

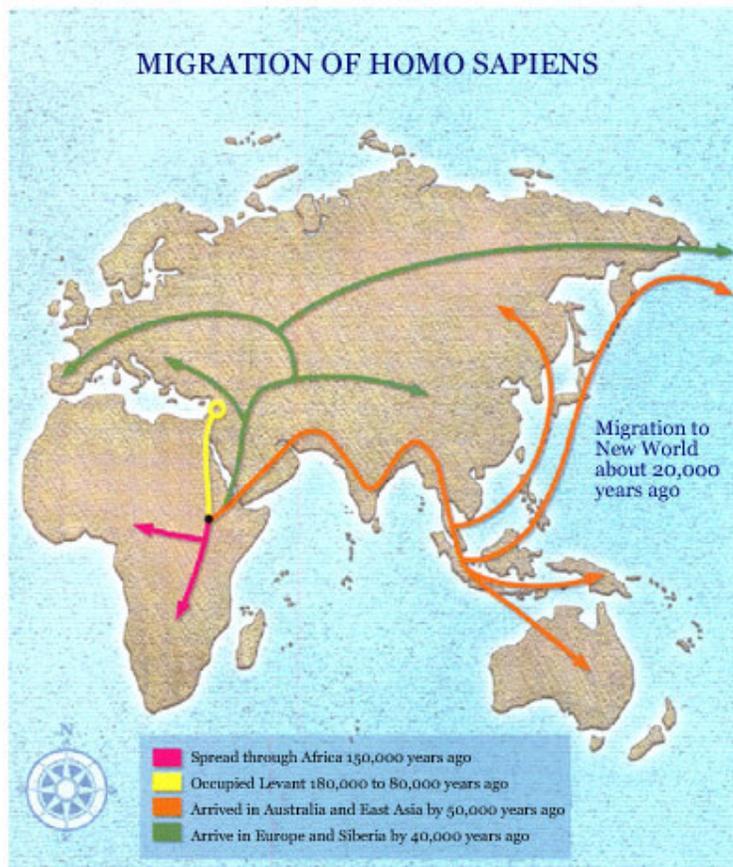
# objects

## through timeline...

### 50,000 Years Before Present

#### Aboriginal people migrate to Northern Australia through Asia

Before about 50,000 years ago, when humans successfully migrated out of Africa, they were already beginning to diverge into distinct populations.



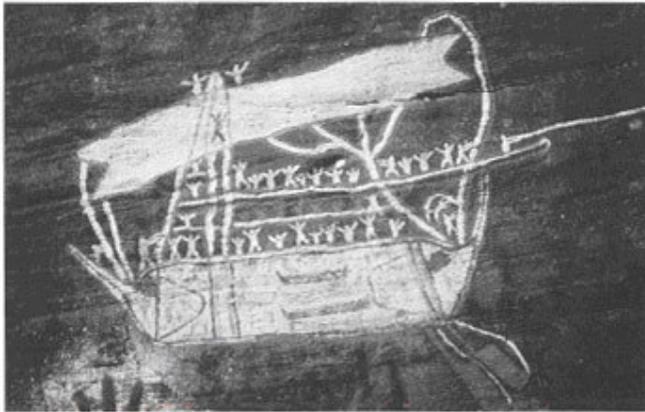
The migration of Homo sapiens from 150,000 to 40,000 years ago. *Courtesy of Tadeusz Majeski/ ABC Press*

Our species evolved in Africa 200,000 years ago. Paleoanthropological studies have found that people spread out of Africa in at least two waves. The earlier wave travelled from Eastern Africa into the east coast of the Mediterranean known as the Levant about 80,000 years ago. The later second wave moved from Africa into the Arabian Peninsula and continued eastward following the coast of South Asia about 50,000 years ago. This southern wave kept rolling along reaching South East Asia, where one branch of people migrated to Australia and New Guinea, while other branches moved along the coast of East Asia. A branch of this second wave

migration moved north, into the central Asia and spread west into Europe and east into Siberia about 40,000 years ago. Eventually humans made their way to the American continent about 20,000 years ago

The actual timing of the southern wave of humans is hard to ascertain because it appears to have moved along the coast. After the end of the last Ice Age 12,000 years ago the melting glaciers drowned large stretches of coastline so the evidence is now under the ocean. The fossils we have of these migrants offer few clues as to what sparked their spread.

