

Australia

Scott Pearson
Professor Emeritus
Stanford University

This essay focuses on the cultural, political, and economic history of Australia – Aboriginal settlement, British discovery and colonization, and independent Australia’s transformation. I include an addendum on Norfolk Island, part of Australia since 1914. I wrote these lectures for Stanford Travel/Study’s Australia Air Expedition (June-July 2007).

I begin with the Melanesian diaspora – the subsistence strategies of the Papuans in New Guinea and the Aborigines in Australia, the Papuan development of agriculture, and the cultural differences between the Papuans and the Aborigines. I next discuss British colonization (late-18th and 19th centuries) – conquest of Aboriginal territories, convict settlements, and wool and gold exports. I continue with independent Australia (20th century) – World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, postwar growth, and cultural conflicts. I then examine key 21st-century issues – Aboriginal land rights, protectionism, and multiculturalism. I close with Norfolk Island – convict settlement, in-migration of Pitcairn Islanders, and changes since the 1850s (whaling, bananas, and tourism). I append a time line, a bibliography, and a description of sites that I visited in Australia.

Papuans and Aborigines

Geography and Climate. During most of the period of human settlement in New Guinea and Australia, the two land masses were part of a single continent – Sahul. Following the end of the last Ice Age, by about 6000 BCE the sea level had risen almost 500 feet and divided Sahul. New Guinea became the world’s second largest island. The terrain is mountainous and extremely rugged, rises to 16,500 feet, and has permanent glaciers on the highest peaks. It is one of the wettest areas on earth, receiving over 100 inches of rain annually (more than 200 inches in the highlands).



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:20170903_Papouasie_Baliem_valley_12.jpg>

Baliem Valley, Western New Guinea, Indonesia

The equatorial climate varies only modestly from season to season and year to year. More than 70 percent of New Guinea is covered with dense tropical rainforest, and most of the soils are thin and of low fertility with the exception of some volcanic and alluvial soils in the lowlands and outlying islands. Only about one percent of the land area is arable, but the country contains extensive mineral resources, including copper, gold, oil, and natural gas.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Newguinea_topo.png>

Topographical Map of New Guinea

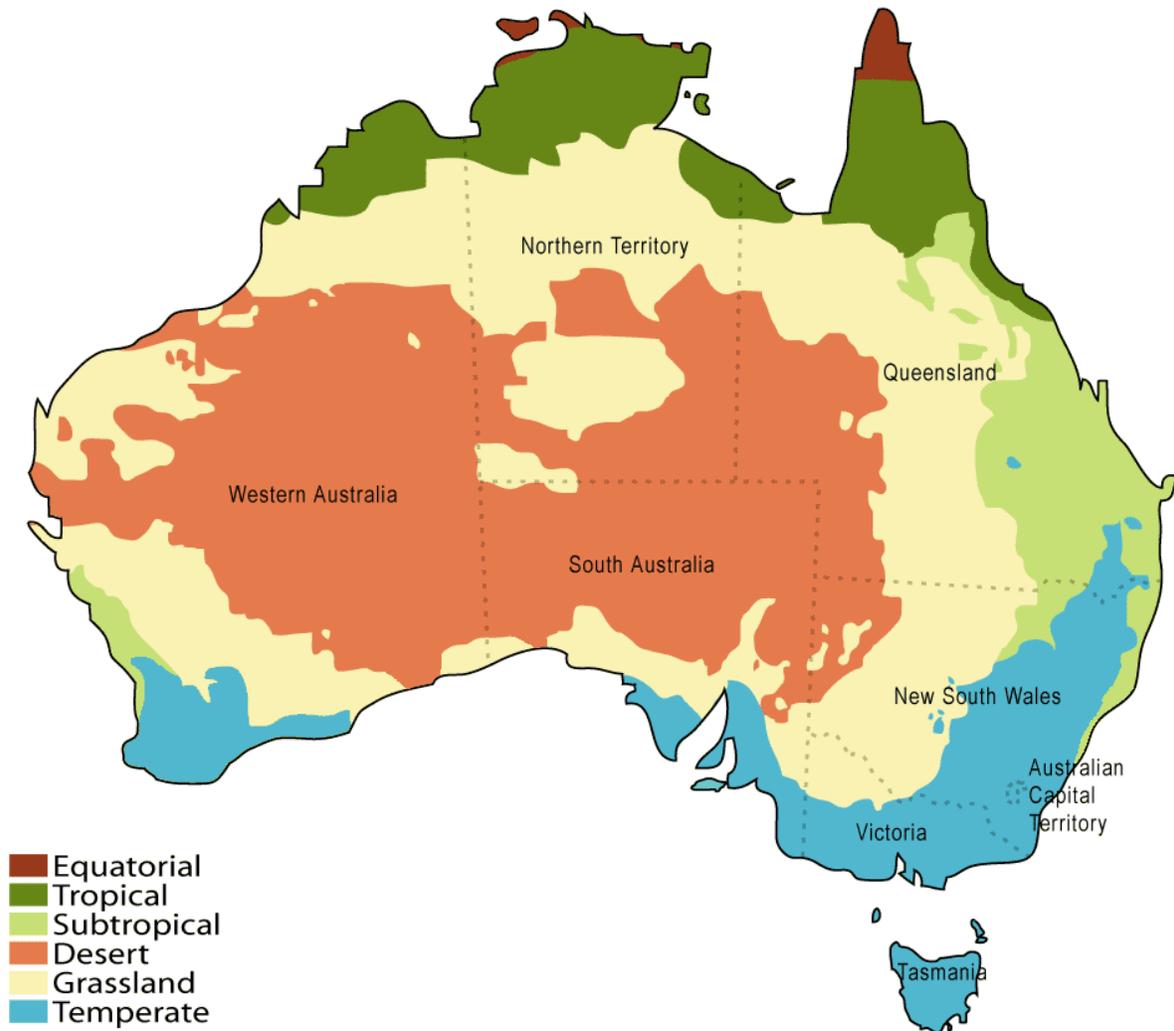
Australia is the smallest, flattest, and driest of the world's continents. About 94 percent of the country's area lies below 2,000 feet of elevation, and most of it receives less than 20 inches of rain per year. The lack of mountains, glaciers, and volcanic activity means that the soils are the oldest in the world, severely nutrient-leached and infertile.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Outback_view_from_Chambers_Pillar.jpg>

Arid Outback, Chambers Pillar, Northern Territory, Australia

Australia's northern regions are in the tropics, whereas the southeast and southwest lie in temperate zones. But over two-thirds of the continent's land mass is desert or semiarid. The climate in Australia is the most unpredictable in the world from year to year as well as extremely variable between seasons. Permanently flowing rivers are restricted to eastern Australia, and in severe drought years even those rivers dry up.

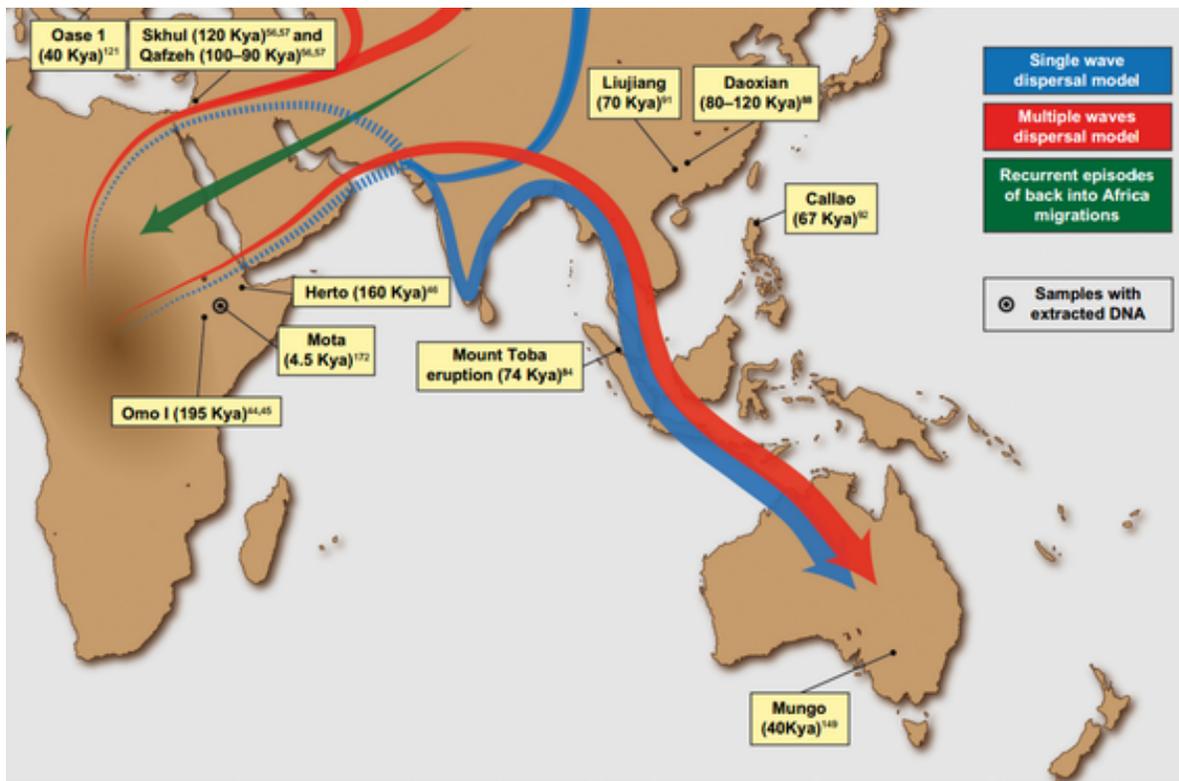


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia-climate-map_MJC01.png>

Climatic Regions of Australia

Settlement and Subsistence. The original human settlers of Sahul came from the islands that are now Indonesia at least 40,000 (and probably 45,000 to 50,000) years ago and first entered the coastal lowlands of northwestern New Guinea (the “bird’s head”). By 35,000

years ago, they had settled all of coastal New Guinea and much of coastal Australia, including the southwest, the southeast, and Tasmania. At Kuk, in highland New Guinea, there is evidence of widespread settlement 30,000 years ago.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Putative_migration_waves_out_of_Africa.png

Settlement of the Continent of Sahul (Present-day Australia and New Guinea), c. 40,000 BCE

By 10,000 years ago, Papuans had settled all of habitable New Guinea and its surrounding islands and Aborigines inhabited most of non-desert Australia. That pattern of settlement is evidenced in 154

archeological sites – 133 in Australia, 12 in New Guinea, and 9 in New Britain, New Ireland, and Manus Islands. Until 7,000 years ago, the Sahul continent supported only nomadic or semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jally_Cultural_Society_-_panoramio.jpg>

Papuan People, Yahukimo Regency, Western New Guinea, Indonesia

The Papuans and Aborigines had a detailed understanding of flora and fauna and moved based on knowledge of the seeding and fruiting times of plants and the breeding habits of animals. Their balanced diets included greens, nuts, seeds, yams, and bulbs, supplemented by game,

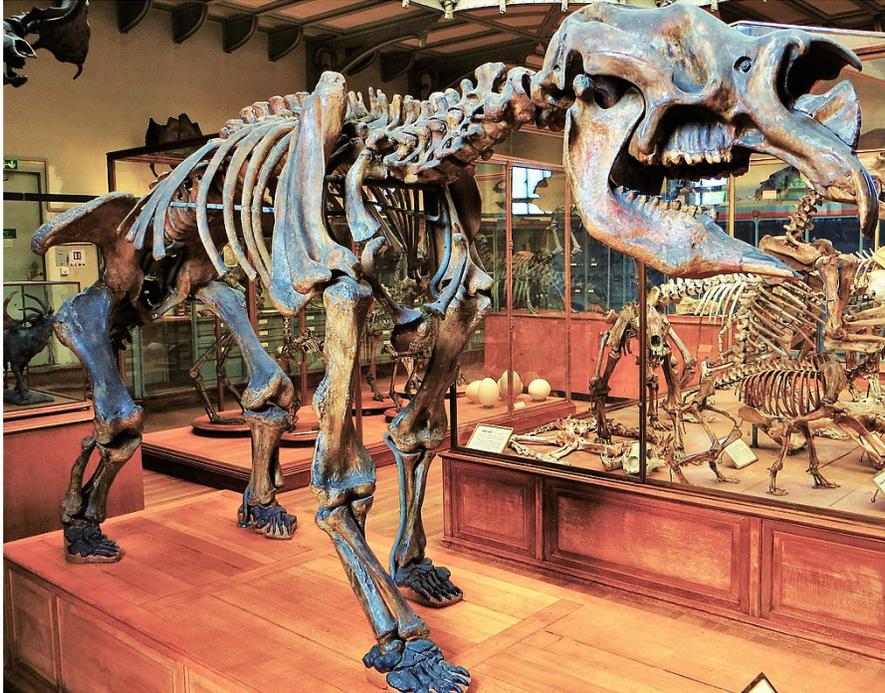
fish, and shellfish on the coasts. They had no farming, no domesticated animals, no metals, and engaged in limited trade.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at <
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Aboriginal_Culture_011.jpg>

Australia Aboriginal Culture – Elemental Technology, Balanced Diets

Their elemental technology was based on stone, wood, bone, and shell tools. But they worked out means of managing their forest, grassland, or marine environments with fire, stone axes, nets, and traps. The early settlers hunted some Pleistocene megafauna to extinction – rhino-like diprotodons and panda-like Huli beasts in New Guinea and giant diprotodons, kangaroos, wombats, and flightless birds in Australia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Diprotodon_australis_skeleton_1.JPG>

Cast of a Diprotodon Australis Skeleton, the Largest Known Marsupial Mammal – National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France

Agriculture and Adjustment. Between 11,000 and 9,000 years ago, New Guinea experienced climatic change. Temperatures rose (about 10 degrees Fahrenheit) and rainfall increased. The New Guinea highlands are thought to be one of the world's nine centers where agriculture emerged independently. Archaeological digs have uncovered extensive terracing systems for soil retention, vertical drainage networks, field water channels, and forest clearing. Highland

farmers used tillage, compost (grass, vines), organic fertilizer (ash, manure), and possibly the world's first legume crop rotations.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Huli_wigman.jpg>

*Huli Wigman, Hela Province, Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea
– Practices Traditional Agriculture, Using Compost, Ash, and Manure*

Papuans domesticated taro, *Australimusa* bananas, yams, sugarcane, breadfruit, *Canarium* almonds, and various edible grass stems, roots, and green vegetables. But no cereal crops or large mammals were domesticated, and thus the food system did not provide adequate protein. After over-harvesting the native pine and beech

forests, the Papuans engaged in silviculture, planting casuarinas trees to supply timber, wood, and fuel.

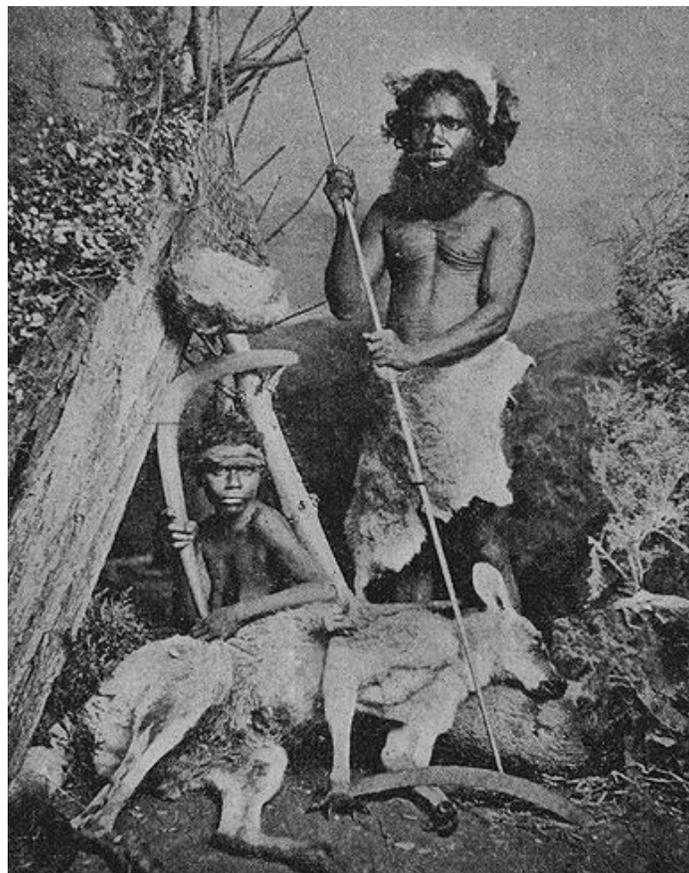


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Songe-R%C3%A9union.JPG>>

Taro (Colocasia esculenta) – Staple Food Crop in Papua New Guinea

In Australia, however, the Aborigines never practiced agriculture. They faced severe natural obstacles – an arid climate, frequent droughts, and infertile soils. Australia lacked domesticable plants (the only modern crop indigenous to Australia is macadamia nuts) and had no domesticable animals. There was no transfer of agriculture because southeastern Australia (the region with highest agricultural potential)

was separated from highland New Guinea by 2,000 miles of different ecological landscape. Lacking agriculture, the Aborigines made adjustments, developing techniques for processing the highly poisonous plant, macrozamia (*Cycas*), into edible starch and building complex canal and trap systems that served as fish farms for fresh water eels.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indigenous_Australian_Hunters_1901_Korensky.jpg>

Aboriginal Hunter-Gatherers in Australia, Adjusted with Cycads and Eels – Photograph by Josef Korensky, Near Stratford, Victoria, 1901

Culture and Society. The high ridges and steep canyons of New Guinea separated human settlement, and out of this fragmentation emerged numerous small village societies, distinct languages, and continual warfare. About 1,000 of the world's 6,000 contemporary languages are found only in New Guinea. The largest of the 12 Papuan language families has only 100,000 speakers, and most have less than 500. Most Papuans lived as farmers in settled villages, organized into small but highly competitive tribes. Each village was led by a "big man" who ruled by force of personality rather than due to heredity.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:People_of_Papua_New_Guinea_\(48991058107\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:People_of_Papua_New_Guinea_(48991058107).jpg)>

*Papuan Chief (“Big Man”), Mt. Hagen Sing-Sing Festival –
Wearing Bird-of-Paradise Plumage in His Headdress*

The Papuans made bows and arrows, pottery, and a wide variety of utensils, and they built sophisticated dwellings and seaworthy boats. Agriculture supported much higher population densities than hunter-gatherer lifestyles did. New Guinea’s peak population of one million was more than three times that of Australia, and New Guinea has only one-tenth of Australia’s area.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sago_Palm_being_harvested_for_Sago_production.PNG.jpg>

*Sago Palm Harvest of Starchy Food –
East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea*

Because of ecological isolation in Australia, the Aboriginal hunter-gatherer communities formed small, tight-knit units that had no tradition of uniting as a larger force for a common purpose. The 500 Aboriginal tribes were based on common language, religion, family relationships, sung myths, and oral history, and they defended restricted territories. Population densities in Australia were very low, and the pre-contact Aboriginal population peaked at about 300,000.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1981_event_Australian_aboriginals.jpg>

Torres Strait Aboriginal Dance Company, Nambassa Trust, 1981

Aboriginal culture emphasized spiritual relationships – traditions, totems, taboos, and links to nature – rather than material accumulation. The Aborigines elaborated their spirituality with rock paintings, most created in the past 5,000 years. Their few material innovations included boomerangs, spearthrowers, sewn skin capes, and bark canoes.

