

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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In 2019, Professor Robert Wade (London School of Economics) visited his homeland, New Zealand. He discussed the reasons why Trumpian-style politics could last for 30 years. Several months before his talk, a New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade briefing reminded the government that, at the global level, economic and security issues had resulted in widespread populist sentiment: ‘elected leaders, appealing to their political bases, are pursuing nativist and protectionist policies and rejecting globalisation and the institutions that support and enforce it’ (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2019). This reference to populism was also flagged as a threat in a New Zealand Defence Force report, which argued that the increasing gap between rich and poor was fostering nationalist movements in the region and elsewhere.

New Zealand is evidently not immune to populism; however, the 2017 general election result suggested that the extent of discontent evident in jurisdictions elsewhere had yet to resonate with New Zealand voters. Through an analysis of survey data gathered through the New Zealand Election Study (NZES), this volume examines the question of whether, in 2017, New Zealand proved to be a ‘populist exception’.

The NZES has a long tradition—the 2017 ‘wave’ is the 10th since its first outing in 1990. The next study, for 2020, already in preparation, will mark 30 years of a continuous time series. The 2017 study was led by Jack Vowles at Victoria University and supported by a team of scholars from universities across New Zealand. As editors of this volume, we have benefited greatly from the insights of our colleagues Lara Greaves (University of Auckland), Janine Hayward (University of Otago) and Fiona Barker, Kate McMillan and Matthew Gibbons (Victoria University of Wellington). This volume has been a wholly collaborative effort.

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References

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand). (2019). *Strategic intentions 2019–2023*. Retrieved from www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us/MFAT-Strategic-Intentions-2019-2023.pdf

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