

Neill Gordon: What is co-governance? I organised a meeting to try to figure it out

Hawkes Bay Today

By Neill Gordon

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## OPINION

**Neil Gordon:** What on earth is co-governance and why are some people so rarked-up about it?

Unpacking that takes you into tricky territory – into stuff so messy and important most of us try not to think about it.

**Julian:**

**It's not messy at all. In fact, it's remarkably simple**

**First, Maori ceded sovereignty on February 6th 1840 which means they gave up forever the right to rule our country. There is absolutely nothing in the Treaty about co-governance, partnership, or co-management. The government alone decides who is going to manage what and when. And in a democracy, the government is mandated make sure no group is given preferential treatment.**

**Second, Maori were made British citizens. One of the hallmarks of being a British citizen is that all citizens are equal. So all the people of New Zealand are to be treated equally.**

**Third, democracy is central to being a British citizen. That is to say, every three years, we hold national elections, to vote people in and out of power. It's the same with local body elections in a democracy. In a democracy, only people who are elected by the people have the right to govern at National and local levels. No one can be appointed to a position of power. When people are appointed, instead of being election, we move from democracy to dictatorship.**

**So, really, it's very simple.**

**Maori are already being appointed to positions of power in our country so we are now living in a Maori dictatorship.**

**Neil Gordon:** A big part of the problem is community leaders have been reluctant to foster useful public discussion and the void has been filled by voices using co-governance as an excuse to peddle bogus history and put people down.

**He is talking about Julian Batchelor. Why doesn't he just name him? Because this is how the left works. They refer to people without naming them. They refer to bogus history without giving examples. They call people names, like 'racist' or 'white supremacist' without giving examples of how the person they are talking about meets the criteria for being called 'racist' or 'white supremacist'.**

**Neil Gordon:** Like many Pākehā, I know only a little about the Treaty and less about co-governance so on

Monday night in Hastings I helped organise a public meeting to learn more.

**At least this journalist is being honest about being ignorant about the Treaty. He is speaking for literally millions of New Zealanders. The Treaty Twisters, those wanting to take over our country, have deliberately created a situation, through the media and teaching false history, to keep the population ignorant about the Treaty. This is why our first priority is to educate and enlighten Kiwis about our Treaty.**

**Neil Gordon:** Two hundred people came to St Matthew's Church to hear from a panel of locals with experience of co-governance in action here in Hawke's Bay.

**This is a key tenet of how the woke and the Treaty Twisters work. They cite 'Here is an example of how co-governance is working!' But I say "Well, so what?" This is no proof co-governance is right.**

**The issue with co-governance is that it's legally wrong. There is no mandate for it in the Treaty. The gangs too have found out that "crime is working" and have become rich through crime. But does this make gangs right? No, it does not. Conclusion, co-governance is wrong. It breaches the Treaty. Therefore, it must be stopped.**

**Neil Gordon:** What did we learn?

Co-governance, in a word, is partnership and that partnership - this bit is controversial - is written into the Treaty of Waitangi.

**Oh really? Where in the Treaty exactly is co-governance mandated? There is absolutely nothing in the Treaty about partnership.**

**Neil Gordon:** Like it or not, the Treaty is the founding document of New Zealand. Our government, and more importantly, its people, are bound by it - that is bound together by the Treaty, committed to working it out together.

**Completely correct. So we had better been sure we know what we are talking about.**

**Neil Gordon:** Some would have you believe that in 1840 when Māori numbered 100,000 and the settler population was 2000, Māori chiefs signed over the nation to the Crown and said 'you can do what you like with it mate'.

**This is an completely ignorant thing to say. The Maori chiefs came to the British wanted a Treaty. There were three drivers.**

**First, they were self-destructing, engaging in infanticide, cannibalism, plunder, and war. In effect, they were drunk on war and out of control. It would be accurate to say that they were a very dysfunctional people group. Between 1800 and 1840 the Maori population went down from 150,000 to 75,000. This was Maori killing Maori in what's known as the musket wars. Second, they had a dreadful fear of the French.**

**Third, Maori chiefs could see that the British were a prosperous advanced cultural group and they wanted what they had.**

**Neil Gordon:** To think they might have done so defies common sense, the historical record and the words of the document they signed.

**Be specific. What historical record? What words in the document they signed?**

**This is how the left, the woke, and the activists debate issues. They make statements without giving examples. The result? Naïve people who are reading their opinions just presume that they are speaking the truth, when they are not. In this case, the writer has given no examples to back up his arguments.**

**Neil Gordon:** What Māori did, generously, was to agree to share this country.

**Completely incorrect. First, Maori were not being generous. They were driven by self interest, They were driven by what they could get from the British.**

**Second, Maori ceded sovereignty. In effect they said to the British, “We are out of control. For 600 years we’ve got nowhere. We are self-destructing. The French are coming. We can see that you are an advanced people group / cultural, please take over so that we too can prosper like you are prospering. Come and protect us, be a Father to us, set up a government for us, so that together we can make a great country.”**

**Neil Gordon:** It’s no newflash to say the sharing didn’t work out very evenly and led to today, for example, Māori dying about seven years earlier than non-Māori.