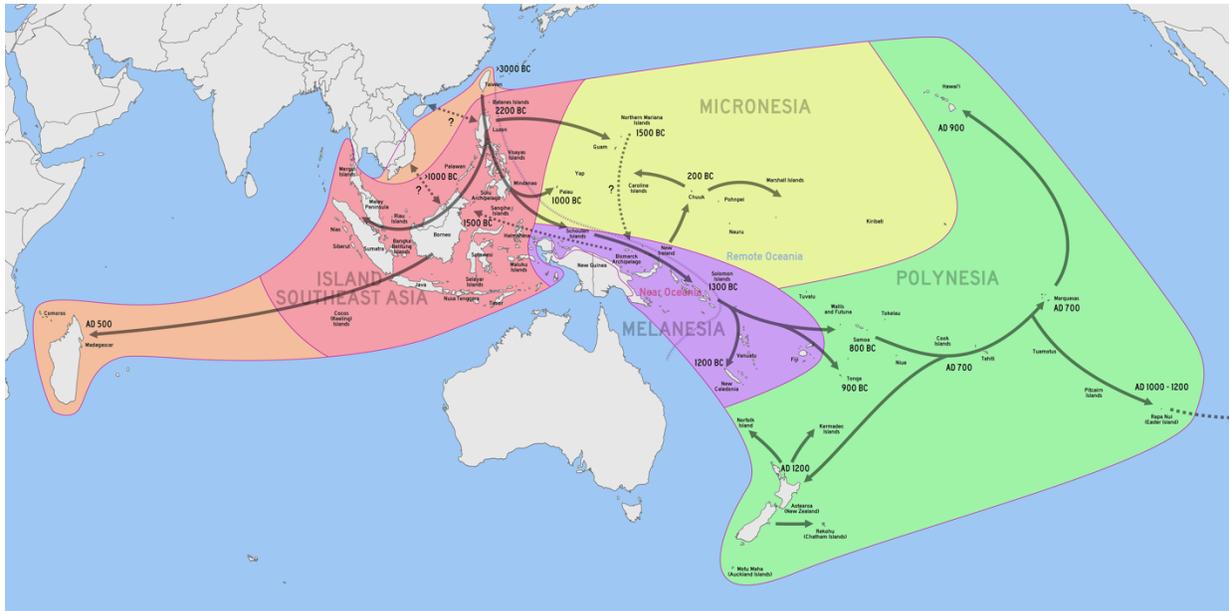


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bradshaw_rock_paintings.jpg>

*Aboriginal Rock Paintings –
King Edward River, Kimberley Region, Western Australia*

Austronesians. For more than 35,000 years after initial settlement, social, political, and economic organization in New Guinea evolved in isolation from outside influences. The Austronesian migration of Malayo-Polynesian peoples reached coastal New Guinea about 1500 BCE and later moved on to the various island groups of the

Pacific. Australia remained isolated for another three millennia because the Austronesians did not discover the southern continent.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chronological_dispersal_of_Austronesian_people_across_the_Pacific_\(per_Benton_et_al.,_2012,_adapted_from_Bellwood,_2011\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chronological_dispersal_of_Austronesian_people_across_the_Pacific_(per_Benton_et_al.,_2012,_adapted_from_Bellwood,_2011).png)

The Austronesian Diaspora from Taiwan, c. 3000 BCE-1100 CE – Reached New Guinea, c. 1500 BCE

Agriculture had been practiced in New Guinea for more than 3,000 years. But the Austronesian expansion brought domesticated animals (dogs, pigs, and chickens), additional crops (coconuts and new aroids), and sophisticated pottery (Lapita red-slipped earthenware) to New Guinea and its outlying islands.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Junglefowl_\(male\)-9858._crop.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Junglefowl_(male)-9858._crop.jpg)>

*Male Red Junglefowl, Ancestor of Chickens in Southeast Asia –
First Domesticated by Austronesians, c. 3000 BCE*

The introduction of advanced navigational skills and better marine technology (double-hulled canoes) intensified cultural contact and connected New Guinea to the more advanced societies of Java and China. Luxury items from China and Southeast Asia – bronze drums, Chinese porcelain, and silk – were exchanged for bird-of-paradise plumes, spices (nutmeg and cloves), and aromatic wood (sandalwood). However, geographic barriers limited the Austronesian expansion to the coastal regions of New Guinea, notably the northern and southeastern

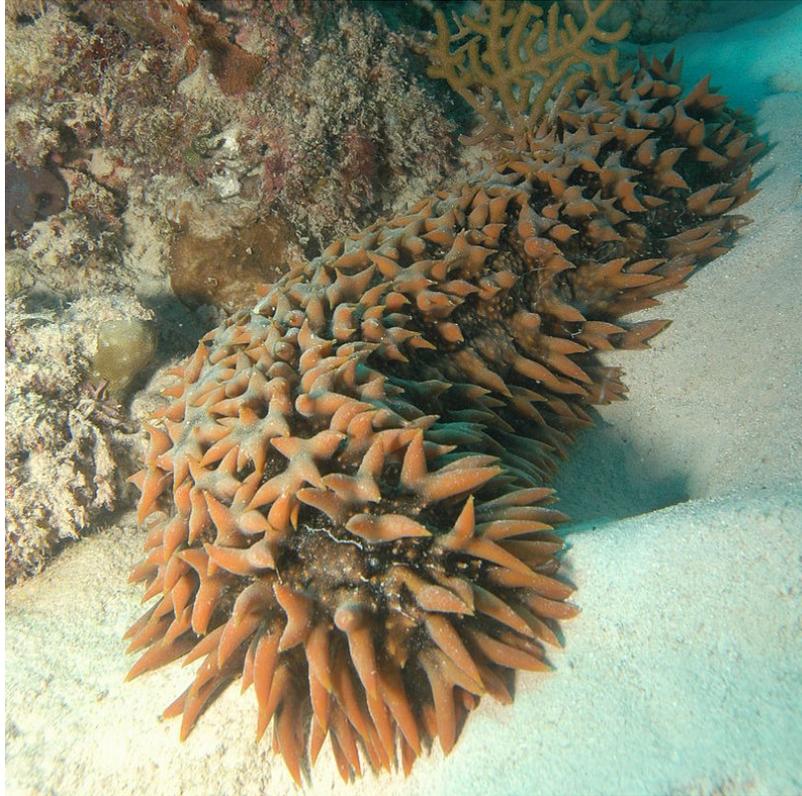
coasts. The Papuan peoples of highland New Guinea thus retained their separate cultures and traditions.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hokule%27aSailing2009.jpg>>*

*Hokule'a –
Modern Replica of an Austronesian Double-hulled Catamaran*

The Aborigines in Australia remained isolated much longer than the Papuans had done. The first foreigners to visit Australia were Makassarese (Indonesians), who came to northwest Australia in the 15th century to fish for trepang (sea cucumbers) to export to China as a delicacy and aphrodisiac. The Europeans followed a century later.



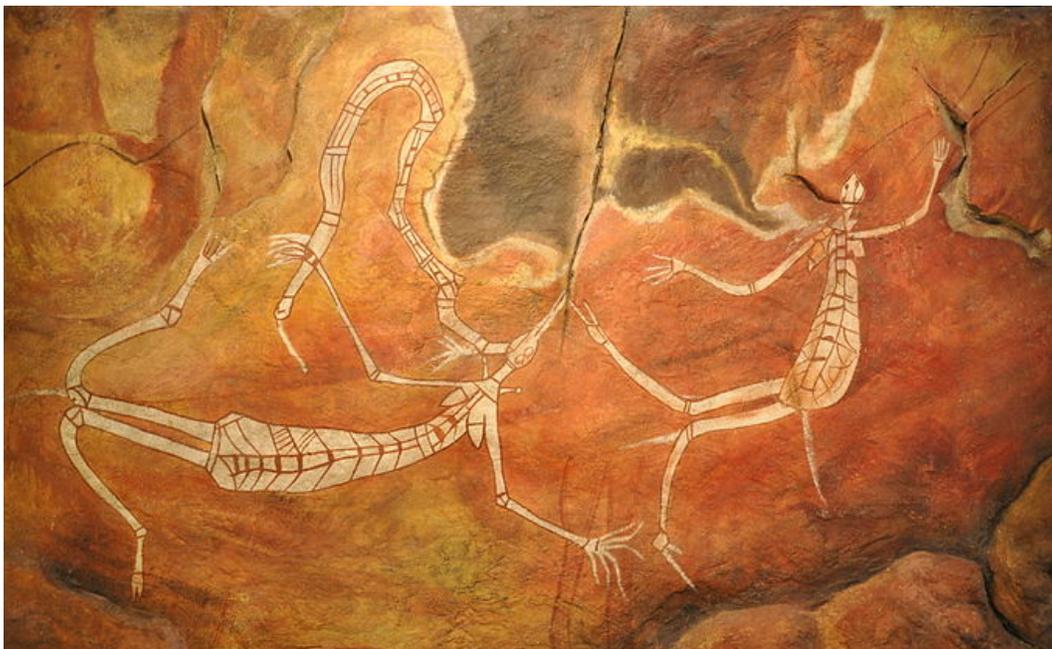
Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thelenota_ananas.jpg>

*Giant Sea Cucumber (Thelenota ananas) –
First Attracted Austronesian Fishermen to Australia in the 15th century*

Papuans and Aborigines. The population of New Guinea was only one million people prior to the introduction of Western medicine, far below the levels that gave rise to writing and complex political systems in other ancient cultures. The pre-contact Aboriginal population of Australia was only about 300,000. How did those two cultures react to opportunities and threats in the 40 millennia before European contact?

Because the Papuans in New Guinea were fragmented politically and materialistic, conflicts over land and power led to incessant warfare.

The Aborigines in Australia were also decentralized politically, but they lived in relative peace because their culture emphasized spirituality.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Namaroto_spirits_and_the_Rainbow_Serpent_Burlung.jpg>

*Rainbow Serpent, Anthropology Museum, Brno, Czech Republic –
Potent Totem for Spiritual Aborigines*

To maintain balance between population and food supplies, both Papuans and Aborigines engaged in population control measures – abstinence, child spacing, infanticide, and war (in New Guinea). The highland Papuans developed crop agriculture 7,000 years ago to enhance

food supplies, and some Aborigines, lacking agriculture, evolved techniques of eel farming. Both groups hunted Pleistocene megafauna to extinction and over-exploited their forestry resources. The Papuans adjusted by hunting more small game (small animals, birds, fish, and shellfish on the coast) and planting casuarinas trees (an early example of silviculture).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Casuarina_equisetifolia_tree.jpg>

Casuarina Tree (Casuarina equisetifolia)– Key in Papuan Silviculture

The Aborigines also switched to small game and introduced techniques for processing edible starch from poisonous cycads. Highland Papuans were free of malaria, and tropical diseases initially protected New Guinea from European incursions. But diseases in Australia were an insufficient threat to Europeans, and the Aboriginal population declined by 80 percent after European arrival. Both ancient cultures were highly vulnerable to European germs and guns.

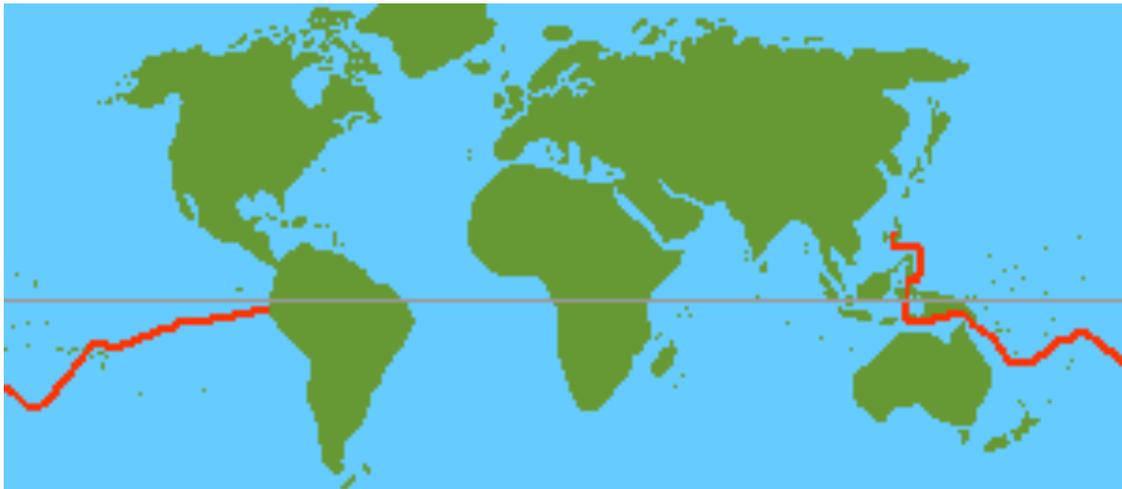


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aboriginal_hollow_log_tombs02.jpg>

Aboriginal Hollow Log Tombs – National Gallery, Canberra

Aborigines and Convicts in 19th-century Australia

European Discovery and Exploration. The Portuguese were likely the first Europeans to sight Australia in the early 16th century. In the second half of the 16th century, the Spanish began to explore the Pacific on excursions from the west coast of Spain's South American possessions. In 1606, Luís Vaz de Torres sailed through the straits that now bear his name, but he was almost certainly oblivious to the presence of an enormous continent to the south of his route.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Torres_journey.PNG>

Route from Peru to the Philippines of Luís Vaz do Torres, 1605-1607 – Discoverer of the Torres Strait Between Australia and New Guinea

Conscious discovery and exploration began with the Dutch.

Following some sightings of the north coast, several ships, traveling east

from Cape Town and heading for Java, hit upon the western coast of Australia. The first was the *Eendracht*, captained by Dirck Hartog, which landed and constructed a memorial at Shark Bay in 1616. In 1626-1627, Pieter Nuyts mapped 1,000 miles of the southern coast.

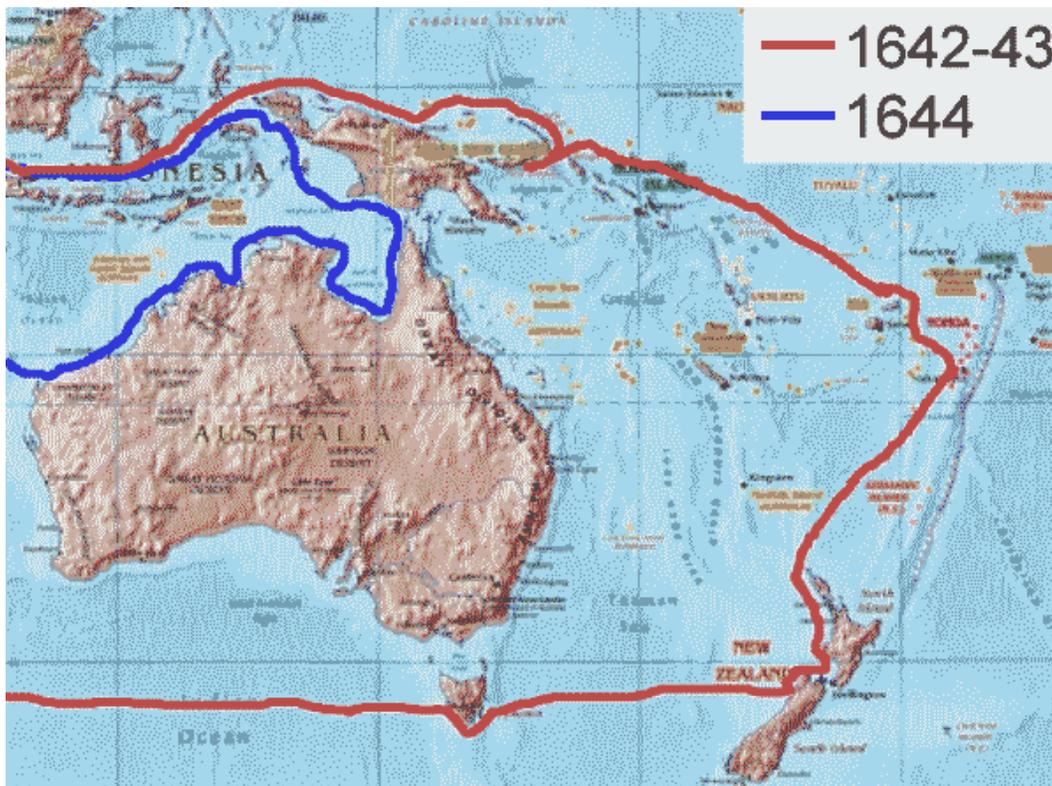


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vereenigde_Oostindische_Compagnie_spiegelretour_schip_Amsterdam_replica.jpg>

Replica of an East Indiaman Ship of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) – The Major Force Behind the Dutch Exploration of Australia

Perhaps the most notable Dutch explorer was Abel Tasman, who in 1642 sailed around the west coast and then sighted the west coast of Van

Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), before continuing on to explore New Zealand. Following Tasman's exploration of Australia's north coast in 1644, the continent came to be called New Holland.

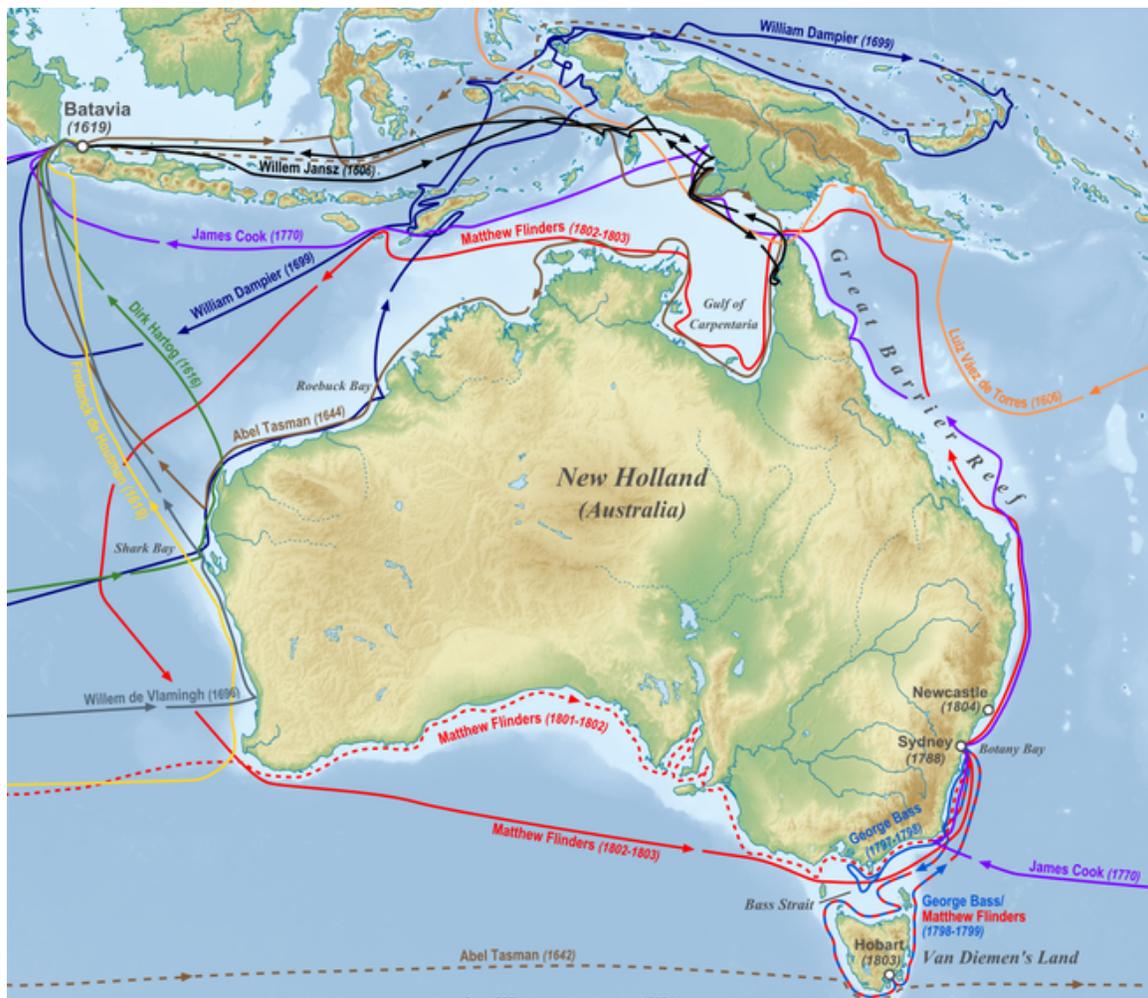


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tasmanroutes.PNG>>

*Abel Tasman's Explorations of the Australasian Region –
1642-1643 (Red) and 1644 (Blue)*

