

CRS Report for Congress

New Zealand: Background and Bilateral Relations with the United States

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**Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress**

New Zealand: Background and Bilateral Relations with the United States

Summary

New Zealand and the United States have close ties that are based on shared cultural traditions and values. New Zealand is a regular contributor to international peace and stability operations and has contributed troops to the struggle against militant Islamists in Afghanistan and has assisted with reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Differences between the United States and New Zealand emerged in the mid 1980s over New Zealand's policy to ban nuclear armed and nuclear powered ships from its ports. This led to a defacto split between the United States and New Zealand within the context of the Australia-New Zealand-United States (ANZUS) alliance. Some have argued that past differences over the anti-nuclear issue should no longer dominate U.S. policy towards New Zealand, particularly in light of our shared values and the need to cooperate to promote peace and stability in Asia.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Helen Clark, New Zealand continues to seek closer economic relations with the United States through opening talks on a free trade agreement (FTA), a move the Bush Administration has resisted. The United States is New Zealand's second most important trading partner after Australia. While the overall volume of trade with New Zealand is relatively small, progress on the FTA is viewed as politically significant by some given New Zealand's status as a democratic nation that has fought alongside the United States in many of its conflicts.

New Zealand plays an important role in promoting regional stability in the Southwest Pacific and in archipelagic Southeast Asia. It has been diplomatically engaged and has committed troops and police to promote peace and stability in places such as the Solomon Islands, Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, and East Timor. There may be further need for New Zealand's assistance to help promote democracy and the rule of law in regional states given ongoing unrest in East Timor and the Solomon Islands and the potential for further instability in the region in places such as Fiji, which underwent a coup in December 2006.

Prime Minister Clark has stated her government's intention of taking a lead on the issue of climate change. Clark has pledged to make New Zealand the world's first truly sustainable and carbon-neutral country. New Zealand has an agreement with Tuvalu to accept its population should they need to leave Tuvalu in the event that global warming leads to rising sea levels that inundate their island nation.

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New Zealand: Background and Bilateral Relations with the United States

Recent Events

Clark Visit

Prime Minister Helen Clark will reportedly meet with President Bush during her visit to the United States from March 19-26, 2007. Clark was first elected Prime Minister as the leader of the Labour Party in 1999, was returned in 2002, and won more narrowly against a resurgent National Party in 2005. Clark has stated that she will “focus on progressing areas for cooperation” and that she would be happy to discuss energy security policy and global climate change.¹ Her visit is interpreted as aimed at consolidating and expanding efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship with the United States. Clark has emphasized the “strong and mature friendship built on common values and a long history of working together” and the need to emphasize the “breadth and depth of the relationship.”² In this way, she will likely continue to seek to broaden bilateral cooperation and to move beyond past tensions over anti-nuclear policies. Clark recently committed New Zealand to becoming a carbon-neutral nation to set an example for the world on climate change.³

Leadership on Climate Change

Prime Minister Helen Clark used the Prime Minister’s Statement to Parliament on March 13, 2007, to declare her government’s intention to make New Zealand the world’s first truly sustainable and carbon-neutral country, adding that “the pride we take in our quest for sustainability and carbon neutrality will define our nation.” Clark stated that, “traditional patterns of development and fast growing populations have put an intolerable strain on the planet. The future economic costs of doing nothing are dire.”⁴ Clark pointed to renewable energy as a key component along with the importance of forestry to climate change mitigation as key to lowering New Zealand’s carbon footprint. Climate Change Minister David Parker has identified deforestation as a key challenge for New Zealand and the world. Deforestation is thought to account for some 20% of global carbon dioxide emissions at present. The

¹ “Clark Says Iraq and Human Rights Not on Agenda with Bush,” *New Zealand Press Association*, Mar. 14, 2007.

² “Prime Minister to Visit United States,” [http://www.beehive.govt.nz].

³ “New Zealand Should Aim to be World’s First Carbon Neutral Country, Leader Says,” *International Herald Tribune*, Feb. 13, 2007. See also Rt. Hon Helen Clark, “Prime Minister’s Statement to Parliament,” Feb. 13, 2007.

⁴ Rt. Hon Helen Clark, “Prime Minister’s Statement to Parliament,” Feb. 13, 2007, [http://www.beehive.govt.nz].

