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Level 2 History, 2015

91234 Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society

9.30 a.m. Friday 20 November 2015
Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.	Examine in-depth how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.	Comprehensively examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL

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ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay, using the essay task below, on ONE significant historical event that has affected New Zealand society.

Your essay should include an introduction and a conclusion, and use detailed supporting evidence.

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a detailed paragraph(s) describing the historical event and its background.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

ESSAY TASK

Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealanders. You must consider one or more of the following impacts:

- **social**
- **political**
- **economic**
- **strategic / military.**

Historical event: _____

Begin your essay here:

The 1951 Waterfront Dispute, that took place between the 13th February and the 15th July 1951 was the ~~largest~~^{longest} and most widespread industrial confrontation in New Zealand history, and therefore is an event that has greatly affected New Zealanders in the short and long-term. This essay will examine the circumstances and significance of this historical dispute, and it will also analyse the duration and extent of the effects of the event in terms of economic, ~~political~~^{and} ~~and social~~ features.

The circumstances of the 1951 Waterfront Dispute include numerous economic, political and social features. After ~~the~~^{the} World War II, the New Zealand government retained wartime wages, despite the cost of living ~~cost~~ continuing to rise and the fact that the economy was booming. This resulted in ~~the~~ working people becoming discontent, as demands grew for wage rises. The influence of the Cold War also played a part in the circumstances of the Dispute, as militant unions led by known communists were a way to weaken New Zealand from within, and therefore many powerful politicians and businessmen feared this communist influence and looked for ways to stop it from spreading. In 1949, a new National government led by Sidney Holland was elected, representing the interests of farmers and businessmen. National promised to ease post-war restrictions such as ~~censorship~~^{censorship}, industrial wage ~~controls~~ controls and rations, as well as to directly confront ~~militant~~ militant unionism. As unrest ^{and demands for higher wages} grew on the wharves and elsewhere, in January 1951 the Arbitration Court awarded a 15% wage increase.

to all workers covered by the industrial arbitration system. However, this did not apply to the wharfies as their employment was controlled by the Waterfront Industry Commission. The British-owned shipping companies ~~and~~ that employed them offered them only 9% - an offer that the Waterfront Workers' Union (WWU), led by Jack Barnes and Toby Hill, refused. The union members protested against this offer by refusing to work overtime from the ~~the~~ 13th February 1951. The shipping companies then in turn refused to hire them, and the watersiders were locked out, signifying the beginning of the 1951 Waterfront Dispute. The development of this dispute gave the new National government the opportunity to deal with the people they considered to be "communist wreckers". Arguing that NZ's vital export trade was under threat from the lockout, the National government declared a national state of emergency on the 21st of February. The following day Prime Minister Holland said New Zealand was "at war". Emergency regulations imposed by the government in response to the lockout resulted in rigid censorship, the police being given increased search and arrest powers, and it became illegal for citizens to help the strikers. Despite the restrictions, the watersiders set up a relief network and production of propaganda against the National government, and other unionists such as coal miners and freezing workers struck in support of the watersiders. However, only 8% of NZ workers supported the watersiders. At its peak, 22,000 watersiders were off the job out of a population of 2 million. Pressure began to increase on the wharfies - police harassment of union supporters

became more violent and intrusive, and Holland refused to compromise in negotiations. Non-union "scab" labour was ~~used~~ used to operate the wharves, and by the end of May, the watersiders' position was looking increasingly hopeless. On the 15th of July 1951, the watersiders conceded defeat - signifying the end of the 1951 Waterfront Dispute and marking 151 days of lockout.

The ~~social~~ ^{economic} impact of the 1951 Waterfront Dispute had a huge effect on New Zealanders. As a result of the lockout, the country lost ^{approx.} 1 million working days and 50-60 million pounds. Shipping was the main means of trade for New Zealand, so the watersiders played a key role in the economy through the distribution of capital. Therefore the dispute had a negative financial impact on businessmen and farmers, who relied on the wharves for the exportation of their goods. However, this was only a short-term effect ~~as~~ due to the post-war economic boom, the wool boom of the 1950s ~~and the fact that shipping as these factors evened out the losses.~~ Watersiders and their families were also affected by the event ~~as~~ as they suffered economic hardship - around 3000 individuals were unemployed after the dispute, which added to the financial impact that they had endured throughout the dispute, as they lasted 151 days without their main source of income/job. Some watersiders, such as Jack Barnes and Toby Hill were blacklisted after the event - shops hung signs in windows that read "ex-wharfies need not apply". ~~Another~~ Another widespread effect of the dispute ~~was~~ is its long-term economic ~~and~~ significance - it resulted in a decline in industrial disputes, as blue-collar workers were disoriented by the outcome

and treatment of the watersiders from attempting a similar feat. Therefore ~~the~~ the lockout had a negative effect on NZ blue-collar workers - as they lost economic control, while their employers gained it. ~~AN EXAMPLE OF THIS~~ This was proven by the situation in the 1960s, when the cost of living was continuing to rise. Instead of striking, employees applied to the Arbitration Court in July 1968 for a general wage rise, and were rejected. Therefore the 1951 Waterfront Dispute had a significant ^{economic} effect on New Zealanders, ^{at the time, as well as today} resulting in financial hardship and loss of economic control in the workplace.

