

TABLE 7.1 A Framework for Constitutional Change

Starting points	Process	Outcomes
A single, independent nation state	Establishment of two parallel constitutional commissions	The notion of a single nation state can potentially accommodate the Māori quest for autonomy
Recognition of indigenous rights	Māori commission to ascertain Māori aspirations and priorities	New Zealand's constitutional arrangements will reflect the heritage and aspirations of its peoples
Māori self-governance	Two commissions to reach consensus and to recommend an approach for wider agreement	There will be an explicit set of values, arrangements and agreements that will form the basis of an Aotearoa New Zealand constitution
The Treaty of Waitangi relationship	Agreement to depend on agreement between voters on the Māori roll and the General Roll	Decisions on republicanism, a head of state, and a written constitution will be made

CHAPTER 8

Māori in Governance: Parliament, Statutory Recognition, and the State Sector

Introduction

From the early colonial period, when paternalistic Crown protection obviated any entitlement to direct participation in directing the affairs of the new state, the Māori of New Zealand now have a more explicit involvement in several spheres of governance. The increased levels of Māori participation have mirrored dynamic change within the nation, but also transformations at global levels as indigenous peoples the world over have sought new relationships with states and more roles in decision making. As part of that process there has been a re-evaluation of the rationale for fair representation, a greater awareness of the privileges conferred by treaties, a corresponding acknowledgment of the rights of under-represented groups, and increasing concern about disparities between groups who live side by side but experience quite different levels of well-being. Sometimes the distinctions between those groups have been blurred so that indigenous relationships with the state have been variously interpreted on demographic, historic, socio-economic, or democratic grounds. Often these interpretations are all relevant, although any special indigenous claim to participation in governance cannot be entirely explained as a function of minority status or in terms of disparities in standards of living.

In the New Zealand context, Māori involvement in governance is not new: four Māori seats were established in the House of Representatives in 1867; two Māori members were appointed to the Legislative Council in 1872; and Māori participation in