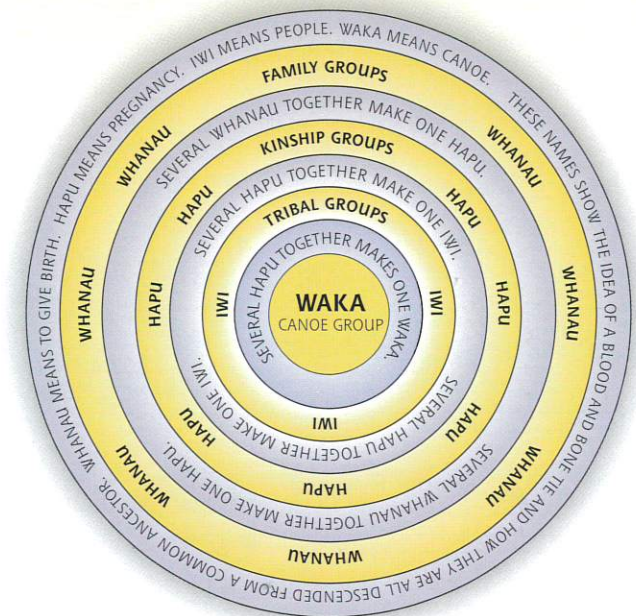


By 1500 AD the population had grown to a point where competition for the better areas was fierce. Small groups of related hapu (extended family) started to join together for protection and to help each other in food production. By this stage most of the early New Zealanders had a knowledge of the shape and landscape of New Zealand. There was no need, however, to join other iwi in the sense of a nation. Occasionally iwi allied themselves together for protection from raids from other iwi groups. There was never an alliance of all the iwi under one organisation.



resource
2

At the time of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi each iwi governed its own tribal area. The most powerful chief was referred to as the paramount chief of the iwi.

Common tribal members could debate issues on their whanau's marae. Their chief or head of the whanau could then take undecided issues at the whanau level to the hapu marae. After further debate decisions were either made or the issue was brought to the paramount chief's marae for his advice.

Even though there was no idea of a government for all Maori tribes, many Maori chiefs signed a Declaration of Independence in 1835. This suggests that there was some idea of iwi having things in common.

resource
3

Why was this system replaced by a European style of government?

- This system was tribal and based on distinct tribal areas.
- Maori did not think of New Zealand as one nation.
- The huge numbers of people making up the second wave of immigrants thought of New Zealand as one place and wanted one national government system.
- Because New Zealand became a colony of Great Britain, a system of government similar to Britain's was established.
- The new immigrants had no tribal relationships.