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Paper Title: **REDEFINING MAORI IDENTITY AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAORI AND PAKEHA**

Abstract:

The Maori community is redefining its role within New Zealand. This paper explores the emerging new identity of Maori in various contexts. It begins by addressing the role of the Treaty of Waitangi and exploring questions about the future of the Waitangi Tribunal as an institution, as well as its impact on the relationship between Maori and pakeha. Next, the paper assesses settlement claims coming out of the Waitangi Tribunal and the conflicting goals of both Maori and pakeha participating in the settlement process. Third, the paper explores the role of the Maori Land Court and questions currently being raised regarding Maori identity and land ownership structures. Fourth, the paper examines the political process and readjustments made within the Maori community to fit into the existing political structures in New Zealand. Finally, the paper concludes by exploring Maori urbanization and the changing concept of iwi in terms of tribal and pan-tribal groupings.

Maori identity in the future will be greatly influenced by the outcomes of debates discussed in this paper. The Treaty has been revived as a defining document in national government; however, its specific role in both legislative and judicial actions is somewhat unclear. Additionally, discussions surrounding an end date for Waitangi Tribunal claims are being initiated and will likely be resolved in upcoming years through the political process. A national debate is currently under way addressing the nature, size and exact goal of settlements, as well as the appropriate grouping of claimants. In the Maori Land

Court, skepticism about Crown intentions has been heightened after the Crown passed the Foreshore Seabed Act. One result of criticism over the Foreshore and Seabed Act is that Maori have become more active participants in the political process; however, there is still discussion over most effective way to advance their political agenda . Finally, a debate within the Maori community about definitions of tribal identity has been sparked with the availability of substantial amounts of national money for iwi through settlement claims.

Maori identity has been evolving since the 1970s and will continue to evolve in years to come. The issues raised in this paper will have great impact on the emerging new Maori identity, and will shape discussions of the future.