The next great exploration effort was of the west coast by the British pirate, William Dampier, in 1699-1700. Yet the impetus for colonization did not come until after the voyages of James Cook, whose several landings on the southeastern coast of Australia in the *Endeavour*

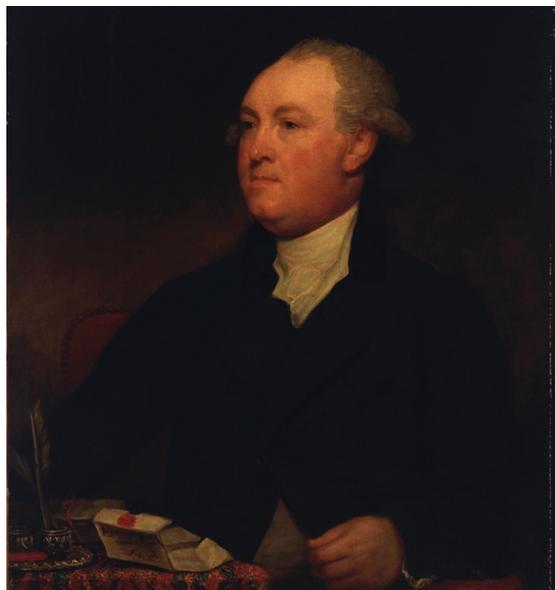
(1770) revealed what appeared to be lush, productive areas far more suitable for settlement than the harsh, arid western and southern coasts. In particular, Botany Bay captured Cook's imagination, and he named the territory New South Wales and claimed it for England.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_discoveries_by_Europeans_before_1813_en.png

European Exploration of Australia (1606-1812) – Luis de Torres (Orange), Dirck Hartog (Green), Abel Tasman (Black), William Dampier (Dark Red), and James Cook (Purple)

The First Fleet. The British Government decided to settle New South Wales in 1786. Under Lord Sydney, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, plans were constructed to establish a penal colony of British convicts. The loss of the American colonies deprived Britain of a destination for the overflow of its prisons, and Australia provided a ready substitute. Moreover, naval rivalry with France contributed to Britain's desire to establish outposts in areas of strategic importance.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Viscount_Sydney_by_Gilbert_Stuart.jpg

Thomas Townshend, Lord Sydney (1733-1800), British Secretary for Home Affairs (1783-1789) – Set Up a Penal Colony in Australia

The First Fleet sailed from England in May 1787 and arrived in Botany Bay in January 1788. The Fleet comprised 11 ships, carrying

736 convicts (548 men and 188 women) and 294 free persons, principally naval servicemen. In 1770, Captain James Cook had seen Botany Bay only in the rainy season. At the time of the First Fleet's landing, it was obvious that soils were poor, water resources limited, and the harbor inadequate. Captain Arthur Phillip sailed north and discovered the harbor of Port Jackson a week later, and he initiated settlement at Sydney Cove, around which the city of Sydney grew.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_First_Fleet_entering_Port_Jackson,_January_26,_1788,_drawn_1888_A9333001h.jpg>

*The First Fleet Entering Port Jackson, Australia, January 1788 –
Lithograph by Edmund Le Bihan, 1888*

Initial settlement met with daunting challenges – disease, pests, unproductive land, and hostile Aborigines. The colony was saved only

by the arrival in 1790 of the second fleet, carrying many sickly convicts but also supplies and resources that enabled the fledgling colony to survive. Convicts were sent to Norfolk Island in unsuccessful attempts to exploit pine and flax growing there and to raise crops to feed the Sydney colony. Part of the expense of transporting convicts from Britain to Sydney was defrayed by the opportunity for ships to return by way of China, where they loaded cargos of tea.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Convict_ship_Neptune00.jpg>

*Neptune, A Convict Ship of the Second Fleet –
Arrived in Sydney, Australia, January 1790*

The Convict Colony. Most convicts were young, male, petty thieves from England. Of every twenty convicts transported to Australia, thirteen were English, six Irish, and one Scottish. A few of the Irish convicts, about one in fifty, were political prisoners. Later arrivals included people convicted of sabotaging the mechanization of agriculture in England and of conspiring to organize trade unions. The typical sentence was seven years, although many convicts already had served parts of their terms in English jails. Upon completion of the sentence, a convict was free to return to England but few could afford the voyage.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sketchbook_of_NSW_views_1817_Close_a2821039.jpg>

Australian Convict Settlers, Jailers, and Officials – Painting by Edward Charles Close, State Library of New South Wales, c. 1825

Before 1831, only 7,000 free migrants had arrived in total. But by the mid-1830s, more free migrants than convicts were arriving in the colonies. The white population of Australia then grew rapidly, reaching 405,000 by 1850. Most free migrants initially intended to sail for the United States. But the Australian colonies paid travel expenses to make migrants choose Australia instead. That subsidy permitted government agents to handpick immigrants, favoring young, healthy, skilled British tradesmen, and often women to correct gender imbalances in the

colonies. The growth of the free migrant population led to the decline of the convict system.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parramatta_Female_Factory.jpg>

*Female Penitentiary, Parramata, New South Wales, Australia –
Painting by Augustus Earle, National Library of Australia, c. 1826*

The stigma attached to a ‘convict colony’ and the fact that most crimes in Australia were perpetrated by escaped or former convicts set most free settlers against convictism. The rise of the wool industry meant that New South Wales no longer depended on British support tied to the convict system. Furthermore, the discovery of gold in the early 1850s convinced many in England that the convict system no longer

made sense. It seemed an odd punishment to send convicts to an area where they could easily make a fortune upon completion of their sentences.

New South Wales and Tasmania received their last convicts by 1855. Desperate to increase its population and failing to attract free settlers, Western Australia became a convict colony in 1850, desirous of receiving cheap labor and British subsidies. The last convicts arrived there in 1868. During the 80-year history of the convict transport system, 163,000 convicts were shipped to Australia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PortArthurPenitentiary.jpg>>

Male Penitentiary, Port Arthur, Tasmania, Australia – Pictured in 2008

The Rise of Australia's Wool Sector. Initial activities in the colonies of New South Wales and Tasmania included shipbuilding, sealing, and whaling. Sealskins, sandalwood, trepang, and coal were exported to China and India, but whale oil was Australia's first major export, for lighting and lubrication in Europe.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oswald_Brierly_-_Whalers_off_Twofold_Bay,_New_South_Wales,_1867.jpg

*Whaler Off Twofold Bay, New South Wales –
Painting by Oswald Brierly, Art Gallery of New South Wales, 1867*

Sheep had arrived with the First Fleet in 1788, but at first provided only the lowest quality wool. In 1813, the discovery of expanses of grasslands on the inland side of the mountains along the east coast

opened a tremendous opportunity for sheep-raising, and sheep were bred that were better suited to the Australian climate. The expansion brought the colonists into extensive conflict with Aborigines in the interior, when the Europeans desecrated and expropriated traditional lands. Guns and disease killed the majority of Aborigines in southeastern Australia. Those who survived faced a cultural onslaught in missions and on the fringes of towns or became laborers on the sheep stations.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aboriginal_farmers_at_Franklinford_1858.jpg>

Aboriginal Farmers, Franklinford, Victoria, 1858 – Published in Sun Pictures of Victoria: the Fauchery-Daintree Collection, 1858

Wool exports became important by the 1820s, and in the 1830s an area the size of Ireland was opened to new pasture every year. A breed of merino sheep, with the finest quality wool, proved well suited to the Australian climate. The availability of natural pasture and the lack of predators were also helpful.

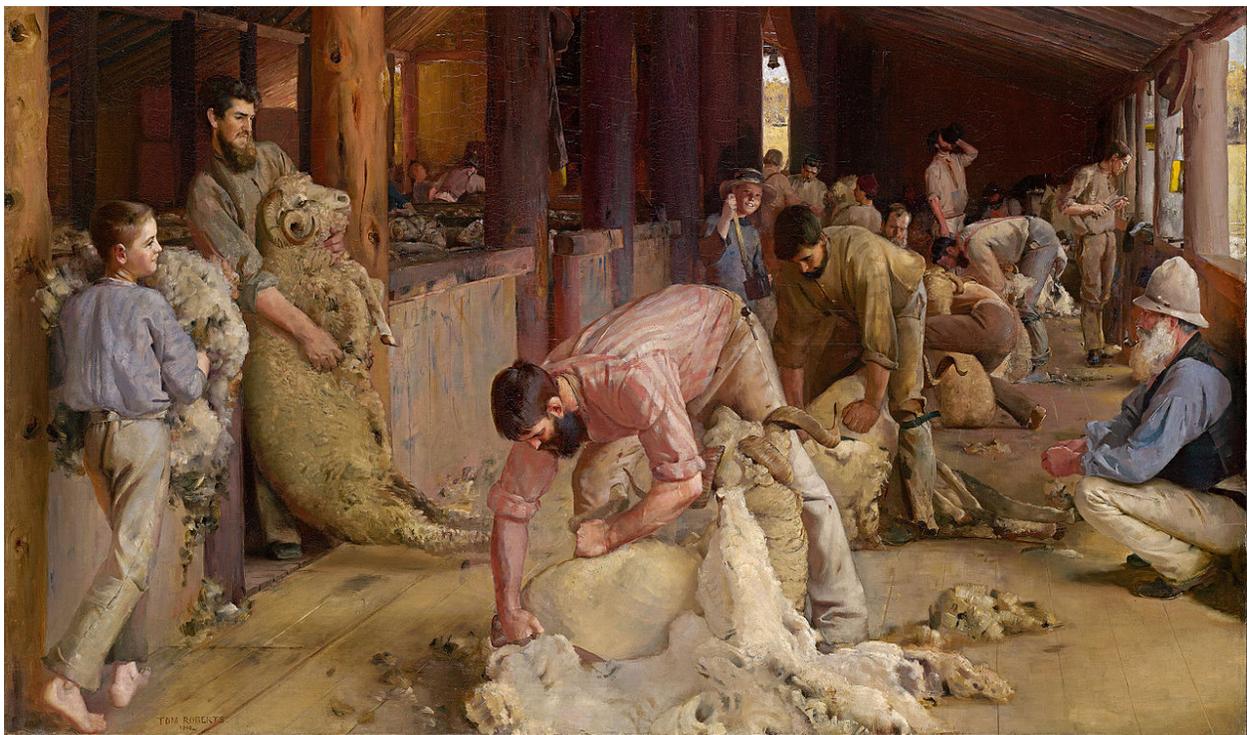


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walter_Withers_-_The_Drover,_1912.jpg>

*Driving Sheep to Market in Australia's Outback –
The Drover, Painting by Walter Withers, Bendigo Art Gallery, 1912*

The onset of the Industrial Revolution in Europe fueled growth in demand for wool, and by mid-century Britain imported more wool from Australia than from Germany, Spain, and the rest of Europe combined.

Australia's annual wool output increased tenfold between 1850 and 1890. The rise of the wool industry reoriented Australia toward Europe, the primary source of demand, and away from Asian markets that had bought earlier Australian exports. In all but 20 years between 1835 and 1975, wool was Australia's leading export.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tom_Roberts_-_Shearing_the_rams_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

*Shearing the Rams –
Painting by Tom Roberts, National Gallery of Victoria, 1890*

The Rise of Australia's Mining Sector. In 1842, copper was found near Adelaide, which became the first center of metal mining in

Australia. The rich copper resources of Burra enabled the region to overtake Cornwall as a copper producer and attracted so many migrants that it became known as the Cornish corner of Australia. Gold was discovered in a creek on the western side of the Blue Mountains in early 1851, and richer gold fields were found near Melbourne later that year.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bendigo_Creek_ST_Gill.jpg>

Sluicing for Gold – Bendigo Creek, Victoria, 1850s

The government hoped to have the gold rushes proceed in a more orderly fashion than had the wool rushes earlier in the century.

Squatters had simply expanded their pastures as quickly as possible

without regulation. The goldfields were segmented into small individual plots, available for prospecting and exploitation upon payment of substantial monthly fees. Many diggers thus shared the initial gold discoveries, whereas the wool industry was concentrated in relatively few hands.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nerrena_Fossickers_in_the_Creek_Nerrena.jpg>

*Gold Miners (Fossickers) Sluicing for Gold in Nerrena Creek –
Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, 1850s*

However, extraction of deeper ores required more capital than individuals could raise, and in 1854 the restrictions provoked a rebellion

around the Ballarat mines in Victoria. The rebellion was ruthlessly crushed, but it compelled the government to permit miners and syndicates to stake larger claims. Thereafter, companies and cooperatives sank deep shafts and invested in heavy capital equipment. The gold rush fueled demand far beyond Victoria's productive capacity, leading to imports of flour from Chile, hay from South Australia, timber from Tasmania, liquor and clothes from England, and ice from Boston.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_chart_showing_the_great_nuggets_of_Victoria.jpg

The Largest Gold Nuggets of Victoria, 1850s-1880s – Supplement to the Australian Mining Standard, February 1891

The gold rushes attracted many new migrants, and the population of Australia jumped to over 1,000,000 by 1858. Two years of gold rush

migrants exceeded the total number of convicts transported to Australia over eighty years. By 1860, Victoria was the biggest colony with a population of 540,000, compared to only 76,000 in 1850. Gold output from Victoria peaked in 1856, and wool regained its position as Australia's leading export in 1870. In 1886, gold was discovered in Western Australia, attracting a series of rushes and justifying self-government there (as in the other five colonies in Australia). The last gold rush of the century took place in 1892-1893 with the finding of gold at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. By 1907, six Western Australian gold mines had paid more than one million pounds each in dividends; Victoria earlier had only one mine that lucrative.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalgoorlie_The_Big_Pit_DSC04498.JPG>

*Fimiston Open Pit (Super Pit) Gold Mine, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
– 2 miles Long, 0.9 Miles Wide, and 700 Yards Deep*

Immigrants and Minerals in 20th-century Australia

The Commonwealth of Australia. In the first half of the 19th century, the idea of self-government for prosperous colonies had gained momentum throughout the British Empire. The Canadian rebellion of 1837 compelled Britain to initiate moves toward self-governance. In 1848, Nova Scotia became the first British colony to govern itself in most areas except foreign policy. In 1850, the Australian colonies (except Western Australia) were invited to do the same.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tom_Roberts_Bourke_Street.jpg>

Australia Moved Toward Self-government in the 19th century – Bourke Street West (Melbourne), Painting by Tom Roberts, 1885

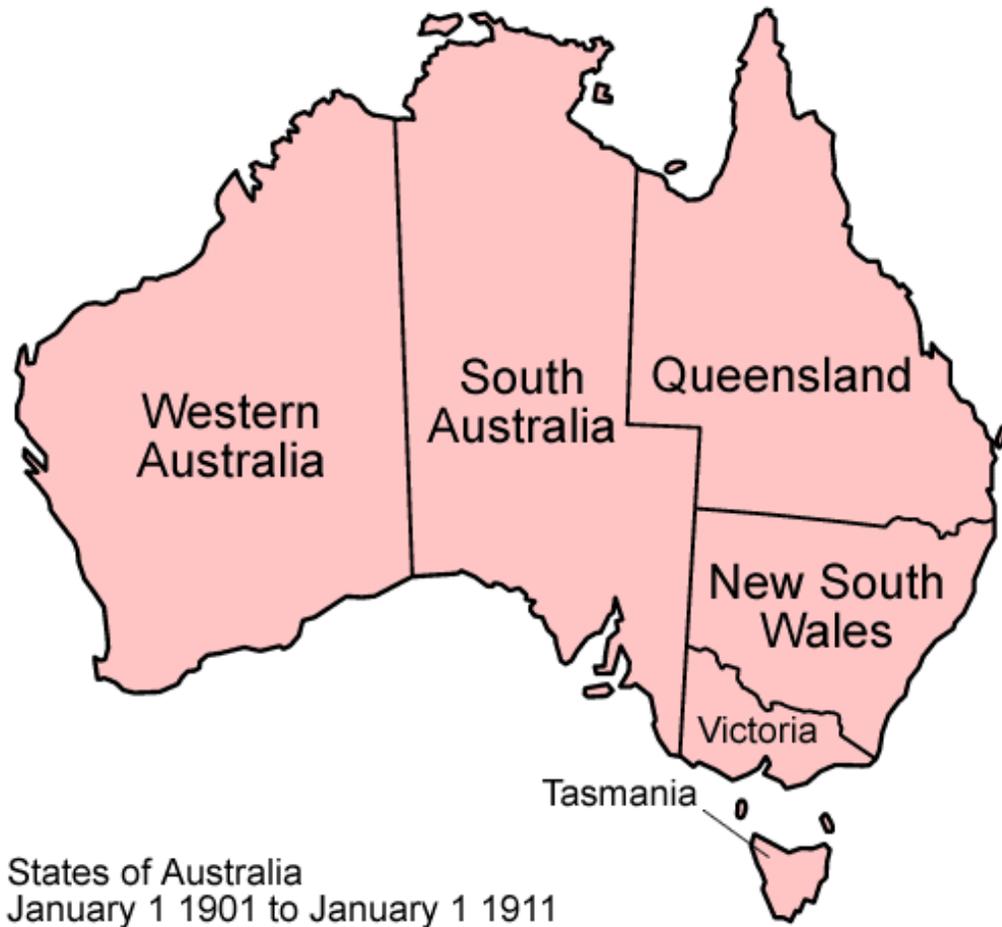
The 1890s was a period that challenged the separate, autonomous status of the six Australian colonies. Each colony ran its own postal system, tax collection, immigration procedures, and armed forces. However, disunity was a sign of weakness, particularly in the area of defense, and a movement toward federation arose. A leading political figure, Sir Henry Parkes, held a convention in 1891 to draw up a federal constitution for his proposed Commonwealth of Australia. Severe economic difficulties during the depression and drought of the 1890s prompted further efforts toward federation.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tom_Roberts_-_Bailed_up_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg>

*Australia Experienced Economic Difficulties in the 1890s—
Bailed Up, Painting by Tom Roberts, 1895*

In 1897-1898, the constitution was revised and submitted to the people of the colonies in a referendum. New South Wales, wary of domination from Victoria in a federal parliament, promised to join the federation only after the Victorians agreed to establish the capital in New South Wales, though not in Sydney. A new capital in Canberra was the result. The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed on January 1, 1901.