Migration to the Australian continent for these travellers was a difficult task. Australia is separated from South East Asia by a great expanse of water. During the last Ice Age, the distance was smaller because so much water was locked up in glaciers. But before 50,000 years ago humans would still have faced a voyage across fifty miles of open sea to get to Australia. They must have built sea craft strong enough to survive the voyage, a technological feat that went beyond making spears or lighting fires.



Macassan prahu with crew. Aboriginal rock painting, Groote Eylandt. *Courtesy Northern Territory Museum & Art Gallery*

The first Aboriginal people arrived on the northwest coast of Australia between 65,000 and 40,000 years ago. The archaeological evidence suggests that Aboriginal people traded with Macassans and the peoples of southern Java for thousands of years. Aboriginal people eventually populated the entire continent of Australia constantly hunting the birds, fish and animals and taking advantage of the land's resources. That was until the coming of Europeans in the 1600's.

## 1600s - 1700s

### Dutch map west coast of Australia and Van Diemens Land

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*Prado y Tobar - Relacion sumaria del del descubrimto. que enpeco pero fernandez de quiros...y le acabo El capan don diego de prado...con asistencia del capan luis baes de torres...1607, Prado y Tobar, Diego de, written ca. 1614-1615, (Safe 1/16 CY 298), Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.*

For at least 40,000 years Aboriginal people lived isolated in Australia. About 1000 years ago people from China, India, Arabia, Malaya and the Pacific Islands started to explore the oceans around them. It is most likely that these sailors visited the north coast of Australia and traded with Aboriginal people.

Around CE 150 a brilliant Greek astronomer named Ptolemy drew a map of the world. Ptolemy speculated that land masses might lie beyond the known European world. Like many others, Ptolemy believed there was a Great South Land to balance the landmass of the Northern Hemisphere. Ptolemy called his imagined land *Terra Australis Incognita* - the unknown south land. Gradually Europeans explored and pushed the boundaries of the known European world. The first Europeans to visit Australia were the Dutch. Willem Janszoon mapped part of the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1606 and was the first European to set foot on Australia soil. Janszoon was followed by Dirk Hartog in 1616 and Abel Tasman in 1642 and 1644. The Dutch named the west coast of Australia *New Holland*. In 1699 the English pirate William Dampier landed on the West Coast of Australia and this was a catalyst for British interest in New Holland.

# 1770

## Cook names the east coast of Australia 'New Holland'

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*Captain James Cook - watercolour  
on ivory miniature in gold frame,  
DL Pa 24, Mitchell Library, State  
Library of New South Wales*

In 1768, England sent an expedition to Tahiti to chart the transit of Venus across the sun. James Cook, a brilliant Royal Navy navigator and map maker, was in charge of the expedition on the converted coal carrier HMS *Endeavour*. After completing the astronomical task of observing the transit of Venus, Cook set out to see if there was a Great South Land - the land that navigators had believed existed for hundreds of years. After circumnavigating New Zealand, Cook's expedition sailed west for Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) but winds forced the *Endeavour* north and the expedition came upon the east coast of Australia in April 1770. For the next four months, Cook mapped the east coast from Eden to the Gulf of Carpentaria. At a brief and simple ceremony at Botany Bay, Cook named the entire east coast of Australia *New South Wales*.

# 1788

## The American War of independence and Britain's move into the Pacific

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*The Founding of Australia. By Capt. Arthur Phillip R.N. Sydney Cove, Jan. 26th 1788, Algernon Talmadge R.A, 1937, ML 1222, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

The First Fleet of 11 ships, each one no larger than a Manly ferry, left Portsmouth in 1787 with more than 1480 men, women and children onboard. Although most were British, there were also African, American and French convicts. After a voyage of three months the First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay on 24 January 1788. Here the Aboriginal people, who had lived in isolation for 40,000 years, met the British in an uneasy stand off at what is now known as Frenchmans Beach at La Perouse. On 26 January two French frigates of the Lapérouse expedition sailed into Botany Bay as the British were relocating to Sydney Cove in Port Jackson. The isolation of the Aboriginal people in Australia had finished. European Australia was established in a simple ceremony at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

