Maori population have lost a great deal of meaning (MAAKA, R. C. A. 1994) and the socio-political organisation of Maori society has also changed radically since the 19th century. One favourable aspect of this situation that health, housing, education services and basic necessities are available for the greater part of the Maori population. While in Australia, the same level of services and basic necessities are not as accessible and user-friendly for Indigenous people as they are for Maoris, in New-Zealand (HUNTER, B. 2001). The another aspect of this issue is the nature of property rights. Under the circumstances who can be considered as the real owners of the land and other resources ? Who can represent the certain Maori population in case of land property issue?

LAND ISSUES

The history of Indigenous land legislation and administration is a very complex one in both countries.

Historically the Tainui were the first Maori group to sign a major settlement of their historic grievances in 1995. The British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II of England, travelled to New Zealand to sign the Act that passed into law the agreement negotiated between the Tainui leadership and the New Zealand Government. The agreement included a formal apology from the Crown and provided for the return of 3% of the lands originally confiscated. The value of the returned lands was estimated at approximately NZD 170 million (MEIJL, T. V. 2003). The fundamental issue of land return or compensation is at the forefront in New-Zealand as well, most land claims remain outstanding with Maori owning only 5% of the country's land¹⁸. In July 2007 the New Zealand Law Commission

¹⁸ Minority Rights Group International, New Zealand, Maori <http://www.minorityrights.org/4422/new-zealand> January 2015. last download 31.01.2015.

began a project to develop a legal framework for Maoris who want to manage communal resources and responsibilities. Despite the growing differentiation of Maori society and urbanisation of Maori people they still have a substantial economic interest and a very important social interest in land. With the assistance of representative committees, some of the income from these lands goes to the support of Maori education, community centres or marae improvement (McLINTOCK, A. H. 2009).

Similar to New Zealand seeking Indigenous control over their own lands and resources has remained the central theme of Aboriginal history and political affairs (NEATE, G. 2010). When colonists arrived in Australia in 1788 their colonial governments assumed that the land was terra nullius- „the land of no-one”. The progressive colonisation of the Australian continent had created economic wealth for the settlers but at massive human costs for the original inhabitants (BRADFIELD, S. 2003). The indigenous population were removed from their lands to missions, settlements and were marginalised.

Australia has plentiful and diverse energy resources, including significant amounts of coal, gas, uranium and renewable energy. It is one of the few countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that is a significant net energy exporter, sending nearly 70% of its total energy production overseas, according to data from Australia’s Bureau of Resource and Energy Economics (BREE). These exports provide jobs and income and helped the country withstand the global financial crisis. Energy resources exports contributed 69 billion AUD income¹⁹ and employed around 123 000 people in 2012-2013²⁰. Energy related industries contributed nearly 102 billion AUD (6,7%) to Australia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the same year²¹.

The story of restitution involves two separate notions, land rights and native title (BRADFIELD, S. 2004). In Australia, the common law doctrine of Aboriginal title is referred to as native title, which is „the recognition by Australian law that some Indigenous people have rights and interest to their land that come from their traditional laws and customs”.²² Indigenous Australians have a strong and abiding attachment to their country. They believe that they are part of their country and it is part of them. They share its spiritual essence. The era of native title gradually continues the process of restitution. It is obvious that social and economic future of Indigenous people are closely associated with the ongoing process of restitution (HOWITT, R. 1998). Nowadays 80% of mining activities in Australia that take place on Aboriginal land²³ and the greater part of Australia’s major tourist destinations can be found also on Aboriginal land.

¹⁹ Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics, 2014 Resources and Energy Quarterly, June Quarter 2014, Canberra http://www.industry.gov.au/industry/Office-of-the-Chief-Economist/Publications/Documents/req/REQ-2014-06_.pdf, last download 31.01.2015.

²⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics cat. no. 8155.0, Australian Industry <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/8155.0> last download 31.12.2014.

²¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics cat. no. 5204.0, Australian System of National Accounts <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5204.0> last download 31.12.2014.

²² „Exactly what is native title ?-What is native title?- National Native Title Tribunal <http://www.nnttt.gov.au/Information-about-native-title/Pages/Nativtitlerightsandinterests.aspx>. 19 December 2007. Retrieved 28 January 2011.