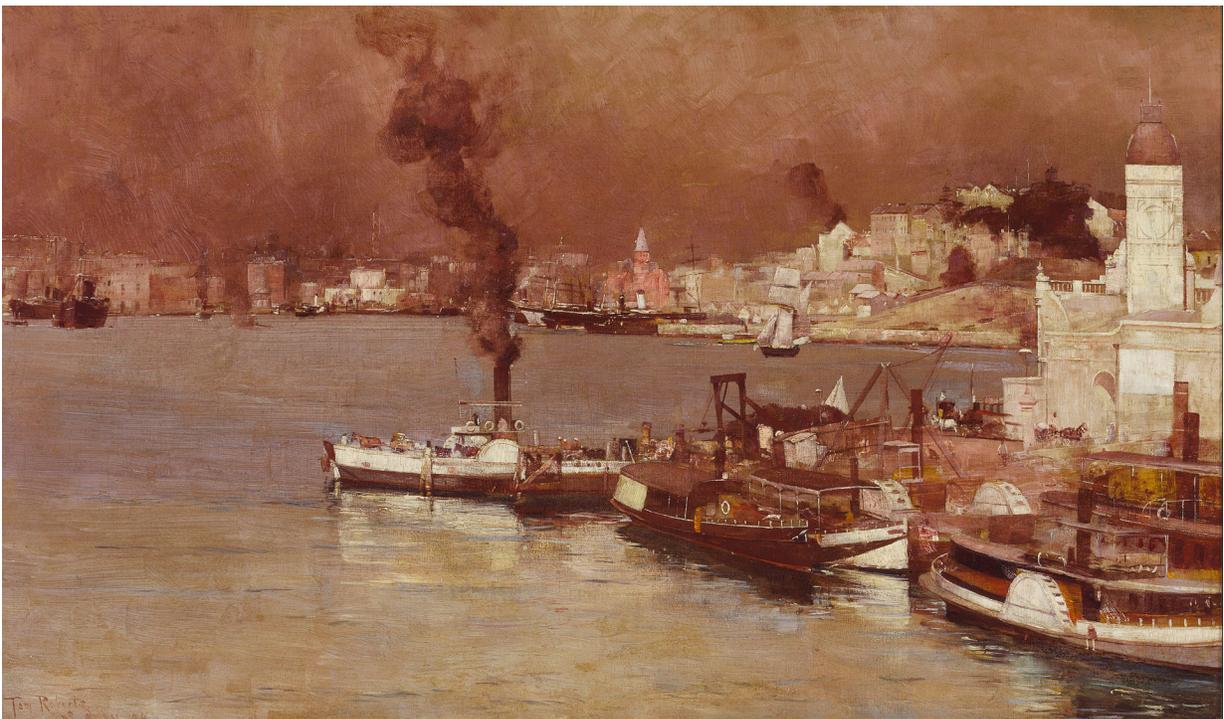
States of Australia
January 1 1901 to January 1 1911

Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_states_evolution.gif>

*Six Australian Colonies –
Federated as the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901*

From Federation to Independence. Despite the federation of the six states in the Commonwealth, the individual states remained powerful, controlling railways, prisons, police, education, lands and mines, and social welfare. Among the first federal acts in 1901 was a law restricting Asian immigration by way of a dictation test, requiring

all immigrants to write down a sentence dictated by an immigration officer in any European language. Chinese immigration, which had burgeoned during the gold rushes, came to a virtual halt. Australia's pool of cheap labor dried up, hurting in particular the Northern Territory and Queensland. Restriction of all coastal traffic to vessels owned and manned by Australians further isolated the country's tropical regions.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tom_Roberts -
An_autumn_morning,_Milson%27s_Point,_Sydney_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tom_Roberts_-_An_autumn_morning,_Milson%27s_Point,_Sydney_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)>

*Asian Immigration into Australia Was Halted by Restrictive Policies in
1901 – An Autumn Morning, Milson's Point, Sydney,
Painting by Tom Roberts, 1888*

High tariff walls were erected to promote growth of domestic industries, but agriculture and mining remained the most important sectors of the economy. Wool and gold were the two principal exports, followed by sugar, wheat, fruit, and dairy products. However, World War I disrupted Australia's export markets.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anzac,_the_landing_1915.jpg>

*Australian Troops Fought Courageously at Gallipoli in World War I—
Anzac, The Landing 1915,
Painting by George Washington Lambert, 1920-1922*

Though economically painful, that period promoted domestic industries because imports of steel and manufactured goods were stopped by German control of North Atlantic sea-lanes. Following the

war, those domestic industries, now vulnerable to competition, effectively lobbied for protection. Australia's significant contribution of men and supplies and its loss of 60,000 soldiers in the Allied war effort earned it a place at the negotiations table at the conclusion of the war, and it signed the 1919 Versailles peace treaty as an independent nation. Likewise, Australia represented itself at the convening of the League of Nations in 1920. Formal independence from Britain was granted in the Statute of Westminster in 1931.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WWI_Enlistment_Poster,_Australia.jpg>

*Australia Had Loyally Supported Great Britain in World War I –
Australia Gained Independence in 1931*

Depression and World War II. A coalition between the conservative Nationalist and Country parties held office as of 1922, under Stanley Bruce of the Nationalist Party as prime minister. His administration strongly supported Australian industry, resulting in an economy characterized by high tariffs, rising prices, and ballooning public debt. Those imbalances left Australia particularly vulnerable to the Great Depression, and unemployment soared to 25 percent. The resulting misery led to a change of government in 1929.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Unemployed_marching_to_see_Mitchell,_1931.jpg

Unemployed Men Marching to the Treasury Building in Perth, 1931

But the Labor Party proved equally unable to shield Australia from the global economic downturn and was ousted in 1934 by a coalition of the Country Party and the United Australia Party, formed of Nationalists and right-wing breakaways from Labor. The economy improved slightly, due more to market forces than to any concerted action on the part of government.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Menzies_Churchill_WW21941.jpg>

British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill (Seated) and Australian Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, 10 Downing Street, London, 1941

Nevertheless, internal divisions rather than paltry performance brought down the conservative coalition and returned the Labor Party to

power in 1941. Under Labor the formal ties to the British Empire were finally severed, when the Statute of Westminster was ratified in 1942 – partially as a step toward closer ties with the United States. Australia had supported Britain’s policy of appeasement toward Germany and Japan, but fought vigorously when war broke out. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, General Douglas MacArthur established the U.S. Pacific headquarters first in Melbourne and later in Brisbane, and Australia focused its efforts on the Pacific theatre, fighting the Japanese in New Guinea and supporting American efforts in the South Pacific.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Advisory_war_council_MacArthur_1942.jpg>*

American General Douglas MacArthur (Left) and Australian Prime Minister John Curtin, Melbourne, Australia, March 1942

Labor Government (World War II-1949). World War II provided a second spate of industrial development. To support the war effort, Australia manufactured a wide array of munitions, arms, tanks, and aircraft. The increase in factory workers and acquisition of skills (especially in manufacturing machine tools) seemed equally useful in peacetime, despite the country's comparative advantage in primary commodities, and once again the government was prompted to intervene to protect domestic industry.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1951-1953_Holden_50-2106_01.jpg>

*Domestic Industry in Post-war Australia Was Protected –
Holden 50-2106, Launched in 1951 and Manufactured Only in Australia*

A second result of the war was a realignment of military and economic relationships from Britain to the United States, due to the close relationship between Australian and American war efforts in the South Pacific and increasing penetration of American goods and culture into Australian markets. A third consequence was renewed efforts to attract immigrants, since the population of 7 million was seen as too

small for an effective defense in the event of another war. In previous waves of immigration migrants from Britain had dominated, but now people came from continental Europe – Italy, Greece, the Baltic, Ukraine, Poland, and Yugoslavia as well as Jewish holocaust survivors. About 3.5 million immigrants arrived between 1945 and 1973, more than in all the years between 1788 and 1944.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1910_White_Australia_badge.png>

*The White Australia Policy (1901-1973) –
Restricted Immigration into Australia to White People*

The Labor Party was able to maintain control for a period, having demonstrated a capacity for leadership during World War II, and it

presided over the beginning of the post-war economic boom. Wool and beef production spurred economic recovery. To sustain the recovery states resisted improvements in wages and working conditions for the Aboriginal labor force.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:George_Lambert_-_Weighing_the_Fleece,_1921.jpg>

Wool and Beef Production Spurred Economic Recovery in the 1940s – Weighing the Fleece, Painting by George Washington Lambert, 1921

Menzies Government (1949-1966). By 1949, the Liberal Party (descendent of the United Australia Party) effectively exploited the Cold War and fears of communism, painting Labor supporters as radical

socialists. Robert Menzies became prime minister and governed Australia in coalitions with the Country Party for the next 17 years.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robert_Menzies_1960_colour.jpg>*

Robert Menzies, Liberal Party, Longest-Serving Prime Minister of Australia (1939-1941, 1949-1966) – Photographed in 1960

Liberal Party governments presided over an era of stability and prosperity, during which Australia enjoyed an extended economic boom based largely on exports of wool, wheat, and minerals. Prosperity blunted trade union activity, and the Labor party suffered internal conflicts over its ambivalent stance toward communism, consolidating the conservative grip on political power. Global economic growth

permitted Australia to depend on primary commodity exports, while maintaining protectionist tariffs to support domestic industries.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whyalla_steel_works.jpg>*

*Onesteel Whyalla Steelworks, South Australia, Pictured in 2009 –
Benefited from the Liberal Party’s Protectionist Tariffs*

Wartime collaboration with the U.S., Britain’s efforts to rebuild its own economy, and the rise of new trading partners led to a reorientation in foreign policy. In particular, Japan looked more keenly to Australia for supplies of raw materials. Several mineral discoveries in the 1950s and 1960s reinvigorated the mining sector – bauxite, iron, oil and gas, manganese, nickel, uranium, coal, and more. Unlike the mining booms

in the previous century, driven by gold, that boom relied on base metals – industrial inputs that required heavily mechanized extraction methods.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whaleback_iron_mine_2020.jpg>

Whaleback Iron Ore Mine and the Town of Newman, Pilbara Region, Western Australia, Operated by BHP – NASA Satellite Image, 2020

The surge also spread mining activity to Aboriginal lands previously thought worthless. Aboriginal lands thus were expropriated and then defaced by gargantuan open pit and strip mines. Mining became the largest export earner as Australia became the world's leading exporter of several minerals, benefiting from new techniques in prospecting and extraction and growth of the Japanese market.

Further reliance on the U.S. emerged as Australia minimized military expenditures, preferring to budget funds for social programs, and let the U.S. bear the brunt of defense spending. During the 17 years of Menzies' leadership, Australian incomes increased at 4 percent per year after inflation. Australia rode the wave of a global economic upsurge and could afford to reap the benefits while maintaining a protectionist trade regime.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:President_John_F._Kennedy_Meets_with_Prime_Minister_of_Australia_Robert_Gordon_Menzies.jpg>

Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies and US President John F. Kennedy – The White House, Washington, February 1961

The Menzies administrations failed to exploit this window of opportunity to enact long-term policy changes that would have prepared Australia for changes in the global economic climate and did little to address inefficiencies in the economy. One policy change that Menzies did push through was reinstatement of conscription (now called national service), with no restrictions on where conscripts could be deployed.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Corps_troops_with_recent_service_in_South_Vietnam_march_past_Sydney_Town_Hall.jpg>

*Australian Conscript Soldiers, Recently Returned from Vietnam –
Ceremoniously Marching Past Sydney Town Hall, 1968*

The Vietnam War Era. In 1962, two years after the United States had started to build up military forces in South Vietnam, Australia began

sending military advisors. When the United States became the target of international and domestic criticism following the first bombing raids in North Vietnam, Australia lent increasing support, thankful for a strong ally against communism in the Asian region. In April 1965, Menzies decided to send Australian infantry, including regulars and conscripts (national servicemen) to support American efforts in Vietnam.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:7_RAR_Vietnam_\(AWM_EKN-67-0130-VN\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:7_RAR_Vietnam_(AWM_EKN-67-0130-VN).jpg)>

*Troops of the Royal Australian Regiment, North of Phuoc Hai, Vietnam
– Awaiting American Helicopter, After Completing Operation Ulmarra*

Initially, Australian involvement in the Vietnam conflict received much support at home. Most people applauded the strong response to aggression because it seemed to protect Australian shores and reinforce a strong relationship with the United States. By 1967, Australia housed the largest American missile and space systems outside the United States. However, the anti-war movement escalated, and in 1969 protestors stoned the American consulate in Melbourne. Anti-war sentiment grew due to the mobilization of conscripts and the treatment of conscientious objectors as well as increasing television coverage of the conflict. The anti-war movement gained further strength following the 1968 Tet offensive and Nixon's announcement of the Guam doctrine, foreshadowing American disengagement.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anti-Vietnam_War_demonstration_Martin_Place_and_Garden_Island_Dockyard,_Sydney,_NSW,_1966-04-15.jpg>

*Australians Protesting Against Conscription and the Vietnam War –
Garden Island Dockyard, Sydney, Australia, 1966*

By the end of 1971, most Australian forces had left Vietnam. Although the anti-war movement was less influential in government decisions than was American policy, it set the stage for a political radicalism in Australia that soon influenced a broad range of social and political issues, including environmentalism, women's rights, and Aboriginal matters.

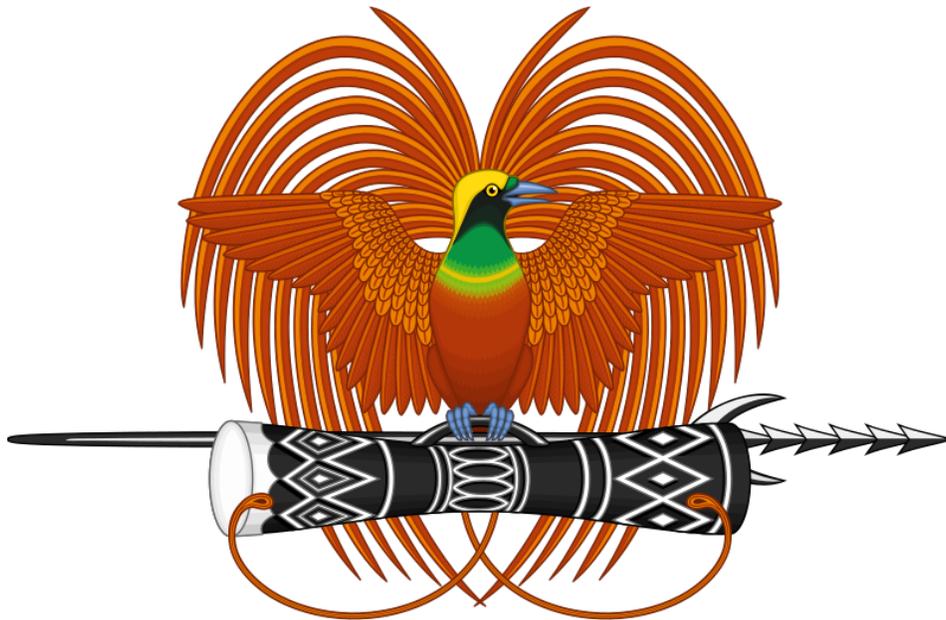


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at <
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Noel_Pearson_8Feb10.jpg>

*Noel Pearson – Australian Lawyer, Land Rights Activist, Academic, and
Founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership*

Australia in the 1970s. In 1972, the Labor Party returned to power under Gough Whitlam. The Labor administration promoted wage increases, including equal pay for women, and increased social spending, especially in health services and urban amenities. However, the Australian states resisted improvements for Aborigines, hoping to maintain cheap labor pools to attract investment. Whitlam thereupon placed Aboriginal affairs under the federal government and created

institutions to represent Aboriginal interests. Under Whitlam, Australia also granted independence to Papua New Guinea in 1975.

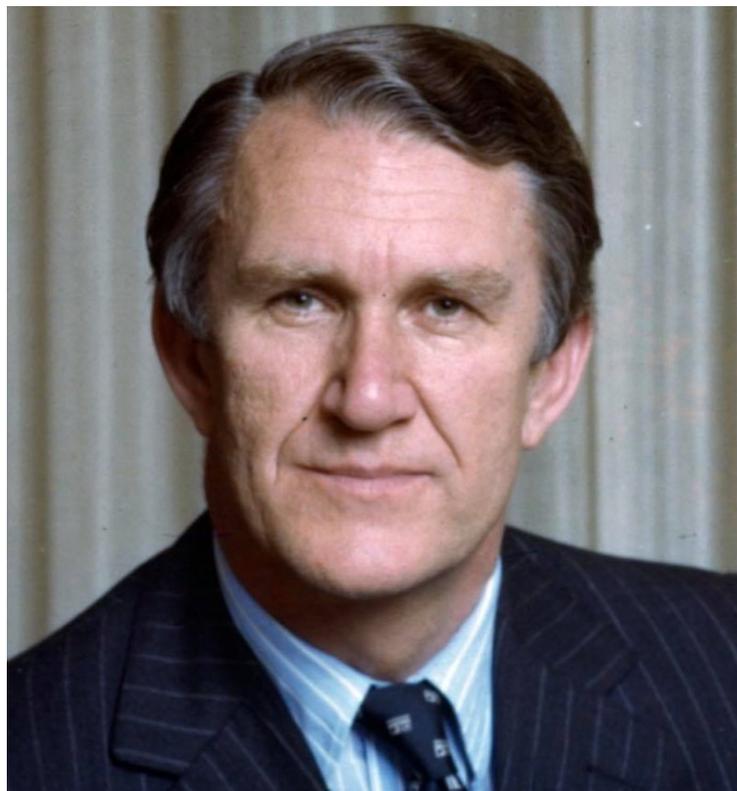


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:National_emblem_of_Papua_New_Guinea.svg>

Papua New Guinea Became Independent in 1975 – National Emblem

However, profligate spending and the abrasive personality of Whitlam doomed Labor to a quick demise. In November 1975, Governor-General John Kerr (appointed by Whitlam) dismissed the Labor government, forcing a new election won easily by the Liberal Party under Malcolm Fraser, who served as Prime Minister until 1983. Inflation rose sharply in the 1970s, fueled by global economic forces as well as high government spending under Whitlam. Although inflation

was accelerating throughout the developed world, Australia consistently suffered higher rates of inflation than comparable economies experienced. Fraser's administration reduced government expenditure, budget deficits, and money supply growth, but inflation continued at an average annual rate of 13 percent.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Malcolm_Fraser_1977_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Malcolm_Fraser_1977_(cropped).jpg)>*

Malcolm Fraser, Liberal Party, Prime Minister of Australia (1975-1983) – Portrayed in 1977

International economic forces continued to exert the principal influence on Australia's fortunes. In particular, the European

Community's protection of agriculture led to surpluses that were dumped on world markets and competed with Australia's principal agricultural exports. The government turned to mining to sustain growth, promoting that sector by granting tax concessions and easing restrictions on foreign investment. Coal, oil, and natural gas exploitation received an added stimulus when OPEC raised oil prices in 1973-1974 and again in 1979-1980. Australia staked its economic future on yet another resource boom, this time founded on fossil fuels – following base metals in the 1950s and 1960s and gold in the previous century.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thevenard_Island_Facilities.jpg>

Chevron Petroleum's Production Facilities, Thevenard Island, Western Australia – Separation Plant, Compression Facilities, Storage Tanks

Economic Recovery under Labor (1983-1988). The benefits of the resource boom proved to be temporary. The expanded mineral exports caused the Australian dollar to appreciate, thereby eroding the competitiveness of Australia's already struggling manufacturing sector as well as agricultural exports. Severe droughts, followed by extensive brush fires, further reduced farm incomes. High international energy prices, which seemed beneficial for Australia's exports, also fueled global inflation. Fraser's inability to thwart the impacts of natural disasters or global economic forces caused him to rely on anachronistic anti-socialist rhetoric in the 1983 elections, which the Liberal Party lost to the Labor Party under Bob Hawke.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hawke_Bob_BANNER.jpg>

*Bob Hawke, Labor Party, Prime Minister of Australia (1983-1991) –
Portrayed in 1983*

Hawke served as Prime Minister until 1991, when Paul Keating replaced him both as leader of the Labor Party and as Prime Minister. The longevity of Labor's tenure was aided by Hawke's political strategy. First, he formalized the three Labor factions (Broad Left, Centre Left, and Right) and distributed positions of importance equally among the three, thereby avoiding the internal strife that had plagued previous Labor governments. Second, he laid to rest concerns over past Labor

economic mismanagement by relying on cautious policy marked by gradualism, supported by both business and unions after extensive consultations. He also benefited when the drought ended in 1983-1984, after which farm incomes jumped by 360 percent.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cattle_sale_1.JPG>

*Australian Farm Incomes Recovered in the mid-1980s –
Grass-fed Cattle at Fortnightly Auction, Walcha, New South Wales*

Annual real GDP growth rose to 5 percent, up from the annual average of 2 percent during Fraser's last 6 years in office, inflation fell from an annual average of 10 percent to a little over 5 percent, and unemployment receded. Hawke's good relations with business reassured foreign investors, and foreign capital inflows accelerated, first

in the mining and manufacturing sectors and then in finance, insurance, real estate, and business services. The decisions to float the exchange rate and permit foreign participation in the banking sector strengthened economic expansion. But growth came at the expense of an explosive increase in foreign debt – from 8 percent of GDP in 1982 to over 31 percent in 1986.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_flock_of_Australian_White_Sheep_in_Mudgegonga,
a, Victoria, Australia.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_flock_of_Australian_White_Sheep_in_Mudgegonga,_Victoria,_Australia.jpg)>

*Wool Exports Helped Pay Rising Foreign Debt in the 1980s –
A Flock of Australian White Sheep, Mudgegonga, Victoria, Australia*

Australia at the Bicentenary (1988). Improving economic fortunes in the 1980s favored a few over the majority. In the mid-1980s, 10 percent of Australians held 60 percent of the country's wealth – the

most unequal distribution of wealth in developed countries. As Australia prepared for Bicentenary celebrations in 1988, Labor and the other political parties were hesitant to address growing economic inequality – through increased welfare spending or greater taxation of the wealthy – for fear of derailing economic growth. Other social issues confronted policy makers with equally difficult dilemmas. Growing environmental concerns and land claims by a vocal Aboriginal rights movement clashed head-on with the interests of the mining industry.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Her_Majesty_Queen_Elizabeth_II_opening_Expo_88,_Brisbane,_30_April_1988.jpg>

Australia At Its Bicentenary – Queen Elizabeth II Opened the World Expo 88 in Brisbane, Queensland, April 1988

As Australia celebrated the 200 years since the arrival of the British in the First Fleet, the country also struggled with its identity. Many citizens now claimed Eastern European, and, increasingly, Asian heritage rather than Anglo-Irish descent. The assumption that newcomers would assimilate into an Australian version of British culture was challenged by calls for a more multicultural approach to defining an Australian identity.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Day_2014_\(12153386466\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Day_2014_(12153386466).jpg)>

*Australian Multiculturalism – The Greek Community of Melbourne
Celebrates Australia Day, January 26, 2014*

The economy also revealed structural weaknesses. Much of the capital inflows in the 1980s had been directed to conspicuous consumption and speculative takeover bids rather than investments in productive assets. The global financial crash in 1987 left the government with unprecedented levels of foreign indebtedness and little productivity improvement to show for it. Between 1981 and 1990, foreign debt exploded from \$15 billion to \$159 billion. By the end of the 1980s, unemployment began to increase again, mineral prices were declining, and the global wool market was glutted. Australia faced a daunting array of social and economic issues that demanded reform.