The Waterfront Dispute also had a ^{due to a changed view on striking due to the dispute} political effect on New Zealand and New Zealanders. Taking advantage of the situation during the lockout, Holland called a snap election on September 1st, winning a convincing victory with 54% of the vote. The National party ^{which still exists today} used ~~the~~ it exploited New Zealand's fear of communism and the spectre of militant unionism as political advantages to win public favour. ~~Therefore~~ This effect of the dispute was significant for all New Zealanders ^{at the time}, as the government or party in control affects the population's daily lives in running the country. Therefore the Waterfront Dispute resulted in a short-term beneficial impact for the National government and its supporters, as they gained an increased majority and thus managed to stay in power until 1957. Conversely, it had ~~was~~ a short-term negative impact for the Labour Party and its supporters, as the party's neutral position on the lockout was seen by the public as indecision ~~or~~ or lack of courage. As Labour Party leader Walter Nash

said, "we are not for the watersiders, and we are not against them". A ^{major} ~~significant~~ political impact on for all New Zealanders due to the Dispute, was ~~that~~ ^{therefore} the polarisation of politics, but also the weakening of union power in New Zealand. The lockout caused the National government to feel threatened by the potential of a similar situation or the challenge of the wharfies ~~the~~ protesting against wage controls again. ~~The~~ National's response to this threat was to pass the Employment Contracts Act in 1991 (among ~~all~~ other acts), which was ~~also~~ interpreted as a clear attempt to weaken union power in industrial affairs. This result ~~was not as bad as it seems~~ continues to affect New Zealanders, as these laws are still in place and therefore still affecting New Zealand workers and New Zealand society. Thus, the 1951 Waterfront Dispute has ~~changed~~ permanently changed the labour movement and power of New Zealand workers and unions. As ~~most~~ ^{more} the majority of New Zealanders belong to unions, this significantly affects their lives in the long-term.

* In conclusion, the 1951 Waterfront Dispute has had a significant impact on all New Zealanders, ^{in the short and long-term} as well as groups of New Zealanders. ~~through economic and political aspects~~ Despite the fact that ~~my~~ New Zealand society has been shaped through the change in mindset of New Zealanders, ~~the long financial impact and the changes that the government has made~~ New Zealand society has ^{therefore} been shaped and changed as a result of the lockout, through ~~both~~ economic, ~~and~~ political aspects. Despite the fact that militant unionism ^{and social}

was dealt a crushing blow, the 1951 Waterfront Dispute still holds a central place in the history of New Zealand and its labour movement, more than 50 years later.

* The 1951 Waterfront Dispute has also had a significant social impact on New Zealanders. Due to the ~~severely~~ ^{severely} contrasting views on the event, ~~the~~ a short-term effect of the lockout was that it divided New Zealand society - as while some evaded the families of watersiders, others helped them with food and money, or helping to print illegal flyers. A ^{significant} ~~long-term~~ impact ~~was~~ is that the Dispute affected the families and relationships of watersiders - a long-term example of this is divorce due to stress and debt as a direct result ~~of~~ of the Dispute. As the Society for the Protection of Women and children said in their annual report of 1952, "during this past year of industrial dispute, there has been an increased number ~~in~~ the breakup of homes". The events during the lockout also ^{permanently} affected the view of the government by groups of people who sided with the wharfies because the restrictive government measures ^{by many} were seen as fascism - ~~then~~ an example of this was Jock Barnes' (leader of WHW) detainment for 2 months for defaming a policeman. ~~WHW~~ In hindsight, all of New Zealand and New Zealand society has been shown the manipulative nature ~~of~~ of governments and businesses, and ~~was~~ therefore the Dispute has ~~also~~ impacted public trust of them. ~~Through~~ ^{As a long-term ~~social~~ impact of} the 1951 Waterfront Dispute, New Zealanders have been shown the way in which our government and media (who constantly criticised the watersiders) can be used to ~~manipulate~~ influence and fool the public, and the ease in which the government can impose restrictive government measures and

and the treatment of the watersiders

Essentially, a social impact of the dispute is that New Zealand has become more of the reality of the government and the media.

take away the rights and freedoms that New Zealanders took for granted. As Lyttelton watersider Baden Norris said, "and then to be branded as an enemy of the country when only just a few years earlier they waved flags and called you a hero, was pretty difficult to take".

- Comprehensive overview of topic
 - Makes clear links between identified factors and how these affected New Zealanders.
 - Examines the factors in detail and comprehensively explains them
 - Evidence is detailed
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