## 1790 - 1830s

**Exploration of NSW interior & coastline, 13 counties established to control land usage in areas beyond government control. Wool industry developed, farming developed and free settlement begins**

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*A view of part of Parramatta Port Jackson, J.W. Lewin, 1809, PXD 388, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.*

Between 1789 and 1791, the settlers at Sydney Cove were critically short of food. To make matters worse, the supply ship *Guardian* was wrecked off South Africa before it reached the Colony, and HMS *Sirius*, one of two of the Colony's Navy vessels, was wrecked on Norfolk Island en route to China seeking food. In desperation, the HMS *Supply*, the Colony's second Navy ship, was sent to Indonesia for food. Hopes were raised when a vessel arrived in Port Jackson in 1790, but it was not the *Supply*, but the Second Fleet of five ships carrying over 730 people. This Second Fleet was a disaster, with its human cargo severely abused and exploited by the private ship owners. Of 1000 convicts on board, 267 died and 480 were sick from scurvy, dysentery and fever. The supplies on board the Second Fleet were supposed to feed the convicts, but the ship owners withheld the supplies for sale until after the convicts disembarked. Phillip, enraged by this behaviour as he had to further ration existing supplies, became desperate to establish farms and a local economy.

Farms, established at Rose Hill (Parramatta) and later at Richmond and Windsor, were soon producing crops. Explorers set out to find new land and areas were opened up in the Liverpool area for market gardens, viticulture and sheep grazing for wool.

As the Colony expanded, new land was needed for farms and the new cash crop of wool, with sheep runs getting bigger and bigger. Several ex-army and ex-convict businessmen were becoming wealthy by exporting wool to England. They also had become quite powerful and even deposed a Governor named Bligh who tried to control their business activities. To the

west of Sydney, the Blue Mountains presented a physical barrier and the challenge was set to find a passage. In 1813, explorers Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth crossed the Blue Mountains and found rich grass plains as far as the eye could see. This was an economic bonanza for the New South Wales businessmen. The Government tried to regulate land use by setting up 13 counties radiating out from Sydney for 200 miles in all directions. Land use beyond these was forbidden. This was hard to enforce and businessmen sent shepherds into the frontier to 'squat' and graze sheep. Eventually the businessmen claimed this land as their own and became known as 'squatters'. All the while Aboriginal people were being forced off their homeland and in many cases murdered if they resisted.

Around this time Matthew Flinders was exploring the coastline of New South Wales and New Holland. In 1802-03, Flinders circumnavigated the continent and was the first person to use the term *Australia* when referring to the whole continent of New Holland, New South Wales and Van Diemens Land.

## 1830-1840s

### Assisted immigration introduced

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To curb the dominance of the squatters and to end the system of free convict labour, the Colonial Government decided to promote the migration of free settlers and limit squatter land leases to 14 years. This was to create an emancipist (free people) consumer economy and improve the moral tone of the colony. The Colonial Government assisted some migrants by paying their fare to Australia and helped to set up farms and businesses alongside the wealthy squatters - who of course were not very happy with such competition.

About one third of migrants who came to Australia between 1830 and 1850 paid their own way. Convicts and settlers who came to Australia found that in comparison to Europe, conditions were very good and with hard work and determination they could prosper. They encouraged their relatives in England to come to Australia and enjoy the prosperity. Women migrants were also assisted to curb a gender imbalance in the colonies, to work as domestic servants and to foster marriages and childbirth. These migration schemes resulted in 58,000 people coming to Australia between 1815 and 1840.

With increasing numbers of free migrants and the desire of Colonial society to be free of the hated 'convict stain', the Colonial Government decided to cease transportation to NSW in 1852. Between 1788 and 1868 approximately 160,000 convicts were sent to Australia.

## 1840-1900

**Aboriginal protection legislation passed by NSW Parliament.  
New South Wales gold rushes and Robertson Land Acts.  
Development of urban and regional industries with migrant  
workers. Moves to federate Australian colonies..**

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*Circular Quay, Charles Percy Pickering, 1871, XV1/Har/Circ/1, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

When James Cook sailed along the east coast of Australia in 1770 he named it New South Wales. By 1869, there were five other colonies in Australia - Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland - all settled by British people. These separate colonies all had their own governors and systems of government reporting to Britain.