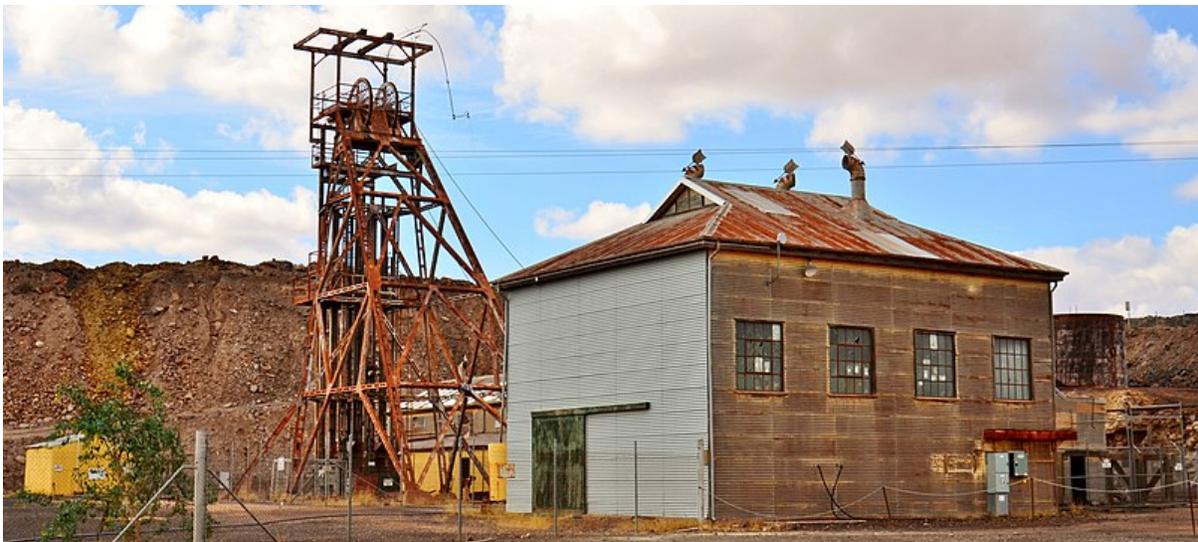


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_states_and_territories_labelled.svg>

Australian States and Territories – At the Bicentenary, 1988

Policy Debates in Contemporary Australia

Conflicts Arising from Mining Exports. Australia's economic history has been dominated by dependence on primary commodity exports. Those exports have included wool and other agricultural products as well as mining output ranging from gold from the mid-19th century, to minerals in the mid-20th century, and, more recently, fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. Today, Australia relies heavily on exports of minerals – principally coal, iron ore, and natural gas – to Asian countries, notably China.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Former_Delprat_mine,_Line_of_Lode,_Broken_Hill,_2017_\(01\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Former_Delprat_mine,_Line_of_Lode,_Broken_Hill,_2017_(01).jpg)>

*Delprat Mine, Line of Lode, Broken Hill, New South Wales –
Silver-Lead-Zinc Mineral Deposit, Operated by BHP (1900-2007)*

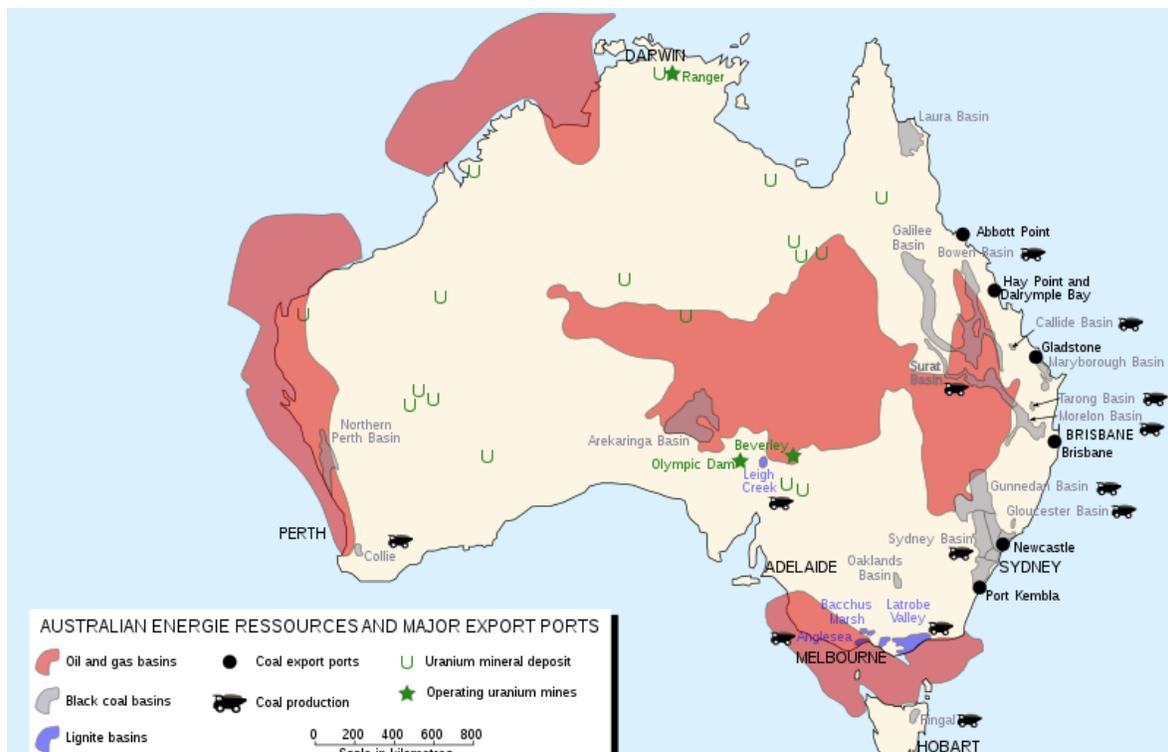
That reliance on primary commodities underlies several of the issues now confronting Australia – Aboriginal land rights, the relationship between commodity exports and protectionism, and growing environmental concerns. In 1988, at Australia’s Bicentenary celebrations in Sydney, as many as 40,000 Aborigines marched in Australia’s largest demonstration since the Vietnam War to protest against infringement of native land title in large part by mining interests. At several points when international economic trends might have compelled Australia to confront distortions and dislocations resulting from protectionist policies, mining booms generated surpluses that allowed Australia to avoid painful restructuring or policy assessment.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boddington_Gold_Mine_12.jpg>

Boddington Gold and Copper Mine, Boddington, Western Australia – Australia’s Largest Producer of Gold, 709,000 Troy Ounces in 2018

The environmental lobby and the growing influence of “green” politicians have forced both federal and state governments to consider environmental impacts of development plans ranging from electricity generation and mineral extraction to the increasingly important tourism industry. Although social and environmental concerns are playing a growing role in politics, globalization, and structural change are likely to be the primary driving forces behind policy change in Australia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australian_Energy_resources_and_major_export_ports_map.svg

Australia’s Major Mineral Discoveries – Oil and Gas (Red) and Coal (Gray) – and Leading Mineral Export Ports

Aboriginal Rights in Post-war Australia. In 1947, the Aboriginal population was estimated at 100,000, about one-third of the pre-European level. Many Australians believed the Aborigines would eventually disappear. Throughout the 20th century, efforts to improve Aboriginal welfare have struggled against entrenched economic interests. World War II increased employment opportunities for Aborigines, but after the war authorities favored pastoral investors to increase beef production and chose not to enact measures to improve Aboriginal workers' conditions on ranches. In 1946, that situation prompted some of the earliest Aboriginal activists to stage strikes for better pay in Western Australia and to establish cooperative settlements (which became known as the Pilbara movement). However, that movement generated little momentum.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:VRDcattle.jpg>>*

*Aboriginal Stockmen, Victoria River Downs Station, Northern Territory,
Australia, 1953*

In 1960, federal and state governments agreed to end the practice of segregating Aborigines into reserves, and in 1962 the federal government finally enfranchised Aborigines. In the 1960s, research in archaeology and history instilled a growing pride and confidence among educated Aborigines. Carbon-dating techniques demonstrated the presence of ancestral Aborigines in Australia at least 40,000 years ago, reinforcing their sense of ownership and cultural claims to the land.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_day_of_the_Aboriginal_Tent_Embassy_outside_Parliament_House_Canberra_27_January_1972_Left_to_right-Billy_Craigie_Bert_Williams_Michael_Anderson_and_Tony_Coorey_\(38934424564\)_cropped.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_day_of_the_Aboriginal_Tent_Embassy_outside_Parliament_House_Canberra_27_January_1972_Left_to_right-Billy_Craigie_Bert_Williams_Michael_Anderson_and_Tony_Coorey_(38934424564)_cropped.jpg)>

First Day of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy Outside Parliament House, Canberra, January 1972 – Protest for Indigenous Land Rights

Aborigines began to articulate demands for direct recognition of their status, contributions, and claims. In the early 1960s, those demands matured into a quest for land rights that continues today, but immediately came into conflict with the rise of mining, particularly in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland. Aboriginal communities were typically located on reserves that had previously been

considered worthless. But following mineral discoveries, developers sought control over those areas. The police then forced the relocation of local communities and destroyed Aboriginal houses. In one court ruling against Aboriginal objections to the transfer of land to investors in the Northern Territory, the judge reasoned that Aborigines had no institutions or concept of land ownership prior to the arrival of Europeans in Australia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Invasion_Day_protest_at_the_Aboriginal_Tent_Embassy_in_Canberra_01.jpg>

Protest at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra, Established in 1972 – Showing the Aboriginal Flag on Invasion Day, 2010

Aboriginal Rights and the Native Title Act. In 1967, a national referendum approved inclusion of Aborigines in the census. Soon thereafter the government established a Council for Aboriginal Affairs, which created a capital fund for Aboriginal enterprises, secondary education grants, and a legal service to protect the individual rights of Aborigines. But when an Arbitration Commission raised wages for Aborigines, rural leaders reacted by dismissing Aboriginal employees, causing displacement, poverty, and a decay of social structures.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tjuki_tells_a_dreaming_story_about_Manpi_\(pigeon\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tjuki_tells_a_dreaming_story_about_Manpi_(pigeon).jpg)>

*Aboriginal Elder Points Out the Boundaries of Aboriginal Lands –
By Telling the Dreaming Story of Manpi (the Pigeon)*

The governments of Queensland and Western Australia, eager to attract investors, resisted raising wages and carrying out other improvements for Aborigines. That resistance left the federal government with the burden of enacting real change. In 1973, every state government except Queensland transferred jurisdiction of Aboriginal affairs to the federal government, and the institutions formed under the Council for Aboriginal Affairs were strengthened. Recommendations put forward in 1974 included the creation of Aboriginal land trusts to hold communal reserves, supported by a government fund for repurchase of traditional lands. Community consent would be required for entry of mining, tourism, or other investors. However, state governments again obstructed implementation of these rules, as in 1980 when Western Australia expropriated land from a federally funded Aboriginal station and granted it to an oil exploration company.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:June_Oscar.jpg>*

June Oscar – Australian Aboriginal Activist, Community Worker, Film Producer, and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

In 1992, the High Court of Australia found that inhabitants of Murray Island in the Torres Strait possessed native title to the land, since they and their ancestors had continuously occupied the island. The Court further found that the ruling was applicable to Aborigines throughout Australia.

That interpretation left Aboriginal communities with the burden of demonstrating uninterrupted occupation of an area, but alarmed the Australian business community and many state politicians, who again

feared the effects on non-aboriginal property rights and investment. Nevertheless, the federal government pushed through the Native Title Act in 1993, drafted as a compromise with Aboriginal leaders. That new law recognized existing land titles but provided for invocation of native title on expired pastoral and mining leases. The legislation defined the tribal and judicial procedures for determining claims to title and created a land acquisition fund with contributions from both federal and state governments. The mining industry in particular disputed the Native Title Act, and the final version was not passed until July 1998.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Invasion_Day_Melbourne_2021_\(50876371793\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Invasion_Day_Melbourne_2021_(50876371793).jpg)

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*Aboriginal Youth Protest To Seek Return of Australian Land –
Invasion Day Rally in Melbourne, January 2021*

In 2008, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd belatedly issued a formal apology on behalf of the Australian government and people for the past mistreatment of and discrimination against Aboriginal people.

However, the government of Australia has not negotiated an agreement with its Aboriginal people that would recognize their sovereignty over lands and pay them compensation for past wrongs and expropriated land. Australia is the only nation in the British Commonwealth that has not negotiated such an agreement with its indigenous people



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RuddSorry.jpg>>

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd Belatedly Issued a Formal Apology to the Aboriginal Peoples – Federation Square, Melbourne, February 2008

Historical Roots of Government Protection of Industry. The culture of protectionism that has characterized the Australian economy during the past century can be traced to Australia's place in the economic system of the British Empire and Commonwealth. Well into the 20th century, Great Britain maintained a traditional colonial economic relationship with Australia, granting privileged access into the British market for Australian agricultural commodities, while protecting manufacturing interests in Britain. In 1932, during the Great Depression, Britain agreed to restrict imports from countries outside the Commonwealth, providing privileged access to British markets for Australian meat, fruits, dairy products, wheat, flour, and wool.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons available at*
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Murray_Grey_cows_and_calves.JPG>

*Murray Grey Cattle Ranch, Walcha, New South Wales –
Beef Exports to Britain Benefited from Commonwealth Preferences*

During the First and Second World Wars, the disruption of global trade routes and manufacturing in Europe spurred industrial development in Australia. The implicit protection offered by wartime conditions prompted calls for legislated protection once the wars ended and global trade revived. Although Australia was content to benefit from privileged access into British markets for rural products, the country also came to rely on domestic manufacturing to sustain urban employment. The rise of the Country Party in Australia's rural areas, serving as an indispensable ally for conservative urban political parties battling against Labor, further entrenched the support for protection from rural interests.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sheep_shearing.jpg>

*The Country Party Supported Agricultural Interests –
Sheep Shearing Shed, Yallingup, Western Australia*

Calls for self-reliance in processed and manufactured goods added to Australian government resolve to maintain protective tariffs and restrict foreign investment. Therefore, until the mid-20th century, manufacturing in Australia enjoyed protection at home, while the rural sector was shielded from the international economy by preferential access to British markets. Those arrangements could not hold once Britain turned inward during its post-World War II reconstruction efforts, and, subsequently, the distortions and inefficiencies resulting from high industrial protection grew more costly in Australia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:13_Industry_of_Australia -
Steelworks_of_BlueScope_Steel_Limited_company_in_Port_Kembla,_Australia.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:13_Industry_of_Australia_-_Steelworks_of_BlueScope_Steel_Limited_company_in_Port_Kembla,_Australia.jpg)>

*Australian Nationalists Favored Protection and Preferences –
Bluescope Steelworks, Port Kembla, New South Wales*

The Course of Reform. Australia's tariffs protected industries characterized by inefficiency, lacking both economies of scale and comparative advantage. In the late 1940s, as Britain turned inward in its reconstruction efforts, Australia might have been forced to confront international markets. But the rise of mining in the 1950s and 1960s eased the pressure to make difficult readjustments.

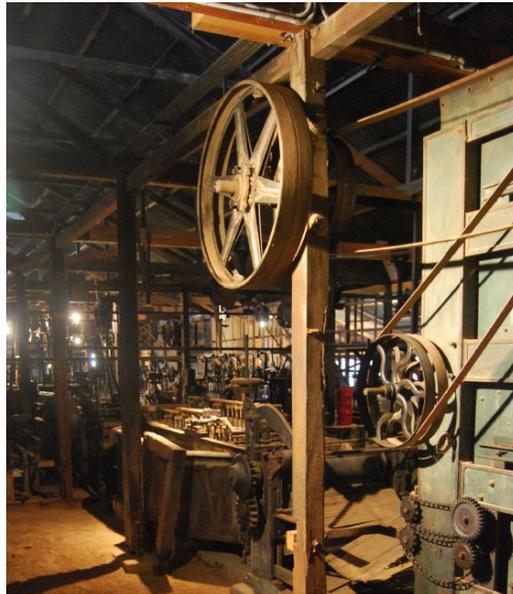


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RC_drill_rig.jpg>

Drilling Rig, BHP Billiton Iron Mine, Near Newman, Western Australia

In 1952, the Menzies administration imposed a broad range of import restrictions in response to a rapid deterioration in Australia's trade balance. Those protectionist measures lasted throughout the 1950s to protect Australian jobs, covering about 60 percent of Australian secondary industry with the support of both the trade unions and business leaders who strongly influenced government policy. In the early 1960s, the impending Kennedy Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and British efforts to join the European

Economic Community motivated increases in tariff protection, forced through by the leader of the Liberals' coalition partner, the Country Party. In 1968, the average rate of industrial protection was 36 percent.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blackall_Woolscour_\(2010\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blackall_Woolscour_(2010).jpg)>

*Australia Had High Industrial Protection in the 1960s –
Blackall Woolscour Factory, Blackall, Queensland*

In 1973, the Labor government under Gough Whitlam announced a 25 per cent across-the-board cut in tariffs in an effort to dampen domestic inflation and address economy-wide inefficiencies, emboldened by falling unemployment, robust consumer demand, and rising shortages in the retail sectors. That measure was also calculated to strengthen Australia's bargaining position in future global tariff

negotiations. However, subsequent rises in unemployment and persistent inflation, though attributable to global forces, were blamed in part on Whitlam's actions and contributed to Labor's loss of the government in 1975.

