

Book based on Nazi hold in NZ

An interest in totalitarian governments in Europe in the 1960s has led to a book by prominent Auckland author and broadcaster John Reynolds.

On Saturday, Reynolds addressed members of the Rotorua Writer's Group promoting his book, *Uncommon Enemy*.

"I explained how my experience of travelling through East Germany, Poland and Russia as a young man in the 1960s prompted an interest in totalitarian governments and how they control their populations" Reynolds told the Review.

"This interest was expanded when I spent time working in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in the 1970s.

"Roger Donaldson's film *Sleeping Dogs* (based on C.K. Stead's novel *Smith's Dream*) also intrigued me as the concept was based on the imposition of a totalitarian government on New Zealand." *Uncommon Enemy* is set in 1939-41 and is based on the concept of a Nazi occupation of New Zealand as the result of a surrender by British Empire and Commonwealth forces.

"It explores the reactions to the occupation by various groups and individuals within New Zealand – drawn from my own experience in New Zealand and overseas, and my research.

"My main aim, however, was to tell a good yarn!"

After qualifying as a teacher he travelled widely, taking up teaching positions in London, Saskatchewan (Canada) and Zimbabwe. During this period he also travelled extensively through Europe, Russia, North America and Africa.

After returning to New Zealand he completed a BA in History at the University of Auckland and, as a result of his filmmaking work with children he received a Creative New Zealand grant to complete an MA in Educational Media at San Jose University, California. Reynolds is also prominent in radio broadcasting, featuring often in Radio New Zealand's Sunday Supplement.