**This too is nonsense. Maori life expectancy in 1840 for a Maori was 25 years. Now it’s 74 for a Maori male, and 76 for a Maori female.**

**If Maori are not living as long today as Europeans or other cultures, it’s because of lifestyle choices, not some fault of white people or the Treaty of Waitangi or colonisation. If Maori would stop eating junk food, drinking fizzy drinks and alcohol, stop smoking, and find a job were they worked hard, went to the gym each day, their life expectancy would climb.**

**Neil Gordon:** It turns out co-governance is no big deal and it’s the way some churches, schools and council committees have run for 20 years. What does it look like, this scary sharing?

On Monday, Mark von Dadelszen’s explanation of how the Hastings District Council’s wastewater treatment plant has operated under, and benefited from, being run by a co-governance committee for more than 20 years was illuminating.

The committee has an equal number of council and tangata whenua members, the chairmanship rotates yearly between a councillor and a Māori member, and the chairperson does not have a casting vote.

**As I have pointed out earlier, the gangs can show where crime has worked for them. So too the proponents of co-governance point out where co-governance has worked.**

**This is all dancing around the issue,**

**The issue is ‘Is co-governance right or wrong?’ It’s wrong, for the reasons I have already outlined.**

**If any of the council members were Maori who were appointed, not elected, then this is a breach of the Treaty.**

**Councils can only be run by democratically elected officials.**

**Neil Gordon:** All but one of the committee’s decisions since 1999 have been made unanimously.

**Same with the gangs and the decisions they make. They were made unanimously by gang members.**

**Neil Gordon:** It was Māori input that led to the building of New Zealand’s first biological trickling filter plant and the end of Hastings’ discharge of largely untreated human waste to the sea.

**Where is the proof that it was specifically and only Maori input that resulted in the first biological trickling plant? Did Maori scientists develop the technology alone? Or did other have input? Who funded the research and development?**

**Neil Gordon:** Here’s a question: How far should you walk with a stone in your shoe? After listening to Monday’s speakers, it is clear that coming to grips with the agreement to share our nation is necessary and inevitable.

**Wrong. There is absolutely nothing in the Treaty about “sharing power” with Maori. On the contrary, Maori gave up their power to the Queen in 1840 and agreed to everything I have detailed here.**

**Look at the graphic on the right, and read it carefully**

**Neil Gordon:** Until we do, this issue will remain a stone in our gumboot and New Zealand will be hobbling on pretending - ouch - there’s nothing wrong really.

**Wrong. If we returned to the original intent and meaning of the Treaty in Maori as signed on the 6th of February 1840 we’d have a beautiful country.**

- 1. One person one vote**
- 2. All votes of equal value.**
- 3. Democracy.**
- 4. Equality.**
- 5. All people being treated equally.**
- 6. One law for all**

#### **Sir Apirana Ngata**

*“It was the first article of the Treaty which transferred the chiefly authority of your ancestors, affecting you and future generations for ever.” (1)*

*“The Treaty made one law for the Maori and Pakeha. If you think things are wrong and bad then blame our ancestors who gave away their rights in the days when they were very powerful.” (2)*

(1) Sir Apirana Ngata, The Treaty of Waitangi, An Explanation, P.7  
(2) <https://www.donbrash.com/after-politics/what-partnership/>



**We don’t have this now. Instead, through co-governance, we have racism, apartheid, racial division, and separatism.**

**Neil Gordon:** If you need a reason to embrace the Treaty and co-governance - aside from it being the right thing to do - how about self-interest?

**Wrong. It's not the right thing to do. It's the wrong thing to do.**

**Neil Gordon:** You could argue that Pākehā would be better to sort this out now while they still hold all the cards.

**Pakeha “sorted it out” when the Treaty was signed in 1840. The ‘stone in the shoe’ has been created by activists and left wing woke liberals who have twisted the Treaty over 40 years, making it say what it was never intended to say.**

**Neil Gordon:** New Zealand is rapidly transitioning from a predominantly European-origin population to a multi- ethnic society.

**Wrong. We are already a multicultural society. There are 160 cultures living in this country.**

**Neil Gordon:** In 1996, our European-origin population was 82 per cent; by 2026 it is projected to account for 62 per cent. The future is young and brown.

**Really, Maori are only 14% of the population. As I have already said, no matter what the colour of our skin, the Treaty binds us to:**

- 1. One person one vote**
- 2. All votes of equal value.**
- 3. Democracy.**
- 4. Equality.**
- 5. All people being treated equally.**
- 6. One law for all**

**Neil Gordon:** Pākehā should, finally, do the right thing and embrace the Treaty or kick the can down the road and face the wrath of a justifiably impatient younger generation.

**Wrong. The answer for the “impatient younger generation” is to learn history, study it, memorise it, especially the Treaty, so that when they talk / write, they do so from knowledge and experience, not from a place of ignorance, dogma and fantasy.**

**The truth of the matter is that the “impatient younger generation” have been deliberately targeted / groomed for the past 40 years to ‘go with’ the government propaganda and lies about the Treaty and our history. The author of this newspaper piece is a perfect example of how a white woke ignorant brainwashed Treaty Twister thinks.**

\* Napier event manager Neill Gordon was one of the organisers of Monday’s meeting alongside David Van Oeveren, Jill McDonald, Maxine Boag and Geraldine Travers.