Clark Government is contemplating a framework where those responsible for the emissions will bear some of the costs of their actions.⁵ New Zealand was ranked first in the Environmental Performance Index produced by Yale University.⁶

Background

New Zealand, also known as Aotearoa or “the land of the long white cloud,” was settled by the Polynesian-Maori people by the Tenth Century. Dutch navigator Abel Tasman discovered the western coast of New Zealand in 1642 but it was English Captain James Cook who, over three expeditions in 1769, 1773, and 1777, circumnavigated and mapped the islands. Cook reported on the Maori as well as New Zealand’s unique flora and fauna. The 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, between the British Crown and Maori Chiefs, serves as the basis for defining relations between the Maori and Pakeha (European) communities. In 1893, New Zealand gave women the right to vote. This made New Zealand the first country to do so.⁷ Today, New Zealand is a unicameral, mixed-member-proportional, parliamentary democracy. Its population of approximately four million has many shared values with the United States that stem from common historical roots as part of the British empire.

New Zealand in Brief

Area: 270,5000 sq. km or about the size of Colorado

Capital: Wellington

Population: 4 million

Population growth rate: 0.99%

Ethnic Groups: European 75%, Maori 15%, Polynesian 6.5%

Livestock: 9.8 mill cattle and 39.2 mill sheep

Religion: Anglican 15%, Roman Catholic 13%, Presbyterian 11%

GDP growth: 1.9%

Per Capita GDP: \$26,000 ppp

Major Markets: Australia, U.S., Japan, China, & United Kingdom.

Inflation: 3.8%

Unemployment: 3.8%

Life expectancy: 78.81 years

Government: Mixed-member proportional democracy, 120 seat unicameral parliament

Chief of State: Queen Elizabeth II who is represented in New Zealand by the Governor General Silvia Cartwright

Sources: Economist Intelligence Unit, State Department, CIA World Factbook and government of New Zealand statistics

The British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, remains the constitutional head of state. New Zealand attained Dominion Status in 1907 and gained full political independence from Britain under the Statute of Westminster Adoption Act of 1947. New Zealanders are over 80% urban and have a 99% literacy rate.⁸ New Zealand has a land area of 103,733 square miles, which is about the size of Colorado. It is 28% forested, 50% in pasture, and 9% under cultivation. New Zealand’s principal exports

⁵ “Deforestation Scrutinized,” *Bay of Plenty Times*, Mar. 14, 2007.

⁶ “New Zealand Tops World Environmental Rankings,” *NZUS Council*, Feb. 26, 2007.

⁷ A. E. McQueen, “New Zealand: Physical and Social Geography,” in *The Far East and Australasia*, (Surrey: Europa Publications, 2002), p.889.

⁸ Paolo Pasicholan, ed., *U.S. and Asia Statistical Handbook*, (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2003).

are agriculturally based though services, notably tourism, which plays an increasingly important role. New Zealand exports account for some 28% of GDP.

United States State Department Spokesman Phil Reeker has emphasized the “shared values” and “long history” that the United States and New Zealand have in common.⁹ Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has described New Zealand as “very, very, very close friends” of the United States¹⁰ while Secretary of State Rice has stated that it is “time to put the problems of the past behind us.”¹¹ In Congressional testimony on March 15, 2007, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Glyn Davies, described New Zealand as a “key partner ... which remains an important and close friend of the United States. Our countries share many of the same values and interests around the globe.” He added that “clearly, New Zealand is dedicated to promoting peace and stability where it can ... as a key partner, we coordinate closely with New Zealand on the Pacific.”¹²

Bilateral Relations with the United States

Alliance Issues

While the United States and New Zealand are friends that have a broad array of contacts and a history of working and fighting together, they are no longer operational allies. New Zealand has fought alongside the United States in most of our key conflicts including WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. More recently, New Zealand has supported the United States’ Proliferation Security Initiative and has worked with U.S. military forces in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. Clark announced on March 12, 2007, that New Zealand’s Provincial Reconstruction Team would remain in Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan, for another year and possibly longer.¹³ The United States is reported as having temporarily lifted its ban on military exercises with New Zealand three times in the past 18 months so that New Zealand could participate in Proliferation Security Initiative Exercises.¹⁴ The United States and New Zealand have cooperated for 50 years in the area of Antarctic scientific research. United States military aircraft continue to use Christchurch as a supply base for Antarctica. This logistical support was established in 1958.¹⁵ The United States

⁹ Fran O’Sullivan, “U.S. Spokesman Keen to Reinforce Long Friendship,” *New Zealand Herald*, Nov. 19, 2003.