As the interior was explored and mapped, squatters and free settlers followed, eager to take up land. Wherever Europeans went, Aboriginal people were pushed from their home lands. Governments wanted to protect Aboriginal people from settler violence. By the 1880s, many Australians believed that Aboriginal people were dying out. In 1788, there had been over 300,000 Aboriginal people in mainland Australia, but by 1888 there were an estimated 80,000. Colonial governments believed that the best way to help Aboriginal people was by a policy of 'Protection'. This policy lasted from the 1880s to the 1930s. Aboriginal people were encouraged to live on government reserves and church missions far away from other Australians. They were given food, clothes, blankets and sometimes basic education. Squatters and settlers often used people from the reserves as cheap labour or, in some cases, as slaves.

### **The gold rush**

The discovery of gold sent a shock wave through Colonial Australia. In 1851, Edward Hargraves convinced the people of Sydney that there was payable gold just outside of Bathurst in New South Wales. Within a month, 400 prospectors were in the area looking for gold. Soon payable gold was found in Victoria near Ballarat and Bendigo and people began streaming to the two goldfields, resulting in a 'gold rush'. With so many people leaving for the goldfields, many businesses found it hard to keep operating. People began to act irrationally, spending all their savings and abandoning their families to get to the goldfields. Mining towns grew overnight at Sofala, Hill End, Ophir, Forbes and Lambing Flat. Ships crews deserted, leaving vessels stranded in port, shepherds left their flocks and government officials, clerks, teachers and policemen left their jobs in the excitement.

Immigrant ships brought thousands of people keen to try their luck at the diggings. The sailing time from England was reduced to 80 days and the newcomers, like the migrants before them, endured appalling conditions under unscrupulous shipowners. While people migrated from all over the world during the gold rush most came from Scotland and England, followed by a large number of Chinese diggers who were often victimised on the goldfields.

However, in time people realised that gold was not the bonanza they anticipated and they began to filter back into cities and towns looking for work and places to live. They noticed that large areas of land were not being used and wanted the chance to establish farms like the squatters had done before them. With an increased population came further demand for land, food, clothes and buildings and the Australian economy grew to accommodate these needs.

Another impact of this large influx of migrants was that ideas of democracy and egalitarianism were imported from Europe and the United States. Up until the 1850s, only landowners and squatters had the right to vote. People began to demand 'one vote for one man'. Soon women demanded the right to vote.

Colonial governments sought to free up more land for all these migrants. The 14-year leases granted to the squatters ended by 1861, and colonial governments passed new laws to free up land and raise revenues. Between 1858 and 1872, all the colonies passed Selection Acts. In New South Wales the Acts were called the Robertson Land Acts. People could select a plot of land which they could then buy cheaply at auction. They then had to live on the land for a year and make improvements such as constructing huts, sheds, dams and fences. To cheat selectors out of land, squatters used friends and employees to put 'dummy' claims on the best land with water.

In the towns and cities, many migrants sought jobs in industries and new suburbs expanded across Sydney. Services like water, sewerage and transportation were slow to be introduced and public health issues became a problem. Women who came to Australia to work as domestic servants found that their pay and the employer's attitudes were not good and that better wages were on offer in food and textile factories. Migrants skilled in mining, steel milling and maritime trades were targeted with promises of better conditions and pay. During the 1870s and 1880s the economy was booming, but in 1892 a severe drought lasting four years crippled the economy, resulting in widespread unemployment, poverty and industrial strikes.

As a result of this economic depression, the colonies created a federal system of government that administered wages and conditions, defence, immigration and social welfare.

# 1901

**Commonwealth of Australia created under Federal Constitution. White Australia Policy formalised in Immigration Restriction Act.**

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*Invitations to Australian Commonwealth Celebrations, Francis Cotton, 1901, MLMSS 2509X, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

Before 1900, there was no actual country called *Australia*, only the six colonies - New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. While these colonies were on the same continent, they were governed like six rival countries and there was little communication between them. Until the 1880s, there was limited interest in the idea of uniting the colonies into one country and the influential businessmen in the colonies seemed more interested in protecting their own economic bases.

