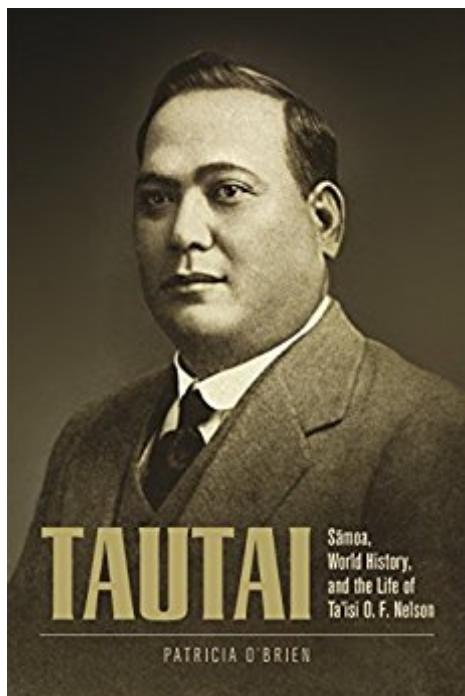


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Tautai: Sāmoa, World History, And The Life Of Taā€™isi O. F. Nelson



Synopsis

Tautai is the story of a man who came from the edge of a mighty empire and then challenged it at its very heart. This biography of Taâ™isi O. F. Nelson chronicles the life of a man described as the âœarchenemy• of New Zealand and its greater whole, the British Empire. He was SÄ•moaâ™s richest man who used his wealth and unique international access to further the SÄ•moan cause and was financially ruined in the process. In the aftermath of the hyper-violence of the First World War, Taâ™isi embraced nonviolent resistance as a means to combat a colonial surge in the Pacific that gripped his country for nearly two decades. This surge was manned by heroes of New Zealandâ™s war campaign, who attempted to hold the line against the groundswell of challenges to the imperial order in the former German colony of SÄ•moa that became a League of Nations mandate in 1921. Stillborn SÄ•moan hopes for greater freedoms under this system precipitated a crisis of empire. It led Taâ™isi on global journeys in search of justice taking him to Geneva, the League of Nations headquarters, and into courtrooms in SÄ•moa, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Taâ™isi ran a global campaign of letter writing, petitions, and a newspaper to get his peopleâ™s plight heard. For his efforts he was imprisoned and exiled not once but twice from his homeland of SÄ•moa. Using private papers and interviews, Oâ™Brien tells a deeply compelling account of Taâ™isiâ™s life lived through turbulent decades. By following Taâ™isiâ™s story readers also learn a history of SÄ•moaâ™s Mau movement that attracted international attention. The authorâ™s care for detail provides a nuanced interpretation of its history and Taâ™isiâ™s role in the broader context of world history. The first biography of Taâ™isi O. F. Nelson, Tautai is a powerful and passionate story that is both personal and one that encircles the globe. It touches on shared histories and causes that have animated and enraged populations across the world throughout the twentieth century to the present day.

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