¹⁰ “Bush Hints at Trade Deal,” *New Zealand Herald*, Oct. 16, 2003.

¹¹ US-NZ Relations Starting to Thaw,” *Timaru Herald*, Mar. 14, 2007 and “Now is the Time to Push Bush,” *National Business Review*, Mar. 9, 2007.

¹² Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Glyn Davies, Statement before the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mar. 15, 2007.

¹³ Colin Espiner, “Afghanistan Tour Extended,” *The Press*, Christchurch, Mar. 13, 2007.

¹⁴ “Clark and Bush Have Heaps to Talk About,” *New Zealand Herald*, Mar. 3, 2007.

¹⁵ “U.S. Antarctic Program,” United States Embassy, Wellington, (continued...)

and New Zealand also continue to work closely on intelligence gathering and sharing.¹⁶

New Zealand was until the mid-1980s a participating member of the ANZUS alliance along with Australia. Pressure from within the left wing of the New Zealand Labour Party led the government of former Prime Minister David Lange to adopt anti-nuclear policies aimed at prohibiting visits by nuclear armed and nuclear powered ships. This led the United States to suspend its alliance commitment to New Zealand. While these events transpired over 20 years ago during the Cold War they continue to influence decision-makers' perceptions of New Zealand. New Zealand is highly unlikely to shift its stance on nuclear issues as this is now broadly supported by the electorate. Some have argued that past differences over the anti-nuclear issue should no longer dominate U.S. policy towards New Zealand particularly in light of our shared values and the need to cooperate to promote regional stability.

New Zealand's current left-of-centre government does not share the ideological vision of the Bush Administration. New Zealand's Liberal Internationalist foreign policy has focused on the promotion of human rights, self determination, democracy promotion, the role of the United Nations, peacekeeping, nuclear disarmament, and free trade.¹⁷ This has placed limits on the extent to which the two nations can move beyond past differences. Despite this, the two countries have expanded their relationship. While New Zealand preferred a United Nations-sponsored approach to resolving tensions with Iraq, it has contributed combat engineers to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq as well as supported a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Clark wrote an apology to President Bush after she suggested that the war in Iraq would not have happened if Al Gore had become President.¹⁸

New Zealand's Prime Minister since 1999, Helen Clark, comes from the left wing of the New Zealand Labour Party. She has also been a leader of the anti-nuclear movement. New Zealand became a nuclear-free zone in 1987. New Zealand has been an outspoken critic of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. When asked if New Zealand's nuclear policies were having an impact on FTA negotiations with New Zealand, President Bush stated that "the nuclear policy, obviously, makes it difficult for us to have a military alliance. But we're friends with the New Zealanders [sic]. We respect the New Zealand people."¹⁹

¹⁵ (...continued)

[<http://www.usembassy.org.nz>].

¹⁶ Jim Rolf, "Let's Just Be Friends: New Zealand and the United States," *Asian Affairs*, Summer 2003, p. 127.

¹⁷ David McGraw, "New Zealand Foreign Policy Under the Clark Government: High Tide of Liberal Internationalism?" *Pacific Affairs*, Summer 2005.

¹⁸ "New Zealanders Split Over Closer Relationship with the United States," *Dowjones Newswire*, Feb. 27, 2007.

¹⁹ "Interview of the President by Malcolm Brown," *Newswire*, Oct. 18, 2003.

Contributions to Peace and Stability Operations

New Zealand is an active supporter of international security and peacekeeping efforts. New Zealand's commitment to such operations is demonstrated by New Zealand's leading role in helping to resolve the conflict on Bougainville, its participation in peace operations in East Timor and through its contribution of troops to security operations in the Solomon Islands. Prime Minister Clark committed New Zealand military personnel, as well as police and civilian assistance, to the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands in the summer of 2003. New Zealand forces joined forces from Australia, Fiji, Tonga, and Papua New Guinea in an effort to bring peace and stability to the Solomon Islands.²⁰ New Zealand has also contributed to peace operations in Bosnia, Sierra Leone, and Kosovo.