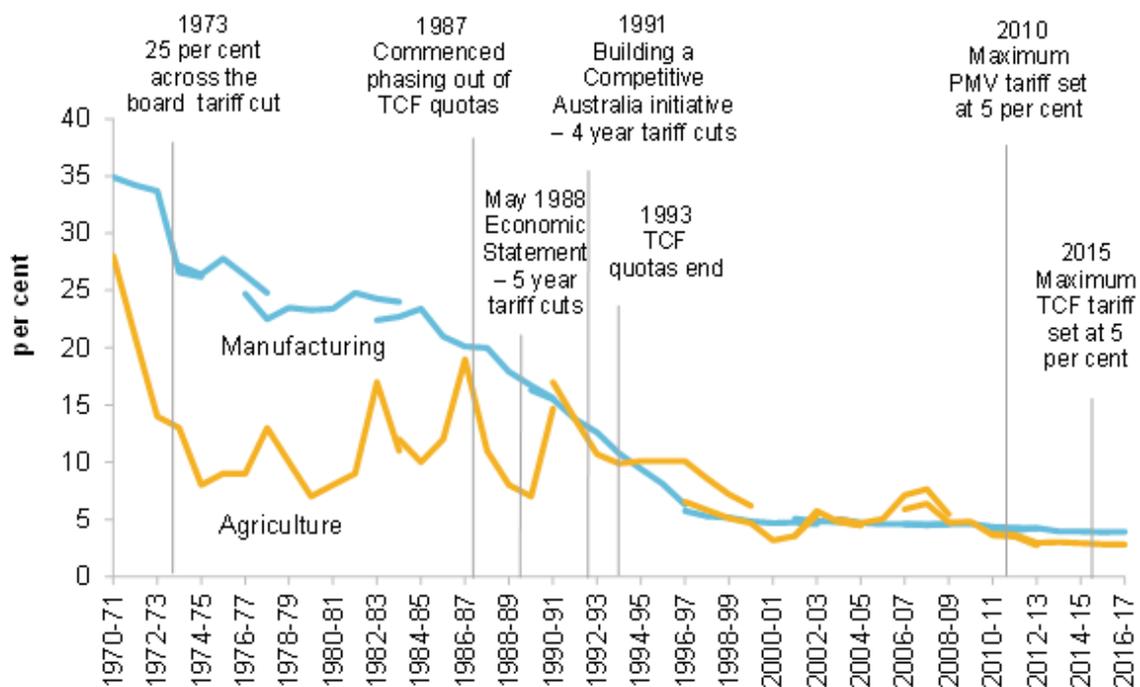


*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gough_Whitlam_-_1973_-_crop.jpg>*

*Gough Whitlam, Labor Party, Prime Minister of Australia (1972-1975)
– Reduced Industrial Tariff Protection by 25 Percent in 1973*

In the second half of the 1970s, the Liberals under Fraser again raised tariffs to protect the manufacturing sector, benefiting from a surge in earnings from mining and energy resources. It required another Labor government, this time under Hawke, to enact lasting reductions in protection. Import quotas on steel and other strategic goods were

removed in 1983-1984, tariff reductions commenced in 1988, and in 1991 Hawke announced that protective tariffs would be reduced to no more than five percent by 1996, although footwear, textile, and automobile industries would receive a longer grace period. That target was achieved, but the average tariff on manufacturing in Australia – five percent – remains somewhat above that in most OECD countries. The import-weighted average tariff for all imports is now less than 1 percent.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Effective_rates_of_assistance_to_manufacturing_and_agriculture_in_Australia,_1970-71_and_2016-17.png

Effective Rates of Assistance to Manufacturing and Agriculture in Australia, 1971-2017 – Australian Productivity Commission, 2018

The Impetus for Reform and Structural Change. Ironically, the Labor Party was the primary force for dismantling protection, whereas the Liberals sought to maintain or enhance intervention. However, tariff reform under Labor administrations was largely a response to inflation rather than an effort to restructure the economy for efficiency gains, rendered politically feasible by strong ties to trade unions. Similarly, privatization of government assets in the 1990s was driven more by revenue needs than by deliberate desires for deregulation. Liberals resisted reform in a battle for voters who otherwise would tend to support Labor and to preserve their coalition with the Country (now National) Party. When reform finally took place in the 1980s and 1990s, global economic forces, this time international reductions in trade barriers under the GATT, were the main impetus.

The effect of tariff reform can be seen clearly in manufacturing trends. During the height of protection in the 1960s, manufacturing contributed 22 percent of GDP, but that share had fallen to 15 percent by the mid-1990s and was only 6 percent in 2019. The strong historical roles of natural resource booms and rural politics might suggest that

mining and agriculture contribute a large share of income and employment in the economy. However, since 1900 structural change has reduced the combined share of those sectors from nearly 30 percent to less than 8 percent of real GDP today, and they have an even smaller share of employment.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sydney_City_from_Waverton.jpg>

Central Business District, Sydney, Hub of Australia's Financial and Business Services – Modern Australia's Economy Is Driven by Services

As in other industrialized nations, the largest part of Australia's economy is driven by the service sector. Yet exports continue to be dominated by mining. Australia's earnings from commodity exports amounted to \$336.7 billion in 2019. The reliance on mining exports for

trade and politics, but remained firmly directed toward the western world. However, in the 1960s, Asian trade partners, especially Japan, became increasingly important, and now Australia is redefining its global role as a member of the Asia-Pacific region. In 1989, Australia became a founding member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) movement, symbolizing the geographic reorientation of Australia's economy.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation_nations.svg>

Member Nations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Movement, Created in 1989 – Australia Was a Founding Member

In the early 1990s, Japan, China, and Southeast Asia accounted for more than 55 percent of Australia's merchandise exports. Many of

Hawke's moves to reduce protectionism were intended to open Australia's economy to Asian imports and ameliorate Asian trading partners' concerns over an increasingly skewed balance of trade. Australia also looked within the region for closer political relationships, for example, by entering into a security pact with Indonesia in 1995.

The reorientation toward Asia reflects economic and political realities as well as the changing composition of Australia's population. In the mid-1990s, the largest Asian population in Australia, the Vietnamese, comprised less than 1 percent of the total population. However, more than 40 percent of recent immigrants into Australia are of Asian origin. Today, 16 percent of Australia's 25.4 million people are of Asian ethnicity, and one-fourth were born abroad. Debates surrounding multiculturalism have yet to resolve how the multiplying variety of ethnic backgrounds will be accommodated, while preserving a cohesive sense of nationhood.

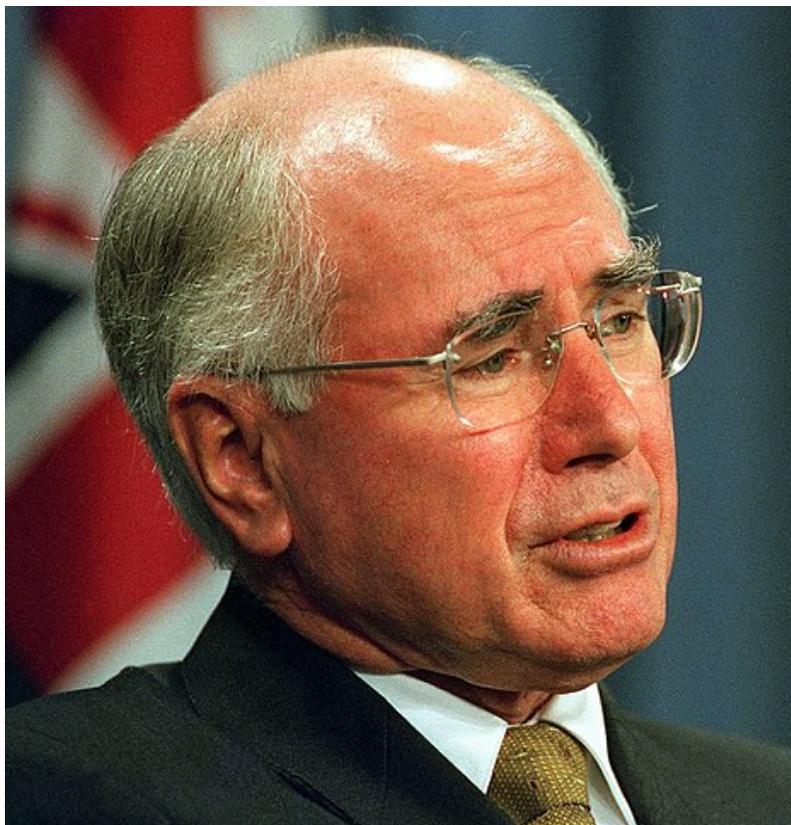


Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chinatownsyd.jpg>>

*Chinatown in Sydney –
Sixteen Percent of Australia’s People are of Asian Ethnicity*

Shifting Positions on the Fundamental Conflicts. In 1996, the Liberal-National coalition, led by John Howard, regained power in a landslide victory, running on a platform of tax relief and fiscal restraint. The Labor party attributed the loss to a perceived preoccupation with multiculturalism and underprivileged groups (such as Aborigines and single mothers) at the expense of mainstream lower income earners. The Liberal-National government responded to this dissatisfaction (and the growing strength of right-wing parties such as One Nation) by taking

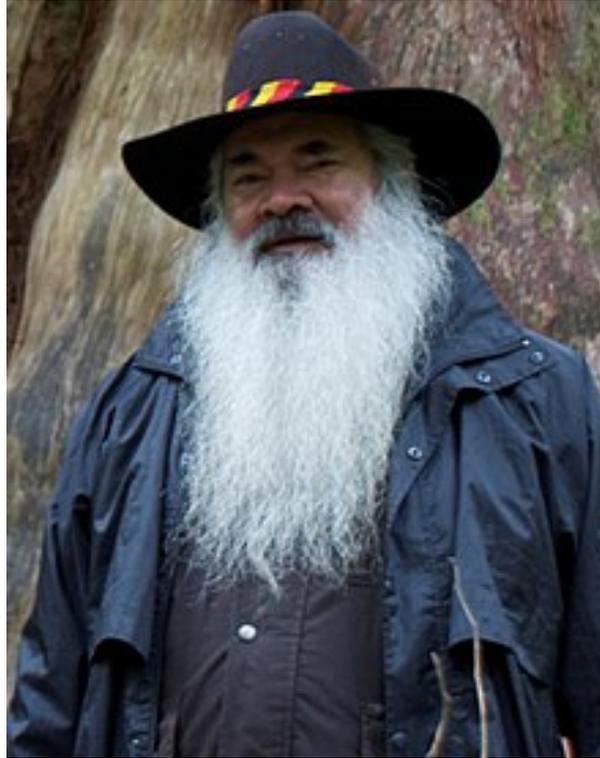
a stronger stance against illegal immigration, becoming more nationalist with respect to the privatization process, and de-emphasizing environmental issues. For example, uranium mining proceeded in Kakadu National Park through 1999, despite environmental objections and violations of Aboriginal land claims. The Liberal-National coalition government was re-elected in late 2001. Reform and restructuring efforts were focused on taxation rather than trade and investment.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Image-Howard2003upr.JPG>>*

John Howard, Liberal Party, Prime Minister of Australia (1996-2007)

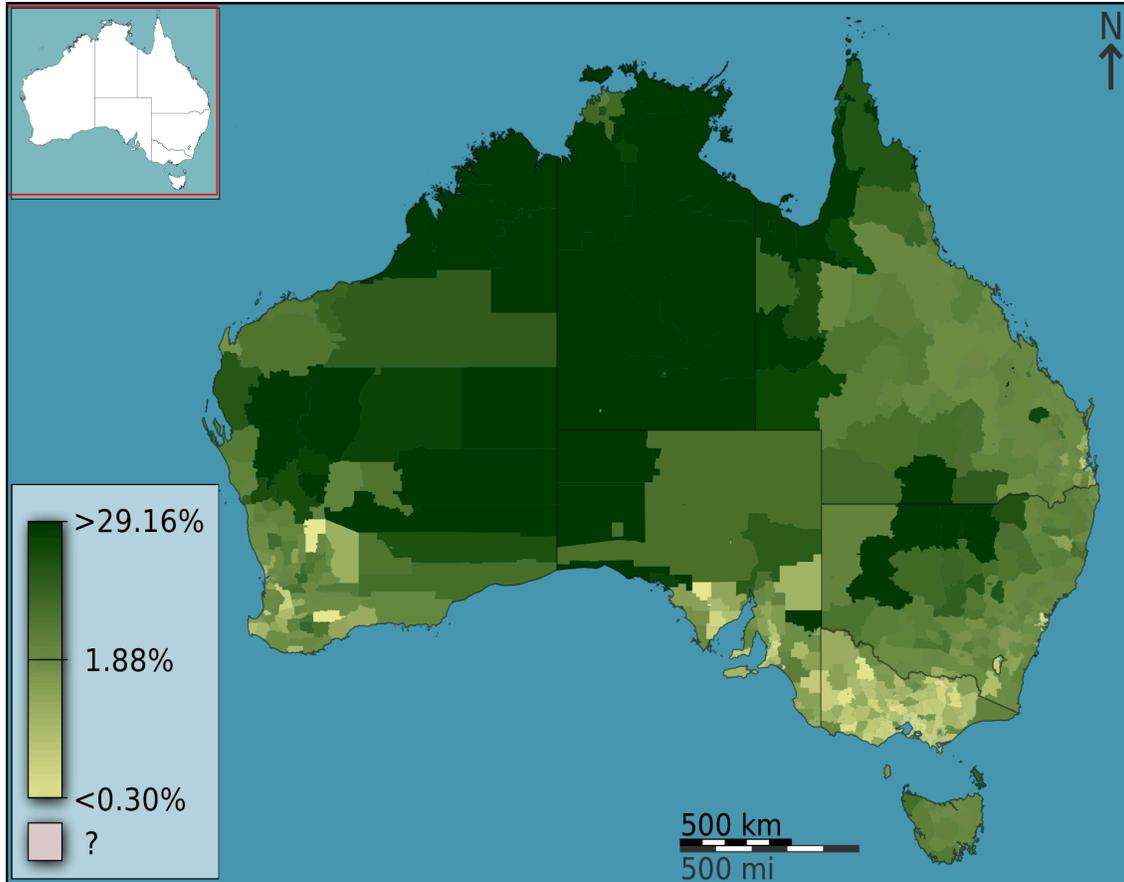
The rightward shift of the government also signaled reduced emphasis on Aboriginal rights. Today, Aborigines number around 800,000 in total, and perhaps 70,000 follow traditional lifestyles. The growth in numbers since mid-century reflects a high birth rate along with improved medical care as well as growing pride and readiness to claim Aboriginal heritage. Although they finally have gained recognition as citizens of one of the most prosperous countries in the world and access to a process for claiming land rights, many Aborigines continue to live in developing country conditions. Aboriginal life expectancy, 76 years, is 7 years lower than the national average of 83 years, the unemployment rate is three times higher, and the average Aboriginal wage is only about one-half of the average non-Aboriginal level.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pat_Dodson_2010.jpg>

*Pat Dodson, Senator from Western Australia (2016 –) –
One of Four Aborigines Serving in Parliament*

Future governments in Australia will need to find appropriate balances to resolve the complex conflicts between Aboriginal rights and mining/pastoral interests, nationalistic concerns/protectionist demands and the realities of increased globalization and trade interdependencies, multiculturalism versus xenophobia, and industrial/mining/pastoral interests in development and environmentalist concerns about protection and preservation of natural resources.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australian_Census_2011_demographic_map -
 Australia by SLA - BCP field 0054 Indigenous Persons Total Persons.svg?](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australian_Census_2011_demographic_map_-_Australia_by_SLA_-_BCP_field_0054_Indigenous_Persons_Total_Persons.svg?)

*Indigenous Australians as a Percentage of the Total Population –
 2011 Census*

In 2019, each of the 25.4 million residents of Australia earned an average income (adjusted for purchasing power) of \$53,469 – 82 percent of the US level. Australia’s quality-of-life indicators were also very impressive – average longevity was 83 years and the adult literacy rate was 99 percent. Australia ranked a remarkable 8th of 189 countries in

the United Nation's Human Development Index, a strong 14th of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, and an admirable 12th of 198 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. The comparable US rankings were 17th, 6th, and 23rd. In spite of its many challenges, Australia was one of the world's most envied countries because of its many socio-economic accomplishments.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:As-map.png>>

Contemporary Australia

Norfolk Island

Discovery by Captain James Cook (1774). One year to the day after returning from his first circumnavigation of the world, on July 13, 1772 Captain James Cook embarked on his second. On that journey, Cook had two ships, the *Resolution* and *Adventure*, both constructed in Fishburn's yard in Whitby.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hodges,_Resolution_and_Adventure_in_Matavai_Bay.jpg>

HMS Resolution and HMS Adventure in Matavai Bay, Tahiti, 1773 – Painting by William Hodges, Royal Museums, Greenwich, UK, 1776

The primary goal of Cook's second voyage was to settle the speculative existence of Terra Australis Incognita, the great southern continent – and to claim it for Britain if it existed. Cook also was to

preempt French possession of possible new Pacific islands. A third purpose was to test John Harrison's newly invented chronometer and to see whether it would measure longitude better than lunar observations.

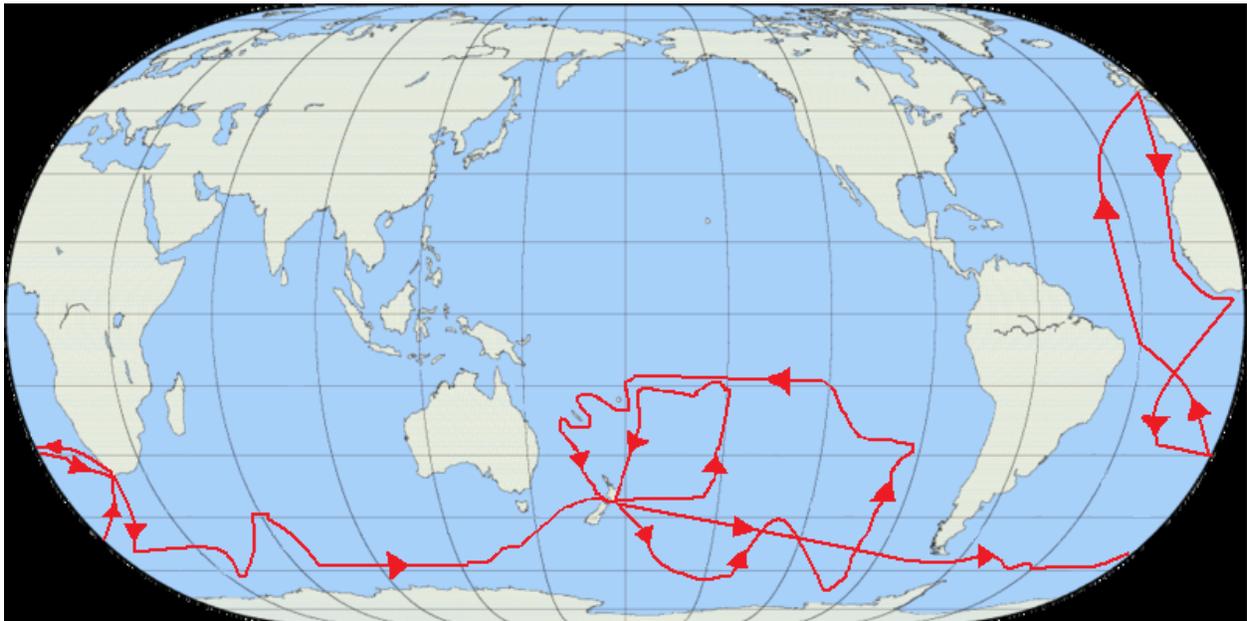


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harrison%27s_Chronometer_H5.JPG>

John Harrison's Chronometer H5, Similar to the One Tested by James Cook on His Second Circumnavigation – Science Museum, London

Cook's second circumnavigation was very impressive. He met his assigned goals and more. Cook proved that no habitable, north-lying continent existed in the southern Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans. Between November 1772 and March 1773, Cook sailed for four months below 60 degrees South latitude without sighting land between Africa

