

# RY UNDER SIEGE PART V

As Told: That the Accepted Theory of Human Settlement in NZ from AD1200-1300 was INCORRECT



Ancient stone mounds can be seen all around New Zealand. These (plus two earth amphitheatres and remains of a stone lined waterway) can be seen in ARC Tapapakanga Regional Park, just south of Orere Point.

Island a race had existed called Maero, which they described as wild men of the woods, and somewhat like Australians...”

Botanist and geologist Rev. Richard Taylor researched Maori traditions, finding that when the Hawaiiki immigrants landed, they found a race of black people using moa bone and flint tools. These “ancient inhabitants of the island, called “wild men of the woods” were known as Maero and Mohoao, found throughout the country. They were wiped out by the Polynesians in Waitara and Patea. (Te Ika a Maui published 1855) The Tainui whakapapa Nga iwi o Tainui by Pei Te Hurinui Jones and Bruce Biggs (P.14 2.2) says: “Toi found the following tribes here: the Winiwini, the Ruataamore, the Pananehu, the Maru-iwi and the Tai-taawaro. These people occupied the land from Southland to Oo-a-Kura in Taranaki, from Auckland to Hauraki, and certain parts of the East Coast. It is said that these people were not like Maoris, for some of them were very black, and they had flat knees. The local women ran after Toi’s men because they were so handsome. Their offspring were incorporated into the local people, and known as the Multitude-of-Toi.” Note: In 1925 a boomerang was found by Mr A.W.B. Powell in ancient middens at Muriwai Beach. It had clearly been buried for a considerable time. Some early writers attributed the origin of the black skinned people spoken of by Maori to be Melanesia.

A study using the variability of mitochondrial DNA in 2002 estimated all Moa species to number 3-12 million 6,000 years BP ago, dropping to 159,000 before AD 1280. There is no evidence disease played a part in the bird’s demise, but there is ample evidence of the presence of humans much earlier than AD 1280.

## The Hunters

In the 1800s, some Maori spoke of hunting and eating Moa. The New Zealand Institute commented in 1892 on The Antiquity of the Moa by Captain Gilbert Mair: “When Maoris of to-day had legends to tell concerning the moa they were all of such preposterous and mythical character that they proved the truth of what the old chiefs of fifty years ago alleged – viz., Neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen the moa, because the last moas were destroyed at the time of the Deluge. That the Dinornis (moa) had been killed and cooked by men in New Zealand was certain from the geological evidence, but that the Polynesian Maori had known the Dinornis at all was highly improbable. Possibly vague accounts had been handed down from the prehistoric inhabitants (moa-hunters), with whom it was almost

certain the Polynesian immigrants had intermarried.”

The Evening Post reported ‘An Interesting Relic’ on September 11, 1888: A mummy discovered by a Mr Champness on the West Taieri River in 1864 was found in an 80ft deep cave with a leg bone of an extinct moa lying across the head. Plaited human hair was around the neck and the skeleton of a tui between the knees. Experts at the British Museum pronounced it to be the remains of an adult woman, whose height when alive **was not more than 3ft.** The Government Geologist of NZ, Dr Hector said the mummy was over 1000 years old, of the race of people who inhabited the island before the Maoris. Several specimens of this race had been discovered but this was the most perfect.

In the 1970s, researcher Russell Price, aided by large support teams, found conclusive evidence of human activity in the Hawkes Bay before the 1350BC Waimihia volcanic ash fall, verified by the country’s leading pedologist Alan Pullar. At this lowest level, beneath undisturbed tephra ash from the Kaharoa Fall (Mt Tarawera) of 1100AD, the Taupo Fall (186AD) and Waimihia, cooked moa bones were found. Some had marks cut by a sharp stone implement.

## NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE

(From the Wellington Independent, September 24, 1868)

*On Saturday, there was a large audience at the Colonial Museum, presided over by his Excellency the Governor, to hear a highly interesting and suggestive lecture, by the Hon. Mr. Mantell, on the Moa. ... (abridged) Dr. Hector, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, remarked that it was highly valuable to have obtained the expression of his opinions respecting the association of the Moa with the Aborigines (original peoples of the land) of this colony. As Mr. Mantell had arrived in this country well qualified for the task by previous training, and had enjoyed favourable opportunities as the first explorer of a large extent of the colony where these birds formerly abounded. The collections in the Museums in Europe and America show how well he availed himself of these opportunities. He (Dr. Hector) understood Mr. Mantell to incline to the opinion, that the Moa owed its destruction to a race of aborigines different in their habits and savage attainments from the Maoris of the present day, though perhaps having the same origin. ... Mr. Travers remarked with regard to the origin of the aborigines by whom the Moa were exterminated, and that he considered them to be a distinct race, now represented by the Morioris of the Chatham Islands. He impressed on the attention of the meeting the important field which New Zealand offered for ethnological research, and related as a circumstance requiring explanation that in a certain pit in the Waikato, a number of human skeletons were found in an erect position arranged around the side, each with a block of wood on its head. It is hoped that someone will investigate the matter.*