New Zealand has supported the international effort in the struggle against militant Islamists and has sent peacekeeping and reconstruction forces on extended deployment to Afghanistan.²¹ New Zealand is assisting the United States in establishing joint civilian-military Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) to provide stability in Afghanistan.²² New Zealand assumed leadership of the PRT for Bamian Province in September 2003.²³ New Zealand has also contributed some limited support to the training of the Afghan Army, police training, and the International Security Force. In April 2005, New Zealand Defense Minister Mark Burton reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to provide long term reconstruction and development assistance to Afghanistan and pointed to New Zealand's approach based on integrating security and humanitarian intervention.²⁴

New Zealand is in the process of expanding its counter terrorist capabilities. Current counter terrorist capabilities are provided by the 1st New Zealand Special Air Service (SAS) Group and the Police Special Tactics Group. New Zealand is reportedly forming a third counter terror unit which is to be called the Counter Terrorist Tactical Assault Group.²⁵ New Zealand's contribution to the struggle against militant Islamists was demonstrated in December 2003 when a New Zealand P-3 K Orion aircraft spotted two ships in the Northern Arabian Sea which were found to be smuggling \$11 million worth of heroin and methamphetamines for al Qaeda.²⁶ New Zealand is a party to all 12 United Nations conventions on terrorism. Prime

²⁰ Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, "Infantry Company Deployment to Solomons," Aug. 25, 2003, [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz>].

²¹ Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, "Government Assistance to Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraq," June 9, 2003, [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz>].

²² Stephen Graham, "U.S. Military Changes Tactics," *Charleston Gazette*, Dec. 21, 2003.

²³ Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, "NZDF to Lead Afghan Provincial Reconstruction Team," Sept. 22, 2003, [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz>].

²⁴ "New Zealand Minister Restates Commitment to Afghanistan," *BBC News*, Apr. 7, 2005.

²⁵ Andrew McAlley, "Army Recruits Soldiers for New Secret Service," *Waikato Times*, Mar. 19, 2005.

²⁶ Mathew Dearnaley, "Orion Patrol Fingers Dhows Linked to al Qaeda," *New Zealand Herald*, Dec. 22, 2003.

Minister Clark also provided some support to the United States initiative to focus APEC on security issues at its 2003 meeting.²⁷ New Zealand continues to provide such assistance in the Persian Gulf.

New Zealand also sent a small contingent of combat engineers to assist with reconstruction efforts in post-conflict Iraq. They completed their mission in October 2004.²⁸ This deployment earned New Zealand the designation “force contributing nation” in the estimation of the United States.²⁹ It also demonstrates recent improvement in bilateral relations which reached a low point in March 2003 when Prime Minister Clark stated the United States decision to go to war with Iraq without a UN Security Council mandate was a matter of “profound regret.”³⁰ American Ambassador to New Zealand Charles Swindells noted that the United States was “saddened” by New Zealand’s decision not to participate in the war in Iraq before observing that this was “the first time in our shared history, [that] New Zealanders were not with us in a major military conflict.”³¹

New Zealand embarked on a major increase in defense expenditure in the spring of 2005. New Zealand announced plans in May 2005 to increase annual defense expenditure by 27% over the next decade. The increase in funding is to expand the number of defense personnel and upgrade equipment, including new armored personnel carriers, new navy ships, and helicopters. It will also refurbish planes for the air force, develop base infrastructure, increase stocks of spares, and enhance training and retention.³² The announced \$NZ 4.6 billion increase will provide New Zealand with a greater capability to meet its security interests including; a secure New Zealand, including its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, a strong strategic relationship with Australia, a stable South Pacific, and an expanding dialogue with Southeast and Northeast Asia. It will also support New Zealand’s global approach to collective security including participation in peace operations.³³

²⁷ “New Zealand in the News,” United States-New Zealand Council, December 2003.

²⁸ Hon. Mark Burton, “New Zealand Defence: Playing Our Part as a Responsible World Citizen,” Dec. 11, 2004, [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz>].