Things began to change in the 1890s as a severe drought resulted in violent industrial strikes. By 1888, 70% of the population had been born here and there was a growing nationalist sentiment. Communication had improved with the colonies linked to each other and the world by overland and submarine telegraph. Germany, France and Russia were expanding in the Pacific and the colonies could better defend themselves with a single army and navy. Thousands of Chinese migrants came to Australia during the gold rush. People wanted to restrict the economic competition of migrants from Asia. The best way to do this was for all the colonies to act together and work out a common immigration policy.

Uniting the six colonies was not easy, with many fights and walkouts in negotiations along the way. After a series of conferences and meetings, a draft Australian Federal Constitution was drawn up. A series of referendums was put to the people until finally, in 1900; there was a majority agreement for Federation. The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed on 1 January 1901 at a grand ceremony in Sydney's Centennial Park. People were proud to be Australians and thought their country was the land of opportunity. Australia was part of the British Empire and in 1907 Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand became known as dominions. However, while Australians elected a parliament that made Australian laws, Britain - the 'mother country' - kept a firm control over defence and foreign policy.

Australia did not have its own navy and could not make treaties with other nations.



*Invitations to Australian Commonwealth Celebrations, Francis Cotton, 1901, MLMSS 2509X, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

But Australia was getting its own ideas. It was especially concerned that Britain did not have strong military bases in the Pacific and that Britain had signed a treaty with Japan which Australia feared. As a result, Australia began to build up its own navy in 1909.

In 1901, 98% of the population was white and Australia wanted to remain a country of white people living by British customs. Trade unions were keen to prevent labour competition from migrants who they feared would undercut wages. Consequently, one of the first pieces of legislation passed in the new Federal Parliament was the Immigration Restriction Act. Now known as the infamous White Australia Policy it made it virtually impossible for Asians and Pacific Islanders to migrate to Australia. This Act stated that if a person wanted to migrate to Australia they had to be given a dictation test which could be in any European language. So a person from China or Japan who wanted to live in Australia could be tested in one or all of the French, Italian or English languages. In 1905, the Act was changed so it could be given in any language at all. Of course, most Asians failed the test or were only allowed to enter the country under very strict exclusion rules or if they were fortunate enough to have well-connected sponsors.

# 1914-1918

## The Great War, World War I. German Internment

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*Berrima Camp internees, c.1915. Paul Dubotzki Collection*

Germany was formed in 1871 when Bismarck united the German states. By 1914 it was a powerful country with a strong army but envious of Britain's Navy and the empires of Britain and France. Although Britain had a large empire it feared the growing power of Germany and did not want Germany to get new colonies. France had lost some rich land to Germany in 1871. Some of the French wanted revenge, others feared their strong neighbour.

Russia too was concerned about the new strong Germany and wanted to control the Balkans to ensure its ships could reach the Mediterranean Sea. The Balkans - including Serbia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania and Greece - was considered the 'powder keg' of Europe and the big European powers wanted control of it.

Austria and Hungary federated in 1867 to create a large empire, but many Hungarian people wanted to be free of Austrian control. Austria also wanted to control the Balkans and feared Russia's power there. Serbia hated Austria because of their control of Hungary and tried to stir up trouble against it. Turkey, which controlled an old and crumbling empire, feared both Russian and Austrian power in the Balkans. It was out of this tense and paranoid situation that World War I exploded.

In 1914, Franz Ferdinand, a member of the Austrian Royal family, was assassinated in Serbia. As a result, Austria declared war on Serbia. Most of Europe had divided itself into alliances to protect each other if war broke out. Russia was an ally of Serbia and Germany of Austria - so when war broke out, Germany and Russia were drawn into it. France and England were allies of Russia (Triple Entente Alliance) and Italy and Turkey allies of Germany (Triple Alliance). All of these countries were pulled into the fight and Europe was at war.

When England went to war against Germany and her allies, Australia, still tied to Britain's defence policies, was willingly drawn into the conflict, providing troops and resources. In fact when war broke out, so many men volunteered that the Army could not provide enough weapons or uniforms. Those who didn't enlist worked in factories and farms. Wheat farmers planted large crops because they thought England would need extra supplies of food. Graziers sold wool to the government so that uniforms could be made. Families stuck pins into maps to show where the fighting was and who was winning. The Australian Government increased taxes to pay for the war. In October 1914, a new law gave the Government greater control over people's lives and more than 3400 people were sent to prison for crimes such as:

- spreading rumours that would frighten people
- wearing a soldier's uniform without permission
- selling goods belonging to the Red Cross
- hiding a German.