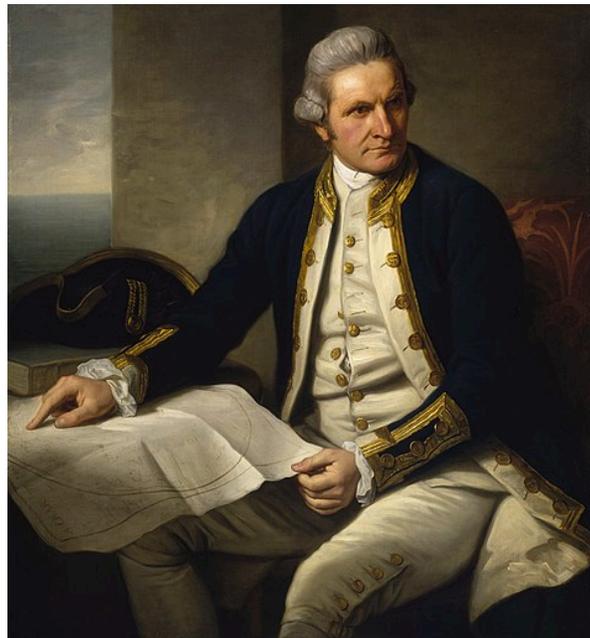
and New Zealand. In January 1774, he reached a furthest south of 71 degrees South latitude. Cook was the first to cross the Antarctic Circle, and he did it three times. He confirmed the value of Harrison's chronometer, and he provided further evidence that antiscorbutic food (sauerkraut and broth) and ship cleanliness will control scurvy. Cook also discovered and claimed several islands in the Tuamotus, Australs, Cooks, and Marquesas as well as New Hebrides, New Caledonia, and Norfolk in Melanesia and South Georgia in the South Atlantic.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cook%27sSecondVoyage53.png>>

*Captain James Cook's Route When He Discovered Norfolk Island in
October 1774 – Second Circumnavigation of the World*

Cook went ashore on Norfolk Island on October 11, 1774 and named the three-by-five-mile island after the Duchess of Norfolk, wife of the ninth Duke of Norfolk. After returning to England in July 1775, Cook was promoted to post-captain by King George III and elected overwhelmingly to the Royal Society.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Captainjamescookportrait.jpg>>*

*Captain James Cook (1728-1779), Claimed Norfolk Island in 1774 –
Portrait by Nathaniel Dance-Holland, 1775,
National Maritime Museum, London*

British Colonization (1788). The impetus for colonization of Australia and Norfolk Island followed the voyages of Captain James Cook, whose several landings on the southeastern coast of Australia in

the *Endeavour* (1770) revealed what appeared to be lush, productive areas far more suitable for settlement than the harsh, arid western and southern coasts. In particular, Botany Bay captured Cook's imagination, and he named the territory New South Wales and claimed it for England.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emanuel_Phillips_Fox_Captain_Cook_Botany_Bay.jpg>

*Landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay, 1770 –
Painting by Emanuel Phillips Fox, National Gallery of Victoria, 1902*

The British Government decided to settle New South Wales in 1786. The First Fleet sailed from England in May 1787 and arrived in Botany Bay in January 1788. Captain Arthur Phillip sailed north and discovered the superb harbor of Port Jackson a week later, and he

initiated settlement at Sydney Cove, around which the city of Sydney grew. The penal colony was saved only by the arrival in 1789 and 1790 of the second fleet, carrying supplies and resources that enabled the fledgling colony to survive.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lady_Juliana_B4622.jpg>

Lady Juliana and the Second Fleet, En route to Sydney Cove, 1789

A settler party of convicts, under the command of Philip King, was sent to Norfolk Island in 1788 in hopes of harvesting pine, raising flax for rope, and growing food crops to feed the Sydney colony and to prevent a French takeover of the island. Norfolk then was uninhabited,

although Polynesian settlers had lived there earlier, probably in the 14th and 15th centuries.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norfolk-Island-Pines.jpg>>

Norfolk Island Pines (Araucaria heterophylla), Native to Norfolk Island – Valued by Original British Colonists to Supply the Sydney Colony

The Convict Colony (1788-1855). Most convicts in Australia and Norfolk Island were young, male, petty thieves from England. Of every twenty convicts transported to Australia, thirteen were English, six Irish, and one Scottish. The typical sentence was seven years. New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land (modern Tasmania), and Norfolk Island received their last convicts between the late 1840s and 1855. During the

80-year history of the convict transport system, 163,000 convicts were shipped from Britain to Australia.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at <
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norfolk_Island_jail4.jpg>*

Remains of the Norfolk Island Jail – Photographed in 2007

Norfolk Island experienced two different periods as a convict colony. During the first phase (1788-1814), Britain hoped that convicts who had served their sentences would settle permanently and exploit the pine forests and agricultural potential of the island. When that plan failed, the British resettled the convicts in Van Diemen's Land, razed the buildings (to reduce the possibility of a French takeover), and abandoned the island for 11 years.

In the second phase (1825-1855), Britain rebuilt Norfolk Island as a prison for recidivists and hard-core criminals who would find escape extremely difficult. Norfolk gained the deserved reputation as a place of “Hell on Earth” under brutal commandants and prison guards.

Alexander Maconochie, who commanded the prison on Norfolk from 1840 to 1844, was an atypical reformer. In 1855, British officials permanently closed the prison on Norfolk Island.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Convict_settlement_Norfolk_Island_1848.png>

*Convict Settlement, Kingston, Norfolk Island, 1848 –
Edward W. Searle’s Collection of Photographs*

Settlement of Pitcairn Islanders (1856). The British Navy sent the *Bounty* to the Pacific in 1787-1789 to transfer breadfruit seedlings

from Tahiti to the West Indies (to feed African slaves cheaply and increase profits on British plantations) and to chart the Endeavour Straits between Australia and New Guinea (on the shipping route between Britain and its new penal colony in Australia). Lieutenant William Bligh, aged 33, was selected to lead the expedition. Bligh was a brilliant navigator, surveyor, and observer of foreign cultures.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WilliamBligh.jpeg>>

*Lieutenant William Bligh, Master of the Bounty –
Portrait by Alexander Huey, National Library of Australia, 1814*

Fletcher Christian, aged 23, was a midshipman on the *Bounty*.
Christian had sailed under Bligh before and become his protégé.

Christian led the mutiny on the *Bounty* in April 1789. Bligh's leadership had become inconsistent, and he was abusive toward his officers.

During the mutiny, Bligh and 18 loyalists were crowded into the *Bounty's* 23-foot-long launch. Bligh then sailed the open launch 3,618 miles from Tofua to Timor in the Dutch East Indies in 48 days with only five days' of full food rations.

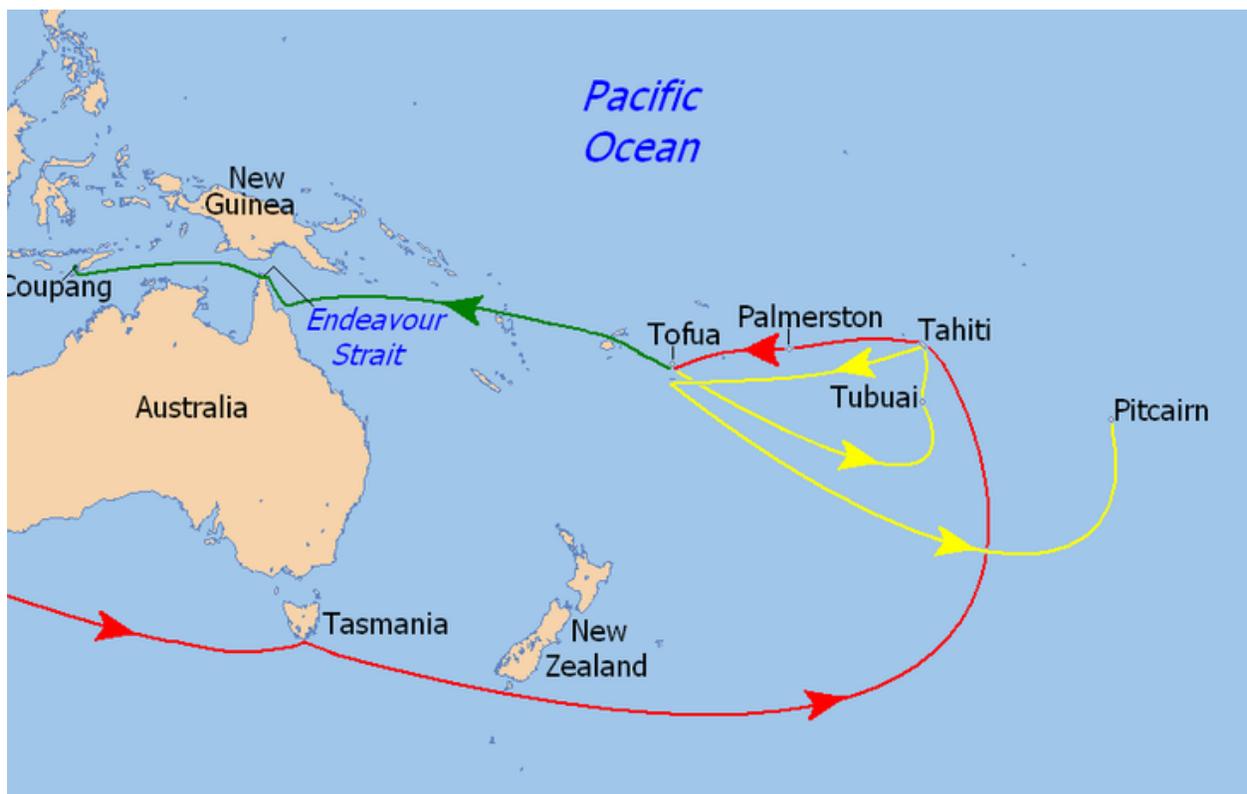


Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mutiny_HMS_Bounty.jpg>

*Lieutenant William Bligh and Eighteen Men Exiled on the Launch –
Painting by Robert Dodd, National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, UK, 1790*

The 25 mutineers on the *Bounty* searched for a refuge island. Sixteen voted to go to Tahiti, and eight cast their lot to stay with Fletcher

Christian. Upon their arrival at Pitcairn Island in January 1790, the nine mutineers divided the cultivable land into equal shares. In 1793, the six Polynesian men, who had accompanied the mutineers, killed five of the British men. The four remaining mutineers and their Polynesian wives then killed all six of the Polynesian men. John Adams, the sole adult male and patriarch of Pitcairn Island in 1800, died in 1829 at age 65.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bounty_Voyages_Map.png>

Voyage of the Bounty Before the Mutiny (Red Line) and After (Yellow Line), Ending on Pitcairn Island – Voyage of the Launch (Green Line)

In 1831, the British government, concerned with overpopulation on Pitcairn, relocated all 77 of the islanders to Tahiti. Although the Tahitians treated the Pitcairners well, twelve soon died. The remaining 65 returned to Pitcairn within six months. The British and Pitcairn's leaders again became concerned with the threat of overpopulation. In 1856, all 194 of the Pitcairn Islanders (in eight families) moved to then uninhabited Norfolk Island, one year after Britain had closed its prison.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Descendants_of_the_mutineers,_1862.jpg>

*Four Pitcairn Settlers on Norfolk Island (Descendants of Mutineers,
John Adams and Mathew Quintal) – Photographed in 1862*

The Pitcairners, who believed that they had received ownership of Norfolk Island from Queen Victoria's Government, occupied the

buildings of the former penal colony and turned the commandant's headquarters into a church. (Sixteen islanders returned to Pitcairn in 1859 and a further 24 in 1864, bringing the population to 43. The population of Pitcairn Island reached a peak of 223 in 1940 and today varies between 40 and 50.)



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pitcairn_Islanders,_1916.jpg>

The People of Pitcairn Island – Photographed in 1916

Evolution of Norfolk Island (1856-present). About half of the 1,750 permanent residents of Norfolk Island are descended from the Pitcairners who settled in 1856. Most Pitcairn descendants believe that the Paper of Cession (1856) deeded nearly all of Norfolk to the

immigrants from Pitcairn. In practice, the Pitcairners received about half of the island. The Australian Parliament and High Court have rejected the Pitcairners' claim to full ownership.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Government_House,_Norfolk_Island.jpg>

Government House, Kingston, Norfolk Island – Many Settlers from Pitcairn Island Continue to Claim Ownership of All of Norfolk Island

Government control of Norfolk Island has evolved over the past century and a half. For forty years (1856-1896), Britain allowed local Pitcairners a large voice in local governance. Between 1896 and 1914, Norfolk was governed as part of New South Wales. In 1914, Norfolk Island became a Territory within the Commonwealth of Australia. Under the Norfolk Island Act (1979), the islanders gained limited self-

government. Permanent residents (of age 18 or older) elected nine members of the Legislative Assembly, which advised the Administrator (who is appointed by the Governor-General of Australia). But in 2015, Norfolk Islanders voted give up the island's special status, and in 2016 Norfolk Island became part of New South Wales.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Norfolk_Island.svg>*

*Official Flag of Norfolk Island –
In 2016 Norfolk Islanders Elected to Become Part of New South Wales*

The population and economy of Norfolk Island have expanded slowly since the mid-19th century. Of the 194 immigrants from Pitcairn Island in 1856, 154 stayed on Norfolk and had large families. Their leader, George Hunn Nobbs, upon his death in 1884 had ten children and

Since the 1960s, Norfolk has relied mainly on income from tourism. Tourists are attracted by the historic buildings from the penal settlement and the opportunity for duty-free shopping. Norfolk limits the number of tourists visiting at a given time to 400 and receives about 16,000 tourists each year.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norfolk_Island_jail1.jpg>*

*Modern Reproduction of the Penal Colony on Norfolk Island –
Primary Tourist Attraction*

Two outside influences impacted the quiet evolution of Norfolk culture. Between 1867 and 1920, the Melanesian Mission of the Church of England had its headquarters and training school on Norfolk. At the turn of the 20th century, the Mission had 210 students and a large staff of

European and Melanesian missionaries. The Mission relocated to the Solomon Islands in 1920.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norfolk_Island_St_Barnabas_Chapel.jpg>*

*St. Barnabas Church, Melanesian Mission, Norfolk Island –
Photographed in 2007*

During the Second World War, the Allies constructed an air base on Norfolk Island to serve as a key link between Australia, New Zealand, and the Solomons. Between late 1942 and mid-1944, more than 1,500 Allied troops (mostly from New Zealand, but also from Australia and the US) served on Norfolk. Norfolk islanders experienced

a temporary economic boom and gained a permanent air communications link.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norfolk_Island-CIA_WFB_Map.png>

Contemporary Norfolk Island

Time Line for Australia

40,000-50,000 BCE	ancestors of Aborigines and Papuans migrated into Sahul
35,000 BCE	coasts of Sahul continent settled
30,000 BCE	evidence of widespread settlement in highland New Guinea – Kuk site
10,000 BCE	non-desert parts of Sahul continent settled – 154 archeological sites
6000 BCE	end of last Ice Age – sea level rose – divided Sahul continent into Australia, New Guinea
5000 BCE	agriculture first practiced in New Guinea – taro, bananas, yams, breadfruit, sugarcane
3000 BCE	Aborigines began making rock paintings extensively
2500 BCE	migration of Austronesian-speaking farmers from Taiwan to the Philippines and Borneo
2000 BCE	migration of Austronesians from Sulawesi and Borneo into Java and Sumatra
1500 BCE	migration of Austronesians from Java and Sumatra into New Guinea
15 th century CE	Makassarese fished in northwest Australia – for sea-cucumbers to export to China

1606	Luis Vaz de Torres (Spanish) – discovered Torres Strait (New Guinea and Australia)
1616	Dirck Hartog (Dutch) landed at Shark Bay in western Australia
1626-1627	Pieter Nuyts (Dutch) mapped 1,000 miles of the southern coast of Australia
1642-1643	Abel Tasman (Dutch) discovered Tasmania, New Zealand, and northern New Guinea
1644	Abel Tasman explored northern coast of New Holland (Australia)
1699-1700	William Dampier (British) explored western coast of New Holland
18 th century	Aboriginal population of Australia was about 300,000
18 th century	Papuan population of New Guinea was about 1 million
1768-1771	Captain James Cook (British) – first circumnavigation of the world
1770	Captain James Cook landed at Botany Bay – explored the east coast of Australia
1772-1775	Captain James Cook’s second circumnavigation
1774	Captain James Cook reached a furthest south position of 71 degrees South latitude

- 1774 Captain James Cook discovered/named New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island
- 1776-1779 Captain James Cook's third circumnavigation
- 1779 Captain James Cook was killed in Hawaii
- 1786 British government decided to settle New South Wales as a penal colony
- 1787-1789 *Bounty* expedition – led by William Bligh – breadfruit to Jamaica – chart Torres Strait
- 1788 The First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay in southeastern Australia
- 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip discovered Port Jackson – settled at Sydney Cove
- 1788 Philip King led convicts to settle Norfolk Island – to supply Sydney with pine, food
- 1788-1814 British penal colony on Norfolk Island failed to grow food, exploit pine – settlement razed
- 1789 Fletcher Christian led the mutiny on the *Bounty* – 25 mutineers sought refuge island
- 1790 9 *Bounty* mutineers arrived in Pitcairn Island – divided cultivable land into equal shares
- 1790 The Second Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove in New South Wales – saved British settlement
- 1798 George Bass circumnavigated Tasmania

1801-1804	Matthew Flinders circumnavigated Australia
1813-1814	George Evans discovered pastures west of Great Dividing Range
1820s	Merino sheep bred for Australian climate
1825-1855	Britain rebuilt Norfolk Island as a prison for hardcore recidivists – “Hell on Earth”
1830s	free migrants to Australia began exceeding convict settlers in Australia’s population
1831	British government relocated all Pitcairners to Tahiti – 65 survivors returned to Pitcairn
1840-1844	Alexander Maconochie commanded the prison on Norfolk Island – atypical reformer
1842	copper discovered at Burra, South Australia – first center of metal mining in Australia
1850	Australian colonies (except Western Australia) gained self-government
1850	Western Australia became a convict colony – desired cheap labor and British subsidies
1850s	gold rush in Ballarat and Bendigo, Victoria – attracted new migrants to Australia
1855	penal colonies in New South Wales and Tasmania received their last convicts

1855	British officials permanently closed the prison on Norfolk Island
1856	British officials moved all 194 Pitcairn Islanders to uninhabited Norfolk Island
1856	Paper of Cession – British deeded nearly all of Norfolk Island to Pitcairn Islanders
1856-1896	Britain allowed local Pitcairners a large voice in local governance of Norfolk Island
1859-1864	40 Pitcairners returned to Pitcairn Island from Norfolk Island – repopulated Pitcairn
1861-1862	Charles Sturt completed overland expedition to north coast
1867-1920	Church of England's Melanesian Mission – had headquarters, school on Norfolk Island
1868	last of 163,000 convicts arrived in Australia
1870-1910	30,000 Solomonese blackbirded laborers worked in Queensland or Fiji
1884	British Government proclaimed a Protectorate in southeastern New Guinea
1890s	gold rush in Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
1890s	financial panic, droughts, and depression in Australia

1891	Henry Parkes led a convention – constitution for a proposed Commonwealth of Australia
1896-1914	Norfolk Island was governed as part of New South Wales
1901	Commonwealth of Australia proclaimed (January) – six states – capital at Canberra
1906-1939	Hubert Murray, Lieutenant-Governor of Australian Papua – increased copra exports
1914-2016	Norfolk Island was a Territory within the Commonwealth of Australia
1914-1918	Australia lost 60,000 soldiers fighting with Allies in World War I
1922	Australia received a League of Nations mandate to govern northeastern New Guinea
1931	Australia gained formal independence from Great Britain
1932	Australia gained privileged access to British markets for agricultural products
1930s	Australia suffered 25 percent unemployment during Great Depression
1939-1945	Australia lost 34,000 soldiers fighting with Allies in World War II
1942-1944	1,500 Allied troops served on Norfolk Island – economic boom, permanent air link

1945	Territory of Papua and New Guinea (eastern half of New Guinea) reverted to Australia
1945-1973	3.5 million immigrants entered Australia – population grew to 13 million
1946	Pilbara Movement – Aboriginal strikes for better pay and cooperative settlements
1949-1966	Robert Menzies, Prime Minister – Liberal Party coalition
1950s-1960s	mining boom in coal, base metals (bauxite, iron, manganese), coal
1952	Menzies administration imposed import restrictions to protect Australian industry
1960	federal and state governments stopped segregating Aborigines into reserves
1962	federal government enfranchised the Aborigines
1965-1971	Australia sent 8,000 troops to support the United States in Vietnam
1972-1975	Gough Whitlam, Prime Minister – Labor Party
1972	Aboriginal Tent Embassy erected outside Parliament House, Canberra
1972	Whitlam government promised independence to Papua New Guinea

1973	Whitlam government reduced import tariffs by 25 percent across-the-board
1975	Papua New Guinea gained its independence from Australia – elected self-government
1975-1983	Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister – Liberal Party coalition
1983-1991	Bob Hawke, Prime Minister – Labor Party
1988	Australia celebrated its Bicentenary – Queen Elizabeth II opened World Expo at Brisbane
1988	40,000 Aborigines protested in Sydney – infringement of native lands by miners
1989	Australia became a founding member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
1991	Hawke government announced reduction of protective tariffs to 5 percent (by 1996)
1991-1996	Paul Keating, Prime Minister – Labor Party
1992	High Court of Australia ruled that Aborigines possessed native title to the land
1996-2007	John Howard, Prime Minister – Liberal Party coalition
1998	Native Title Act passed – procedures for determining claims to land title, land fund
2007-2010, 2013	Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister – Labor Party

2008	Kevin Rudd issued national apology for discrimination to Aboriginal Australians
2010-2013	Julia Gillard, Prime Minister – Labor Party
2013-2015	Tony Abbott, Prime Minister – Liberal Party coalition
2015-2018	Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister – Liberal Party coalition
2015	Norfolk Islanders voted give up the island’s special status as a Territory of Australia
2016	Norfolk Island became part of New South Wales
2018-present	Scott Morrison, Prime Minister – Liberal Party coalition
2019	Australia’s population was 25.4 million – 16 percent were of Asian ancestry
2019	Australia ranked 8 th of 189 countries in the United Nation’s Human Development Index

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Sites Visited in Australia

A Cruise in the South Pacific, Aboard the *Seabourn Odyssey* Seabourn Cruise Line January 16-February 9, 2012

Burnie, Tasmania

Our first port of call in Australia was Burnie in the island state of Tasmania. Established initially in 1827, Burnie today is the home to 20,000 residents and serves as the exporting port for minerals produced in northwestern Tasmania – lead, zinc, gold, and pyrites. Fifty retirees serve as volunteer hosts for visitors from cruise ships (18 ships will call in Burnie this summer), providing help on shuttle buses and at points of interest in the town. Sandra and I had a pleasant, 3-hour walking tour of Burnie on a quiet Sunday morning. We chatted with artisans in a crafts demonstration center and walked through a lovely, but deserted, city park up to a waterfall. At the Burnie Regional Museum, we enjoyed an extensive exhibit, which reconstructed life in a Tasmanian village in the late 19th century, and a brief theatrical performance that highlighted issues of that era.