²⁹ Tracy Watkins, “N.Z.’s Role in Iraq Praised by Downer,” *Dominion Post*, Dec. 15, 2003.

³⁰ Anthony Hubbard, “Stars and Swipes,” *Sunday Star Times*, October 19, 2003. See also, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, “Prime Minister’s Statement to Parliament,” Feb. 11, 2003, [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz>].

³¹ Ambassador Charles Swindells, “Remarks to the Victoria University Diplomat’s Series,” U.S. Embassy, Wellington, Oct. 8, 2003.

³² “New Zealand to Hike Military Spending by 27% Over 10 Years,” *Associated Press*, May 2, 2005.

³³ Government of New Zealand, *The Defence Sustainability Initiative: Building a Long-term Future for the New Zealand Defence Force*, May 2, 2005.

Free Trade Agreement

Obtaining a Free Trade Agreement with the United States is a key objective for New Zealand and one that it has been working towards for several years. New Zealand trade was once very closely integrated into the British Commonwealth. The desire for an FTA with the United States is part of an ongoing effort to diversify trade. The United States is New Zealand's second largest export destination after Australia.³⁴ Unlike Australia, which established an FTA with the United States in 2005, New Zealand has been unsuccessful in its attempt to achieve an FTA with the United States. This is most likely due to the small size of New Zealand's economy, continuing past differences over nuclear policies, and the fact that New Zealand has not been as close a supporter of the United States in the war in Iraq as Australia has been. An FTA with New Zealand would likely more closely integrate New Zealand with the United States in political as well as economic terms. New Zealand and the United States "are currently working through our trade and investment Framework Agreement to further deepen our economic relationship."³⁵ New Zealand is continuing to push trade negotiations with China. Trade, Defence, and Disarmament Minister Phil Goff stated, "Our negotiation with China is the largest commitment we have on the bilateral front at present."³⁶ New Zealand was also invited to participate in the East Asia Summit.

New Zealand's principal exports are wool, meat, dairy products, fish, fruit, timber and manufactured products. Agricultural exports contributed 60% of New Zealand's export earnings. There are also approximately 40 million sheep and 10 million cattle in New Zealand.³⁷ New Zealand's exports have increased by 50% over the past ten years.³⁸ The United States is the second largest source of imports to New Zealand.

While the impact of an FTA on the overall United States economy would be small, such an agreement is projected to increase U.S. merchandise exports to New Zealand by 25% according to business groups³⁹ while leading to a 0.5% decline in the United States dairy sector.⁴⁰ Beef, dairy products, wood, sheep, machinery and

³⁴ New Zealand Embassy, Washington, DC United States/New Zealand Relations, [<http://www.nzembassy.com>].

³⁵ Glyn Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Statement Before the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mar. 16, 2007.

³⁶ Hon. Phil Goff, "Recent Trade Developments and Priorities for New Zealand," [<http://www.beehive.govt.nz>].

³⁷ "New Zealand in Profile," Statistics New Zealand, 2002.

³⁸ "New Zealand Fact Sheet," American-Australian Association.

³⁹ "Sutton Welcomes U.S. Groups Push for FTA," *New Zealand Press Association*, Feb. 17, 2005.

⁴⁰ Fred Bergsten & Robert Scollay, "The Case for a Model Free Trade Agreement Between the United States and New Zealand," [Prepared for the U.S.-New Zealand Council] New Zealand (continued...)

parts, fish, and fruits and vegetable are New Zealand's leading exports to the United States. Machinery, aircraft and parts, computers and parts, electrical appliances and equipment, motor vehicles, food, medical and vet instruments, multimedia recordings, pharmaceuticals, and fertilizer and insecticides are America's leading exports to New Zealand.⁴¹

Some suggest the lack of progress on an New Zealand-U.S. FTA, relative to Australia's bid, is due to New Zealand's opposition to what the Clark Government perceived as a unilateral, United States-led war in Iraq, as well as lingering distance in the relationship that is the result of the de facto split between the United States and New Zealand, within what was a trilateral ANZUS alliance (with Australia), that occurred in the mid 1980s.⁴²