Over 30,000 Germans lived in Australia in 1914. In 1915, Germans and Austrians who were old enough to join the army were put into special internment camps. In New South Wales the three main internment camps were at Trial Bay Gaol, Berrima Gaol and Holsworthy Army Barracks. Women and children were interred at Molonglo. Others were carefully watched by the police and neighbours. Germans lost their jobs or had their business destroyed. Some voluntarily went into camps so their wives and children could survive on a government allowance. Some changed their names, some were beaten up by gangs of youths.

In other changes that affected Germans living in Australia their:

- schools and churches were closed
- music was banned
- food was renamed
- place names (42) were changed to British ones - Blumberg became Birdwood & German Creek became Empire Bay
- traders, businessmen, sailors and tea planters in South East Asia were arrested and transported to Australia to be interned in the camps.

In 1917, when German submarines began to attack American cargo and passenger ships, the United States entered the war, committing over one million soldiers to the war in Europe. A socialist revolution in Russia deposed the old government, and led to a pull-out of Russian troops and a treaty with Germany. Germany's allies, Austria-Hungary and Turkey, were severely weakened by the war and had to withdraw. Without support, and in the face of a fresh army from the United States, Germany had to accept defeat. In November 1918, fighting stopped and an Armistice was signed. The world would never be the same again.

## 1918-1939

**Plagues and pandemics. Labour, money and markets. The rise of international socialism and fascism.**

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*A heap of Rats from Views taken during Cleansing Operations, Quarantine Area, Sydney, 1900, Vol. V / under the supervision of Mr George McCredie, F.I.A., N.S.W, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

Bubonic plague broke out in Sydney in 1900 and soon spread to other Australian states. In seven months, 300 people caught the disease and 100 died. The disease came to Australia on ships from other countries, so the area around Sydney's docks was quarantined: people could not move into or out of the area. The plague was spread by rats so the government introduced a rat bounty to encourage their capture.

In January 1919, a worse epidemic broke out. The Spanish Flu, brought to Australia by soldiers returning from World War I, killed millions of people around the world. Between 1919 and 1920 it killed more than 11,500 Australians. Fortunately, the Government was prepared and was able to stop the epidemic from spreading. Public health measures were introduced and an infectious diseases hospital was set up at Long Bay in Sydney. Quarantine stations were upgraded to quarantine and treat migrants and sailors suspected of carrying the Spanish Flu and other diseases.

### **Soldier Settler Scheme**



*Soldier Settler camp 'Curraview', Naradhan, NSW, 1924. SLNSW*

As soldiers returned home from World War I, many found there were no jobs and places to live. The Government believed the soldiers deserved something for their war sacrifice and set up the Soldier Settler Scheme. State governments provided land for soldier farms and the Australian Government provided funds to get them started. In New South Wales, most of the land was in the Riverina district, ironically an area that had large German communities before the war. Some soldier settlers did well, most did not. Over 37,500 took up farms, but by 1929 almost half had given up and left their land. The main reason for failure was their lack of farming experience, coupled with a long drought and falling prices for farm products. Italian migrants brought farming knowledge and practices with them, introducing irrigation and winemaking to the Riverina area and turning the abandoned farms into successful businesses.

In the 1920s, the Australia Government was keen to develop regional areas. Prime Minister Stanley Bruce considered there were three things necessary for this: labour, money and markets and for these Australia depended on Britain. British migrants were encouraged to settle in Australia. The government paid most of their fare and, like the soldiers before them, some were assisted to establish farms. Unfortunately, also like the soldier settlers, they had come from urban areas and had limited or no experience in farming. As a result they failed and many abandoned their farms. They were told they would do well in Australia, but they were not told about the problems they would face, like finding a job, a home and settling down in a new country. About 212,000 migrants came from Britain and most ended up in cities.