²³ Aboriginal culture-Land-Threats to Aboriginal land, Jens Korff 30 December 2014. <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/land/threats-to-aboriginal-land> last download 31.01.2015.

SUMMARY

Nowdays Australian culture cannot be thought of without placing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures at its core. Aboriginal people themselves play a much greater role in shaping policies than ever before. An emphasis on self-determination and autonomy for local communities has emerged. The multi-cultural Aboriginal populations of Australia try to find that level of social integration that make secure preserving their traditional life-style and values. Besides the relevant achievements Maori population also has to cope with several new challenges in the near future because their tradition is slowly being eroded by modernization and urbanization (BOURASSA, S. C.-STRONG, A. L. 2002). It is generally admitted that Maori population was relatively mono-cultural in comparison to Aboriginal population. This fact helped to reach a higher level of social integration but along with the more general integration into New Zealand society they have to give up the traditional hierarchical structure of the Maori social organisation. The new sets of interests can not be handled with old structure of hapu and iwi. It seems that nowadays the higher level of social integration can be a tool to alleviate Indigenous poverty as the Maori case reflects. On the other hand in Australia the energy resources and mines are inseparable from the Indigenous issues. Naturally, the proportions are different in the case of the two countries but essential from economic point of view. Both Indigenous peoples and the relevant governments that seek to address this issue face several challenges.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BOURASSA, STEVEN C –STRONG, ANN LOISE 2002: "Restitution of Land to New Zealand Maori: The Role of Social Structure" in *Pacific Affairs vol.75 no.2 (Summer, 2002)* University of British Columbia, pp. 227-260
- BRADFIELD, STUART 2003: "Treaties and agreements: Towards decolonisation" in *Australian Review of Public Affairs, 20 October 2003*.
- BRADFIELD, STUART 2004: "Agreeing to terms: What is a comprehensive agreement" in *Land, Rights, Laws: Issue of the Native Title vol.2, no.26 2004*.
- BROOME, RICHARD 2010: *Aboriginal Australians; A history since 1788*. Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Fourth edition
- COX, KARIN-PARISH, STEVE 2010: *Amazing Facts about Australia*. Steve Parish Publishing Pty Ltd, Queensland p.8
- FLOOD, JOSEPHINE 2006: *The original Australians: Story of the Aboriginal People*. Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, pp.39-204
- GIBBS, RONALD MALCOLM 2009: *The Aborigines*. Longman, Pearson Education Australia, Port Melbourne, Fourth edition reprinted 2009, pp.12-14
- HOWITT, RICHIE 1998: "Recognition, respect and reconciliation: Steps towards decolonisation?" pp.28-34 in *Australian Aboriginal Studies no. 1*
- HUNTER, BOYD 2001: "Tackling poverty among Indigenous Australian." in Ruth Fincher – Peter Saunders (edited by): *Creating unequal futures*. Allen & Unwin, Sydney

- MAAKA, ROGER C. A. 1994: "The New Tribe: Conflicts and Continuities in the Social Organization of Urban Maori." *The Contemporary Pacific* 6 (2): pp.36-311, University of Hawai'i Press, Center for Pacific Islands Studies
- MACPHERSON, LIZ 2013: "Steady growth in Maori population continues" *Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census*
- McLINTOCK, A. H. 2009: "Modern Society." Te Ara-An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, edited by A. H. McLintock, revised edition 2009
- MEIJL, TOON VAN 2003: "Conflicts of Redistribution in Contemporary Maori Society: Leadership and the Tainui settlement" *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, vol. 112, no.3. pp. 260-279
- NEATE, GRAEME 2010: "Achieving real outcomes from native title claims, Meeting the challenges head on" pp.198-252 in Strelein, Lisa (edited by): *Dialogue about land justice, Papers from the National Native Title Conference*. Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, Meeting the challenges: claimants pp. 209-210, Meeting the challenges: governments pp. 218-219, Interest-based approach pp.234-235
- PRENTIS, MALCOLM DAVID 2009: *A study in black & white, the Aborigines in Australian history*. Rosenberg Publishing, Dural, Third edition 2009, pp.67-72
- ROBINSON, DAVID 2002: Introduction to "Building Social Capital" IPS, Victoria University 2002