Institutional Support

There are several organizations and groups that help promote bilateral ties between the United States and New Zealand including the United States-New Zealand Council in Washington and its counterpart, the New Zealand-United States Council in Wellington; the Friends of New Zealand Congressional Caucus and its New Zealand parliamentary counterpart; and the more recent Partnership Forum. The US-NZ Council was established in 1986 to promote cooperation between the two countries and works with government agencies and business groups to this end. The Friends of New Zealand Congressional Caucus was launched by Representative Jim Kolbe and Representative Ellen Tauscher in February 2005 and has been supportive of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Zealand. The first Partnership Forum was held in April 2006 and, according to its chairman, former Prime Minister of New Zealand Jim Bolger, it "has been credited with helping develop a new forward momentum in the relationship."⁴³

The bipartisan Friends of New Zealand Congressional Caucus had an initial membership of 56 members of Congress. Representative Kolbe stated "In order for the U.S. to continue being a world leader in free trade, we must work toward a free trade agreement with New Zealand, as New Zealand will help open the door to markets around the world."⁴⁴ The FTA is also supported by the American Chamber

⁴⁰ (...continued)

Zealand Embassy, Washington, DC, [<http://www.nzembassy.com>].

⁴¹ Hon. Jim Sutton, Minister for Trade Negotiations, United States-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.

⁴² Bruce Vaughn, "New Zealand: A Small Nation's Perspective," in William Carpenter and David Wiencek, eds., *Asian Security Handbook: Terrorism and the New Security Environment*, (Armonk: M.E. Sharpe Publishers, 2005).

⁴³ Rt. Hon. Jim Bolger, "Second US NZ Partnership Forum to be Held 9-11 September 2007 in Auckland," NZUS Council, Nov. 24, 2006.

⁴⁴ "Reps. Kolbe, Tauscher Launch Friends of New Zealand Congressional Caucus," *U.S. Federal News*, Feb. 16, 2005.

of Commerce.⁴⁵ The U.S. National Association of Manufacturers supports an FTA with New Zealand.⁴⁶ Representative Kevin Brady has since replaced Kolbe as the Republican co-chair of the caucus. It has been described as a “bipartisan working group that will strengthen and promote closer economic, political, and social links between the U.S. and New Zealand.”⁴⁷

Policy Options/Concerns

Continuing restrictions on bilateral military to military exchanges and training act to inhibit the full range of possible defense cooperation with New Zealand at a time when it is moving to significantly develop its defense capabilities. New Zealand shares the United States’ democratic values and has demonstrated its desire to work with the United States in the struggle against violent radical Islamists. New Zealand plays a constructive role promoting stability in the Southwest Pacific and beyond and could help in other areas such as with maritime patrols in the Straits of Malacca. For these reasons, experts and former U.S. government officials are calling for the removal of outdated restrictions on defense cooperation with New Zealand and for full engagement with a like-minded democracy.⁴⁸

Other External Relations

Australia

New Zealand’s closest external relationship is with Australia, while its most enduring relationship is with the United Kingdom. The closeness with Australia stems from their common origins as British colonies and includes a strong rivalry in rugby, which is New Zealand’s sport. Relations between New Zealand and Australia are formalized in the Closer Economic Relations (CER) and Closer Defense Relations (CDR) agreements. On a cultural level, shared national lore, such as the Australia-New Zealand Army Corp (ANZAC) experience, which was largely forged at the battle of Gallipoli in WWI, serves to reinforce ties between New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand is, along with Australia, Britain, Singapore, and Malaysia, a signatory to the Five Power Defense Arrangements of 1971. New Zealand is also a member of the Commonwealth and an active supporter of the United Nations (UN). New Zealand contributed troops along with Australia to WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the first Gulf War.

⁴⁵ “American Chambers to help NZ Bid for FTA,” *The Press* (Christchurch), Feb. 24, 2005.

⁴⁶ “NZ Wins Powerful Ally in Quest for U.S. FTA,” *New Zealand Press Association*, Feb. 3, 2005.

⁴⁷ “Kolbe and Tauscher Press Release: Friends of New Zealand Congressional Caucus,” [<http://www.usnzcouncil.org>].

⁴⁸ Richard Armitage and Randy Schriver, “Washington and Wellington,” *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, Apr. 24, 2006.

