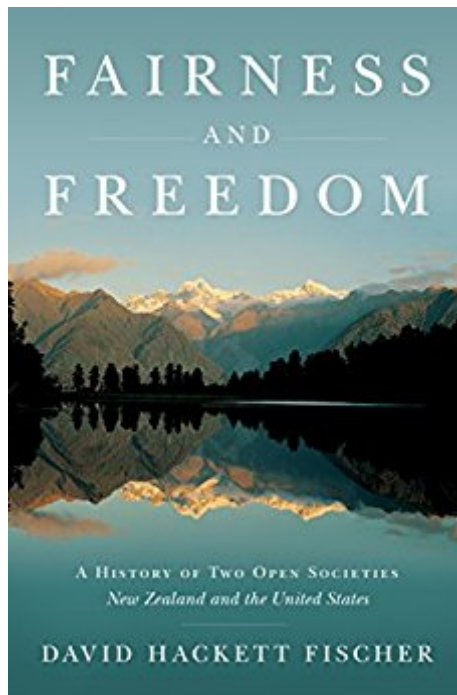


The book was found

# Fairness And Freedom: A History Of Two Open Societies: New Zealand And The United States



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

File Size: 8438 KB

Print Length: 632 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0199832706

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (February 10, 2012)

Publication Date: February 10, 2012

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006UQ96HQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #226,631 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16

inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics >

Australian & Oceanian #57 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Perspectives on Law >

Non-US Legal Systems #86 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Australia & Oceania

## Customer Reviews

Fairness and Freedom combines four of my favorite subjects: language, political theory, history, and the durability and importance of cultural mores. Fischer looks at the United States and New Zealand through the prism of what Fischer sees as foundational values of the respective societies--the vernacular ideas of liberty in the US and fairness in New Zealand. Fischer draws on his earlier works, *Albion's Seed* (e.g., he repeatedly references Rawls's mixed north-south Maryland heritage while discussing Rawlsian political theory) and especially *Liberty and Freedom*, but *Fairness and Freedom* is something unique, the first book to be published on the history of fairness. Fischer is careful with his language, as should be expected from a historian who already wrote a book entitled *Liberty and Freedom*. Liberty, freedom, fairness, equity, and justice all have distinct meanings.

"Liberty is about the rights and responsibilities of independence and autonomy. Freedom is about the rights and responsibilities of belonging to a community of other free people." On the other hand, "[f]airness...exists in the eye of the beholders--unlike justice, which refers to an external standard of law, or equity, which implies an external and even empirical test of being even, straight, or equal by some objective measure." (For simplicity's sake, I'll stick to liberty and fairness throughout my review.) This dichotomy is in part a sort of linguistic-cultural founder effect--liberty was more common in British usage and played a greater role in the debates of the day during colonization of America, likewise for fairness during colonization of New Zealand. Readers of Fischer's previous work, *Albion's Seed*, will be well aware of American colonists' views on liberty.

Hackett Fisher set himself an ambitious task in writing a parallel and comparative history and analysis of two settler societies: the United States and New Zealand. Any reader will learn something from reading the book, and yet most are likely to come away a little disappointed. Perhaps that is partly a reflection of the scale of the task. I would add three specific observations: 1. Hackett Fisher is clearly quite sympathetic to the social democratic tradition that has played such a significant part in New Zealand, and to the idea of "fairness" which he regards as a defining

emphasis of New Zealand life, policy, and political debate. But he gives almost no attention to the relative economic decline of NZ. Prior to World War One, NZ and the US were among the handful of countries with the highest incomes in the world. NZ now languishes with Greece, Italy and Spain - a relative decline paralleled in few other countries (think Argentina or Uruguay). Perhaps there is a connection between a focus on fairness, and outcomes that mean that so many NZers need to leave NZ to secure First World incomes and living standards.<sup>2</sup> It is also striking how little attention Hackett Fisher gives to religion, and the influence of religion in public life. In the US that place is prominent, while in NZ barely visible - but it was not always so, if one looks back to the Protestant Political Association and the sedition trial of Bishop Liston. Similarly, I was surprised to get through the book and find no mention of abortion - an issue which shapes political debate in the US but, sadly, excites little ongoing political interest in NZ.<sup>3</sup> A similar point could be made about alcohol.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States  
 Ecuador and the United States: Useful Strangers (United States and the Americas) (United States and the Americas) (The United States and the Americas) NEW ZEALAND: The Ultimate Travel Guide With Essential Tips About What To See, Where To Go, Eat And Sleep (New Zealand Travel Guide, New Zealand Travel) NEW ZEALAND: The Ultimate Travel Guide and 125 Travel Tips You Must Know Box Set (New Zealand Travel Guide, New Zealand Travel) Scott 1998 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps: Confederate States, Canal Zone, Danish West Indies Guam, Hawaii, United Nations : United ... Catalogue of United States Stamps) American History: The People & Events that Changed American History (People's History, American, United States of America, American Revolution, Patriot, United States History Book 1) Tino Tabak - Dreams and Demons of a New Zealand Cycling Legend (New Zealand Cycling Legends Book 5) Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers 2013: Confederate States-Canal Zone-Danish West Indies-Guam-Hawaii-United Nations: United ... Postage Stamp Catalogue: U.S. Specialized) The Founding of New Societies: Studies in the History of the United States, Latin America, South Africa, Canada, and Australia Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974 (Oxford History of the United States) Surgery Open Heart: A Surgical Nurse Guides You Through Open Heart Surgery (Open Heart Surgery, Aortic Valve / Mitral Valve Replacement, Coronary Artery Bypass, Aortic Aneurysm, Myxoma) Paraguay and the United States: Distant Allies (The United States and the Americas) War Plan Red: The United States' Secret Plan to Invade Canada and Canada's Secret Plan to Invade the United States A Guide Book of United States Paper Money 2nd Ed. (Guide Book of United States Paper Money: Complete Source) Illustrated catalogue of United

States Cartridge Company's collection of firearms : the most complete collection in the United States Scott 2017 Specialized United States Postage Stamp Catalogue (Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps) Handbook of United States Coins 2017: The Official Blue Book, Paperback Edition (Handbook of United States Coins (Paper)) Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins (Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins) A Guide Book of United States Coins 2015: The Official Red Book Spiral (Official Red Book: A Guide Book of United States Coins (Spiral)) Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond

[Dmca](#)