

**C Grade: Round 2**

*That Australia and New Zealand should unify as a single country*

Australia and New Zealand are similar countries in many ways. Both are former British Colonies with similar systems of government; both are located in close proximity to each other; and both are culturally similar in many ways. Despite this, New Zealand declined to become an Australian State at Federation and instead decided to forge its own path.

In many ways New Zealand has managed to create its own distinct identity. New Zealanders have great pride in their national sporting teams, scenic wilderness and progressive social policy. The New Zealand Parliament has reserved seats for Maori people, which contrasts with the absence of reserved seats in Australia. These differences not only make it difficult to integrate the two countries, but also raise greater questions about how New Zealand's identity would survive if the two did integrate.

However, New Zealand and Australia still share strong bonds as evidenced by the large amount of travel between the two countries each year. Additionally, Australia and New Zealand each have special provisions in place to allow citizens from each other the ability to access certain forms of healthcare, welfare payments, universities and visas that other countries don't have access to. Sharing a common currency could potentially further enhance trade between Australia and New Zealand. Maybe strengthening these bonds through unification would be in the best interests of both countries.

**Some questions to consider:**

- What would a unified country look like? What would change for Australia? What would change for New Zealand? What would Parliament look like?
- Are there ways to facilitate closer relations with New Zealand without unification? What are these? Should we pursue them instead?
- What are the similarities between Australia and New Zealand's culture? What about the differences? How does this help or hinder unification?
- What sorts of trade do Australia and New Zealand engage in? What are the benefits or disadvantages of a common currency?
- How would this impact representation of New Zealand's Maori people? What about Australia's indigenous people?

**Some articles to consider:**

- <http://www.smh.com.au/business/comment-and-analysis/its-time-to-merge-australia-and-new-zealand-20150416-1mmdft.html>
- <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezview/australia-new-zealand-is-just-better-than-us/news-story/751b731ad94faeebbc8629ff7eec8293>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/apr/26/australia-ripping-off-new-zealand-with-citizenship-changes>
- <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/australia/>
- <http://dfat.gov.au/geo/new-zealand/pages/new-zealand-country-brief.aspx>