The United Kingdom

New Zealanders' affinities for the United Kingdom (UK) remain strong despite the UK's decision to sever its preferential trade relationship with New Zealand, as well as the rest of the British Commonwealth, in order to join the European Community in the 1970s. The United Kingdom purchased two thirds of New Zealand's exports in 1950. In more recent years, the UK has dropped to New Zealand's fourth or fifth largest destination for exports. This has made the search for new foreign markets a key aspect of New Zealand's foreign policy. New Zealand's proactive and successful policy of export diversification has expanded New Zealand's markets to include Japan, the European Union, Australia, and the United States.

Regional Role in the Pacific

New Zealand has an increasingly Pacific identity that stems from both its indigenous Maori population and other more recent Pacific island immigrants from Polynesia and Melanesia. While Maori represent 15% of the population, Pacific Islanders comprise approximately 6.5%. Auckland is the world's largest Polynesian city. New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff has described New Zealand as a "Pacific nation." New Zealand has a set of relationships with South Pacific island groups that is similar to the relationships that the United States has with various island groupings in the Western Pacific. New Zealand has had colonial and trusteeship relationships with the Cook Islands, Niue, Western Samoa, and Tokelau. Samoa became independent in 1962, while the Cook Islands and Niue became self governing in 1965 and 1974 with "free association" with New Zealand. Tokelau may soon achieve self determination. New Zealand remains engaged with the islands through disaster relief, development assistance, and security stabilization efforts. New Zealand also works closely with other Pacific Island states on a bilateral and multilateral basis through the South Pacific Islands Forum, which is based in Fiji. The Forum has supported the South Pacific Nuclear Free Weapons Zone, efforts to promote sustainable use of fisheries resources, and regional security.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ "New Zealand in the Pacific," New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [<http://www.mfat.govt.nz>].

Figure 1. Map of New Zealand

Source: Map Resources. Adapted by CRS. (K.Yancey 4/14/05)

Chronology⁵⁰

- 1000 First human habitation of New Zealand begins with the arrival of Polynesian Maori people.
- 1642 Abel Tasman of Holland makes first European discovery of New Zealand.
- 1769 British explorer Captain James Cook explores New Zealand.
- 1773 Cook conducts further exploration of New Zealand.
- 1777 Cook conducts further exploration of New Zealand.
- 1815 The first European settlement of New Zealand begins
- 1840 Treaty of Waitangi between the British Crown and Maori Chiefs.
- 1841 New Zealand becomes an independent colony of the British Empire.
- 1845-72 New Zealand wars as Maori resist European encroachment on their lands.
- 1893 New Zealand is the first nation to give women the right to vote.
- 1907 New Zealand shifts from colonial to dominion status within the British Empire.
- 1914-18 Approximately half the eligible male population of New Zealand serve in World War I and New Zealand suffers one of the highest rates of casualties.
- 1915 The campaign on Gallipoli in the Dardenelles begins and is one of New Zealand's largest contributions to the war along with operations in Palestine.
- 1939-45 New Zealand contributes forces in support of the allied powers. They fight in Crete and in North Africa at places such as Tobruk and El Alemain.
- 1950-53 New Zealand sends troops to fight with UN forces in the Korean War.
- 1951 New Zealand signs the ANZUS treaty with the United States and Australia.
- 1960s New Zealand sends troops to fight with the United States in Vietnam.
- 1985 Labour government of David Lange refuses to let U.S. nuclear warships enter New Zealand harbours.

⁵⁰ The chronology is largely drawn from "Timeline New Zealand: A Chronology of Key Events," *BBC News*, Aug. 16, 2006.

- 1986 The United States suspends its alliance commitment to New Zealand.
- 1990 James Bolger of the National Party becomes prime minister.
- 1993 Proportional representation is introduced into New Zealand.
- 1997 Jenny Shipley of the National Party becomes prime minister.
- 1999 New Zealand sends troops to East Timor with the United Nations.
Helen Clark becomes prime minister.
- 2002 Clark wins reelection over a faltering National Party.
- 2004 New Zealand and China begin free trade talks
- 2005 Clark wins a close election over a resurgent National Party.
- 2006 New Zealand troops return to East Timor quell unrest.