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## The Crown's Cultural Genocide of the Māori People of Aotearoa

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Pākehā Settler Colonisation of New Zealand was founded on the Crown's criminal processes of Cultural Genocide of the Māori, the Indigenous Peoples of Aotearoa. For Māori, the term Colonisation does not convey the full extent of the devastation and destruction that has occurred in Aotearoa since the arrival of Pākehā Settlers. Colonisation was not a one-off event that occurred 180 years ago which should now be forgotten about. Rather Colonisation is a structure based on the violent and brutal overthrow of Māori by the Crown and Pākehā settlers to take over the ownership and control of the whenua from Māori peoples and nations as the First Nations of Aotearoa.

The premise of this paper is that the term of Colonisation needs to be replaced with Cultural Genocide which more accurately captures the intergenerational trauma and devastation that was inflicted on Māori by the Crown and the New Zealand Government. It also presents a fuller picture and understanding about what has happened to put Māori in the position where today we continue to suffer inequalities of treatment and to be over-represented in the statistics of imprisonment, failure in health, education, employment and housing, as well as being politically marginalised in our own country. Pākehā Settler Colonisation continues to thrive today with its processes of Cultural Genocide still intent on the Cultural Extinction of Māori peoples and nations.

The Crown's criminal, racist and white supremacist ideologies of Cultural Genocide entailed the killing of Māori tūpuna defending their homes and way of life; the Crown legislated wholesale theft of Māori land resulting in the deaths of almost 80% of the Māori population by 1896, and the on-going deliberate incarceration and marginalisation of Māori people, as well as the on-going destruction of the Māori language and culture up to the present day.

The Crown's intent, since the arrival on the shores of Aotearoa, has been the annihilation and Cultural Extinction of Māori as sovereign and independent peoples and nations with our own lands, with our own indigenous beliefs, traditional knowledge systems, social and political structures, language and cultural practices.

In the mid-1860s, barely two decades after the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Māori peoples and nations of Aotearoa suffered the catastrophic event of Crown and Pākehā Settler Invasion of their tribal lands that they had owned and occupied for centuries. This is the period of the Pākehā Land Wars when the Crown and the Colonial Government legalised their processes of Cultural Genocide by passing laws that labelled those Māori peoples and nations who resisted the Settler Invasion, as 'rebels'. Any form of resistance by Maori peoples and nations therefore was an act of 'rebellion' against the State, meaning the Crown and the New Zealand Government. These laws were the Crown's and New Zealand Government's justification for using military force to kill the Māori peoples and nations as 'rebels' and to quash any form of 'rebellion' against the State. Not satisfied with killing those Māori peoples and nations labelled as being in 'rebellion', the Crown and the New Zealand Government enacted into law further punishment on the so-called Māori 'rebel' peoples and nations with the confiscation of millions of acres of Māori tribal lands.

After the mid-1860s, the Crown and the New Zealand Government passed a plethora of legislation to further strip Māori of their lands and waters and to destroy their way of life, beliefs, knowledge systems, language and culture in order to hasten the extinction of the Māori peoples and nations.

The criminality of the Crown's processes of Cultural Genocide against the Māori people of Aotearoa is the result of the findings of a PhD thesis just completed by myself, Dr Morehu McDonald, this year.

This paper presents the case study of the hapū and iwi of the Ngāti Hinerangi people and nation of Matamata and Tauranga. It validates and documents the claim that the Crown's criminal processes of Cultural Genocide against Māori from 1840 up to the present date have resulted in the hapū and iwi of Ngāti Hinerangi being driven to the brink of Cultural Extinction, like many hapū and iwi throughout Aotearoa.

Key Words: Cultural Genocide, Cultural Extinction, Criminality of the Crown, Intergenerational trauma