

New Zealand in the Atomic Age: Past Discoveries and Future Perspectives



The Atomic Age, characterized by the discovery and utilization of nuclear energy, had a profound impact on countries worldwide. While commonly associated with major powers like the United States and the Soviet Union, New Zealand also played a significant role in this era of scientific advancements.

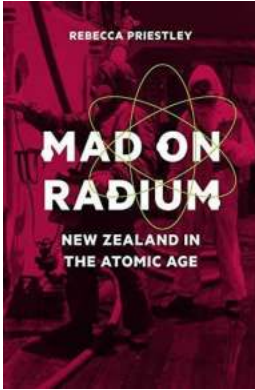
Early Contributions

During World War II, New Zealand scientists joined the Manhattan Project, a top-secret research initiative that aimed to develop an atomic bomb. While the country's contribution might not have been as prominent as other nations', its involvement marked the beginning of New Zealand's atomic age.

Mad on Radium: New Zealand in the Atomic Age

by Rebecca Priestley (Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 9183 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 256 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Nuclear Research Facilities

Following the war, New Zealand focused on establishing its own nuclear research facilities. In 1947, the New Zealand Atomic Energy Committee was established to explore the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Committee successfully built the country's first research reactor, appropriately named "Triga," in 1958.

New Zealand's Nuclear-Free Policy

Despite its initial enthusiasm for atomic energy, New Zealand underwent a significant shift in public sentiment during the late 1960s and 1970s. Growing concerns about the potential dangers of nuclear power led to the formation of anti-nuclear movements throughout the country.

In 1984, New Zealand enacted legislation that declared the country nuclear-free and banned the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear-powered vessels within its borders. This decision solidified New Zealand's commitment to peace and environmental preservation.

Environmental Impact and Anti-Nuclear Activism

New Zealand's nuclear-free stance not only reflected its commitment to global peace but also its concern for the environment. The country's unique flora and fauna, essential to its national identity, played a crucial role in motivating citizens to take action against potential nuclear disasters.

Future Perspectives: New Zealand's Renewable Energy Goals

While New Zealand has moved away from nuclear energy, it has embraced renewable energy sources as an alternative. The country has set ambitious goals to achieve 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030 and become carbon-neutral by 2050.

Closing Remarks

New Zealand's involvement in the Atomic Age showcases its commitment to science, peace, and environmental sustainability. The country's efforts in nuclear research, followed by the adoption of a nuclear-free policy, exemplify its unique journey during this transformative era of human history.



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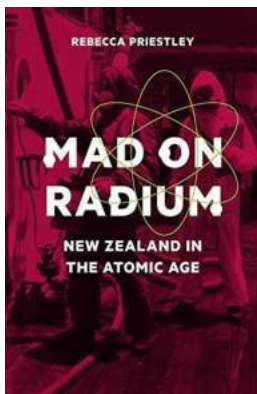
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Although New Zealander Lord Rutherford was the first to split the atom, the country has since been known around the world for its nuclear-free stance. In this engaging and accessible book, an alternative history is revealed of "nuclear New Zealand"—when there was much enthusiasm for nuclear science and technology. From the first users of X-rays and radium in medicine to the plans for a nuclear power station on the Kaipara Harbour, this account uncovers the long and rich history of New Zealanders' engagement with the nuclear world and the roots of its nuclear-free identity.



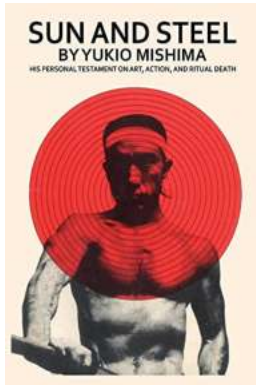
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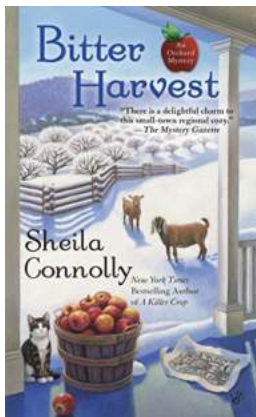
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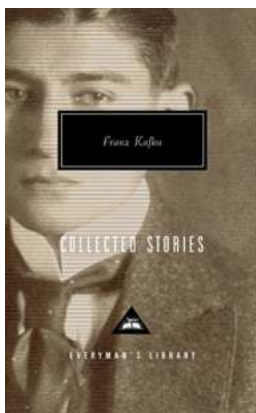
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