Melbourne, Victoria

For four decades after the Victorian Gold Rush (1851-1858), Melbourne was one of the wealthiest cities in the world. Melbourne's population grew from 80,000 in 1850 to 500,000 in 1858, and Victoria's capital became the leading city in Australia for the rest of the 19th century. Today, Melbourne has a diverse population of 4.1 million, including over 300,000 of Greek ethnicity. The booming city's population is expected to double in the next 30 years. I escorted an excellent ship's tour of historic Melbourne. We toured the historic Victorian city, enjoyed its beautiful parks, and visited the Shrine of Remembrance, a moving World War I memorial, and the modern Melbourne Museum,

which opened in 2000. We then ate lunch in the Colonial Tram Car Restaurant, where we feasted on a delicious four-course meal while moving through the city on tram rails.

Sydney, New South Wales

The sail-in into Sydney harbor is one of the best in the world (along with those into Venice, Rio de Janeiro, and Hong Kong). Islands and spits of land hide the Opera House and the Sydney Harbor Bridge, before they make a dramatic last minute appearance. We observed the spectacular sail-in over breakfast and orchestra music on deck as the *Seabourn Odyssey* gradually approached its dock in Sydney's Darling Harbor. One-fifth of Australia's 22.4 million people reside in booming Sydney and enjoy the multiplicity of the city's ethnicities, activities, and restaurants. For a century, Sydney has been the heart of dynamic Australia. I made an extensive walking tour and visited the Opera House, Sydney's world-renowned landmark, the fabulous Royal Botanic Gardens, and the historic Rocks (the site of the first convict settlement after 1788).

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New Zealand to New Guinea

Zegrahm Expeditions and Stanford Travel/Study Program

January 30-February 19, 2010

Ship-based, Aboard the *Clipper Odyssey*

Norfolk Island

After we sailed northward for 600 miles, Zegrahm Expeditions and Stanford Travel-Study paid their first-ever visit to Norfolk Island. Norfolk Island, a remote and tiny (3- by 5-mile) island with 2100 residents, has its own government and tax system and is an independent territory administered by Australia. We visited three sites – Kingston, Longridge, and Cascade – which housed convicts when Norfolk Island

was a penal settlement (1788-1855). During the last three decades of the convict period, Norfolk Island held hard-core, recidivist criminals and was the Alcatraz of the British Empire. Nearly half of the island's residents are Euro-Polynesian descendants of the 194 *Bounty* mutineers who had moved from Pitcairn Island to Norfolk Island in 1856. Some of them hosted a cultural tour to demonstrate how they utilize local materials to make traditional Polynesian items – bananas (vegetable *pilhi*), Norfolk pine (wood-turned bowls and plates), and flax (hand-woven hats). We also saw the exquisite St. Barnabas Church, built for the Anglican Melanesian Mission in 1880.

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Australia Air Expedition
Stanford Travel/Study Program
June 29–July 18, 2007
Airplane-based

Sydney and Canberra, New South Wales

We started and ended our circumnavigation in Sydney, the home to one-fifth of Australia's 20 million people. For a century, Sydney has been the heart of dynamic Australia. We visited the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Rocks (the site of the first convict settlement), the Toranga Zoo (for an introduction to Australia's marsupials and monotremes), the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Australian Museum (for an introduction to the country's amazing array of commercial minerals), and the Opera House, Sydney's world-renowned landmark. Booming Sydney sparkled, even in the heart of Australia's winter. Our only other stop in New South Wales was Canberra, the well-designed capital of Australia. In our brief touch-down in Canberra, we visited the Parliament and received an excellent introduction to Australia's political system.

Hobart, Tasmania

We flew south to Australia's island state, Tasmania, for the second and third stops on our circumnavigation. Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, was originally established as a convict settlement in 1803 and served as the heart of the southern whaling industry in the 1840s. Today, it is an attractive port city of 200,000 residents. We took a walking tour of the city's historic center and enjoyed its varied architecture. From the harbor, we boated south to Port Arthur, one of Australia's prime tourist attractions. Port Arthur was an infamous prison for second offenders from the 1830s to the 1870s. The convict laborers did an amazing job of constructing the beautifully-preserved stone facilities. The nearby Isle of the Dead houses a cemetery for prison workers and convicts, and the gravestones provide a vivid history of Tasmania's turbulent 19th century.

Strahan, Tasmania

We next flew to Wynyard in northwestern Tasmania and motored through a region of timber and mining operations en route to Strahan, a tiny scenic port on the west coast. From Strahan, we cruised by boat through the Hell's Gate entrance to Macquarie Harbor, up the Gordon River to view incredible scenery and the majestic old Huon pines, and stopped at Sarah Island, the site of another infamous, early-19th-century prison for second offenders. Back in Strahan, we attended (and participated in) a production called "The Ship That Never Was," a raucous spoof based on the plight of ten prisoners who hijacked a ship and escaped from Tasmania to Chile. Our last stop in Tasmania was in King Island, where we put down for a few hours to visit a kelp plant and to taste magnificent cheeses and yogurts in a local dairy factory. Tasmania was green and cold.

Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, South Australia

South Australia was next on our agenda. We toured beautiful Adelaide, the state capital since the colony was founded as a free settlement in the 1830s. We spent a day studying and enjoying the South Australian wine

industry. Kym Anderson, my former student and a leading expert on the economics of wine, explained the rapid growth of Australia's wine exports and then joined us for an all-day tour of wineries in the Barossa and Eden Valleys. Then we flew over to Kangaroo Island to see the large colony of Australian sea lions at Seal Bay Conservation Park and to observe kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas (a porcupine-like monotreme – egg-laying mammal), and koalas in Latham Conservation Park. While heading north, we put down briefly in Coober Pedy, where most of the world's opals are mined, to visit the Umona opal mine and museum.

Uluru and Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Our sole stop in interior Australia was Uluru, formerly known as Ayers' Rock. The famed reddish sandstone rock formation, sacred to Aboriginal peoples, was given back to them in 1985 and leased to the federal government to form part of a national park. We rode on a pack-train of camels and then had a scrumptious meal in the desert as we observed the sun setting on Uluru and had an explanation of the constellations in the southern night sky. We next flew to Alice Springs, where we visited the Telegraph Station around which the town was built in the 1860s, the School of the Air, which services children on remote cattle stations, a reptile park for an introduction to the vast array of reptiles in the Northern Territory, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which provides emergency medical services throughout the Australian outback.

Kalgoorlie, Perth, and Fremantle, Western Australia

We landed our chartered plane three times in Western Australia. Kalgoorlie was our first Western stop. Gold was discovered in Kalgoorlie in 1897, and the Western Australian outback has been a leading gold producer ever since. We toured the Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mine, a massive open pit mine, which produces a gram of gold for every ton of processed rock. Two-thirds of Western

Australia's 2 million people live in Perth, Australia's richest city. From Perth, we boated to Fremantle, an historic port town. There we spent an enlightening hour in the Western Australian Maritime Museum, which contains boats from the whaling era in the early 19th century to the contemporary Americas' Cup. Since 1990, Western Australian income has grown at 10 percent a year, twice the national average, riding the crest of an incredible mining boom.

Broome, Western Australia

From beautiful and booming Perth, we flew to Broome – a picturesque port town located on the northwest coast of Western Australia. Broome is the center of Australia's lucrative cultured pearl industry, and its unending white-sand beaches and tropical climate attract tourists in the winter. We drove out over dusty roads to the Willie Creek Pearl Farm and learned that the world's largest and best quality pearls are made by introducing a small piece of Mississippi mussel shell into the biggest oyster in the world, which is found only in Australia. We also were treated to Australian damper, a heavy wheat bread laced with beer. An absolute must-do at the Cable Beach Club Resort in Broome is to walk to the beach to observe the glorious sunset. The sunsets into the Indian Ocean are every bit as spectacular as advertised.

Darwin and Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory

The final stop on our circumnavigation of Australia was Darwin, on the northern coast of Northern Territory (NT). Like Western Australia, NT is benefiting enormously from Australia's mining boom. Darwin, the territorial capital, has grown quickly to house 125,000 residents. NT is the home of most of Australia's 200,000 Aborigines. We visited the Art Gallery of Northern Territory to see an exhibit of colorful Aboriginal art. Later, our group flew in three small planes to Kakadu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. On a fascinating boat trip on the Yellow Waters, our Aborigine guide taught us about Aboriginal culture, crocodiles, and wetland birds. We visited the Warrandjan Aboriginal

Cultural Center and the spectacular Aboriginal rock paintings at Nourlangie Rock. The crocodile meat at lunch, however, was not memorable.

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Circumnavigation of New Guinea
Stanford Travel/Study and Zegrahm Expeditions
March 7-April 4, 2006
Ship-based, Aboard the *Clipper Odyssey*

Thursday Island, Torres Strait Islands, Queensland

We left New Guinea to spend two interesting days at the tip of Northern Australia. About 10,000 people live in the Torres Strait Islands, and 4,000 of them reside on Thursday Island. Most are Torres Strait Islanders, a multiracial blend of Australian Aborigines, Melanesians, and Polynesians. For nearly a century after pearl shell was discovered in the Strait in 1868, Thursday Island thrived as the center for pearl shell divers and sea cucumber collectors.

Cape York, Queensland

We sailed south-eastward to Cape York, the northern-most point on the continent of Australia. We stood triumphantly at the commemorative marker that denoted that we had reached the top of Australia. Our hotel staff fittingly provided Spanish champagne to allow us to celebrate the occasion. Many of us climbed up to the top of the hill to enjoy a spectacular view of the craggy surroundings. A family of Australian Aborigines quickly disappeared into the forest.

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Around the World Expedition, By Private Jet
TCS Expeditions

December 28, 2004-January 19, 2005
Airplane-based

Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the leading tourist attractions in Australia, and the largely European-Australian population of northeast Queensland relies heavily on income from tourism. But the future of the Great Barrier Reef is threatened by excessive commercial and recreational fishing, the dumping of agricultural effluents into streams flowing into the Reef region, and, most of all, global warming that increases ocean temperatures and causes coral bleaching (when algae leave the coral polyps and the reefs die).

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Australia's Great Barrier Reef
Clipper Cruise Line
March 7-20, 2004
Ship-based, Aboard the *Clipper Odyssey*

Flinders Reef, Queensland

The first leg of our cruise on the *Clipper Odyssey* took us to Flinders Reef, named after Matthew Flinders (who, in 1801-1804, was the first explorer to circumnavigate Australia). Tourists rarely visit Flinders Reef, and this was the first time that the *Clipper Odyssey* has been to this small but fascinating destination, located outside the main boundary of the Great Barrier Reef. Atop this reef is a cay, a small coral outcropping. On the tiny island were an unmanned weather station, long stretches of coral sand, and several pairs of nesting black-masked boobies. Flinders Reef proved to be a good choice for our first reef visit because (unfortunately) it recently suffered from a severe coral bleaching event. Much of the coral at Flinders was dead or seriously bleached because of the unusually high temperatures, caused by global

warming and exacerbated by drought in 2002. We observed the serious threat of excessive water temperatures to the future of Great Barrier Reef. Nevertheless, while snorkeling, we were heartened by early signs of recovery. Fish populations were low, but we were able to observe several fascinating species.

Whitsunday Islands, Queensland

We next sailed south to the Whitsunday Islands, named by Captain James Cook who discovered the islands on Whitsunday in May 1770. In the morning, we took a Fantasea excursion boat through rough seas to Whitehaven Beach, a pristine, silica-sand beach. There we went on a nature walk and observed goannas, large lizards that look much like iguanas. In the afternoon, we wandered through the streets and surroundings of Hamilton Island, an upscale resort community. Our passengers from the Audobon Society went “birding by buggies” on golf carts and saw kookaburras and lorikeets.

Hardy Reef, Queensland

During the night, we sailed a short distance north to the Hardy Reef. At Hardy, we again enjoyed the services of the Fantasea Marine Excursions Company and motored out to their wonderful reef pontoon platform. The snorkeling was excellent on a bright sunny day through the reef maze that surrounded us. Fantasea also took us in a submersible boat to observe the incredibly diverse marine life around the coral. Along with enormous numbers of the small and colorful damsel and butterfly fish, we saw several large, pelagic species, including giant trevally, mackerel, and barracuda.

Hinchinbrook Island, Queensland

I celebrated my 66th birthday (March 13) on Hinchinbrook Island, north of Townsville, which was named by Captain Cook after the estate in England of his boss, the first lord of the British Admiralty. Most of this

large island is part of the Great Barrier Reef National Park. We spent the morning touring the mangrove swamp forests and visiting the spectacular beaches in small boats. We looked hard for dugongs, the sea cows that resemble manatees, but the weather was bad and we failed to see any of these unusual marine mammals. In the afternoon, we went on a nature walk in the wet tropical rainforest near the one small resort on the island.

Port Douglas and Daintree National Park, Queensland

Early the next morning, we disembarked in the port of Port Douglas, an attractive community located 30 miles north of Cairns. Port Douglas is a thriving small town of about 3000 permanent residents, based primarily on tourism and fishing. (Former President Bill Clinton learned of the 9/11 tragedy in a hotel in Port Douglas). We drove north to visit Daintree National Park, a part of the Queensland wet tropical rainforest. Our local guides noted that the Daintree Forest is the oldest wet tropical rain forest in the world, and they pointed out examples of the idiospermum tree, believed to have existed in this area for more than 100 million years. We observed many interesting birds, including the buff-breasted paradise kingfisher and the cassowary. We spent a fascinating hour in the Daintree Rainforest Environmental Center. The Center featured a tall observation platform with clear explanations of the ecology of each layer in the forest canopy. The Center also had a metal aerial walkway that enhanced our understanding of symbiotic relationships in the tropical rainforest.

Stanley Island and Davie Reef, Queensland

The Ides of March was one of the highlights of the trip for me. On that day, we had two very different and memorable experiences. During the morning, we visited Stanley Island in the Flinders Islands Group. That island is mostly owned by the Githuwarra, an Aboriginal group that lives north of Cooktown on the mainland. Two Githuwarra accompanied us to explain aspects of their culture. Bonnie, a social worker, pointed out

the Aboriginal uses of plants, and Danny, a ranger, explained the spiritual meanings of the magnificent rock art that is found on the island. In the afternoon, we sailed on to Davie Reef to snorkel over the giant clam gardens there. The reef there was in excellent condition, and the giant clams and numerous fish were remarkable. Davie Reef was our most northerly stop on the Great Barrier Reef.

Lizard Island, Queensland

The following day found us at Lizard Island, north of Cooktown. After Captain Cook and the *Endeavour* had run aground on the Endeavour Reef and nearly ended his first circumnavigation of the world, he went ashore at the Endeavour River (the site of modern Cooktown) to make repairs. As Cook was later searching for a way out of the Great Barrier Reef, he climbed a high hill on Lizard Island to a point now known as Cook's Look. There he observed a small strait (now inevitably Cook's Strait), which he followed out of the barrier. The snorkeling off Lizard Island was amazing. The fringing reef there had a profusion of fish and anemones. Our passengers searched diligently for Nemo (a clown anemone fish). Several claimed to have spotted him, but our Reef naturalist assured them that they could only have seen Nemo's cousins on this reef.

Cooktown and Ribbon Reef # 5, Queensland

The last day of our expedition was varied and fulfilling. We spent the morning in Cooktown, a frontier community of perhaps 2000 permanent residents, named (of course) for Captain James Cook. Locals proudly dressed up in late 18th century attire and fired a cannon for us. Cooktown has an impressive museum that includes collections of Cook memorabilia and interesting exhibits of local Aboriginal culture. In the afternoon, we visited yet a different type of reef, a ribbon reef that constitutes part of the Great Barrier Reef. We snorkeled on Ribbon Reef # 5 (one of the eleven ribbons that make up the barrier off Cooktown). Appropriately, the best snorkeling had been saved for the last. This

ribbon reef contained the most spectacular colors – of reef and fish – that we observed anywhere. A massive tropical storm blew in during our snorkeling, and the dark clouds increased the density of fish populations. To top off the trip, passengers observed huge numbers of spinner dolphins on their return to the ship.

Sydney, New South Wales

At the end of the trip we flew from Cairns to Sydney and spent two relaxing days in Sydney, Australia's cosmopolitan city of 4 million residents. I took a half-day city tour and then followed up that introduction with visits to the Sydney Museum, the Opera House, the Hyde Park Barracks (a museum of the convict period), and the Aquarium, where I revisited the coral, fish, and sharks that we had observed on the Great Barrier Reef. I also experienced the perfect acoustics of the Sydney Opera House when I attended a performance of the symphony there.

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**Southeast Asia Cruise,
Seabourn Cruise Line
February 7-March 2, 2001
Ship-based, Aboard the *Seabourn Sun***

Port Douglas, Queensland

We arrived in Australia a day early to have a quick look around Cairns and environs. We rented a car and drove north to Port Douglas where we spent the night. The next morning we had a fascinating tour of the northeastern Australian rain forest with an Aboriginal guide who taught us how his people use the plants for “bush tucker” and “bush medicine.” We then were treated to a demonstration of didgeridoo playing (the didgeridoo is a hollowed log that the Aborigines play somewhat like a trombone). Though very brief, our second visit to Australia whetted our

appetites for seeing more of that incredibly accessible continent in the future.

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