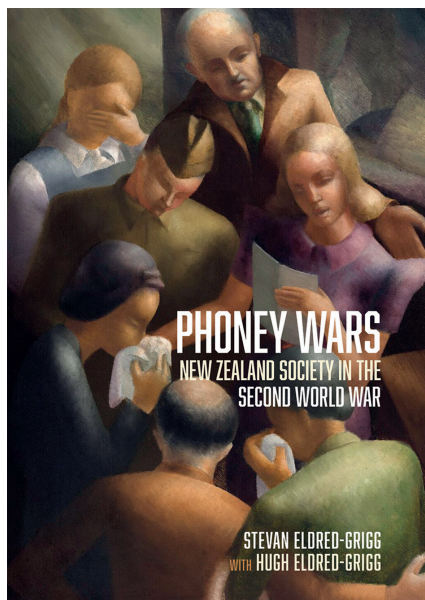


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PHONEY WARS

New Zealand society in the Second World War

Stevan Eldred-Grigg
with Hugh Eldred-Grigg

SELLING POINTS

- Lively and controversial
- Fascinating detail of wartime lives
- Beautifully illustrated

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Phoney Wars
New Zealand society in the
Second World War
Stevan Eldred-Grigg

Otago University Press
www.otago.ac.nz/press

NZ History
paperback, full colour
240 x 170 mm, 424 pp

ISBN 978-0-947522-23-0 \$49.95

IN-STORE: OCT 2017

See below for ordering information

Phoney Wars looks at the lives of New Zealanders during the greatest armed struggle the world has ever seen: the Second World War. It is not a political, economic or military history; rather it explores what life was like during the war years for ordinary people living under the New Zealand flag.

It questions the war as a story of 'good' against 'bad'. All readers know that the Axis powers behaved ruthlessly, but how many are aware of the brutality of the Allied powers in bombing and starving 'enemy' towns and cities? New Zealand colluded in and even carried out such brutal aggressions.

Were we, in going to war, really on the side of the angels?

Contrary to the propaganda of the time – and subsequent memory – going to war did not unite New Zealanders: it divided them, often bitterly. People disagreed over whether or not we should fight, what we were fighting for and why, who was fighting, who was paying, and who was dying.

In this provocative and moving book, Stevan and Hugh Eldred-Grigg explore New Zealanders' hopes and fears, beliefs and superstitions, shortages and affluence, rationing and greed, hysteria and humour, violence and kindness, malevolence and generosity, to argue that New Zealand need not have involved itself in the war at all.

Stevan Eldred-Grigg defies classification. He can swoop from the historical to the contemporary, from lyric to polemic, from fiction to faction. He's unsettling as well as absorbing.

– David Hill, *NZ Herald*

AUTHORS

Stevan Eldred-Grigg is a leading novelist and historian. His first novel, *Oracles and Miracles*, was a runaway bestseller. He is the author of many other books, fiction and non-fiction, among them *Diggers, Hatters and Whores: The story of the New Zealand gold rushes* (2008), and *White Ghosts, Yellow Peril: China and New Zealand, 1790–1950* (2014). Two earlier books focused on the world wars. *Kaput!* (2000) is a novel that tells the story of an ordinary German housewife and mother coping with Nazi dictatorship and Allied bombing. *The Great Wrong War: New Zealand society in World War I* (2010) polarised readers, with its author accused by some of betraying his country, while others congratulated him for setting the record straight. He now turns his uncompromising gaze on WWII.

Hugh Eldred-Grigg was born in Canterbury and graduated with an MA in political science from Victoria University of Wellington. Since graduating he has worked as a teaching assistant at VUW, a high school language teacher in Japan, a lecturer at Xiamen University in China, and a high school teacher in Estonia. Still in Estonia, at present he works in financial technology. He is the author of 'What if the Moyle Affair had never happened?' in Stephen Levine (ed.), *New Zealand as it Might Have Been* (VUP, 2006).