*An original Anzac, and his family evicted from their Redfern home into the street during the Depression, William Roberts, 1929, DG ON4/870, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales*

The Government needed substantial sums of money to fund these programs, as well as to pay for war pensions and the Soldier Settlement Scheme. It needed capital to build railways, roads, schools and hospitals and to supply houses with electricity and water. It needed money to pay the interest on the loans it had taken out during World War I. During the 1920s, the Australian Government borrowed heavily from British banks.

In 1920, established farms and factories produced more than they ever had before. There were fewer than 6 million people in Australia, far less than were able to consume this excess in production so it was essential for goods and produce to be exported overseas. Australia had to find new overseas markets to sell them. The Dominions of the British Empire made an agreement to exclusively trade between themselves. Dominions would enjoy lower customs charges on imports and exports and this helped make the goods cheaper to buy in the shops. Britain continued to buy most of Australia's wool and wheat.

### **The Great Depression**

For many people the 'Roaring Twenties' were good years. But by 1929 the world economy began to slow. Rural product prices were falling and farmers found it hard to sell their produce overseas. In the cities, businesses found it harder to sell their goods overseas. As production slowed, workers were laid off and unemployment hit 10%. For migrants and soldier settlers already experiencing hard times, this made things worse. In 1929, the economy stalled in what is called the 'Great Depression'.

The Great Depression started in the United States. In the 1920s, the US economy was booming and lots of people invested all of their savings in shares on the stock market. A lot of investors made fortunes, but in 1929 investors panicked and began selling their shares in mass hysteria. As a large number of shares were sold, share prices plummeted. As the share price fell more people panicked which set up a self-sustaining cycle. On 24

October 1929, the stock market crashed and shares became worthless. This event impacted on countries all over the world.

In the 1920s, the United States and Britain were the world's largest investors in overseas projects. By 1930, the United States stopped investing in other countries, demanded that other countries repay loans owed to it, put up high tariffs on imports and cut back on imports. Britain owed the United States a fortune in loans and called on Australia to pay back the millions of pounds it had borrowed from it in the 1920s. But Australia had no money either. As people lost their jobs, they could not afford to buy goods or pay taxes. It was mainly the unskilled workers and their families that were hit hardest and this included the recently arrived migrant families who were already finding the going tough. Shantytowns sprang up at Blacktown, Sans Souci and La Perouse. People vowed this would never happen again and the Australian Government took over social welfare in the 1930s.

This economic disaster encouraged people to join political organisations that promised solutions to their problems. In New South Wales two of these were the Australian Communist Party and the New Guard. These groups reflected the rise of communism and fascism in Europe and their ideas came to Australia with migrants. Many of the organisers in the trade unions were migrants from northern England and the intellectual left in Australia came from German Jews migrating from the persecution of the Nazis in the 1930s. Most of the New Guard were ex-soldiers from the Great War who saw solutions in militarist terms. They wanted a strong government to take charge and round up troublemakers. Some New Guard branches took the black on red swastika flag of the German Nazis as their symbol.

By the late 1930s, the economy started to recover with people getting jobs and factories producing more goods. But the Great Depression had produced a lot of suffering and had important effects for Australia. Between 1930 and 1939, Australia's development almost stopped. The productivity of farming and industry declined. There was almost no migration to Australia and fewer babies were born between these years. Many people had lost faith in the Australian Government's ability to manage the economy.

## 1939-1945

### World War II. Japanese, German and Italian internment and POW camps. Cowra Breakout.

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*Toyoshima Hajime's bugle. AWM*

When World War I ended in 1918, it was considered the war to end all wars. People thought that after the carnage and misery of that time, war again was unthinkable and they looked to a future of peace. Yet 20 years later a more destructive war started that killed more people, caused more damage and cost more money than any other war in history.

During the 1920s a lot of Germans felt angry and bitter about what had happened to them in World War I and the treatment they received by the allied countries afterwards. Adolf Hitler was a soldier in the German Army in World War I. After the war he joined a small political group called the National Socialist Workers Party. Under Hitler's control the group grew into a well-organised political party called the Nazi Party. In 1923 Hitler tried to take over the German Government. He failed, and spent nine months in jail where he wrote a book, *Mein Kampf* ( *My Struggle* ). In this book, Hitler detailed his ideas on how Germany could become a strong and powerful nation again.

In the early 1930s, the Great Depression hit Germany very hard. Over 6 million people were out of work and life was tough. Hitler promised to make things better. In 1933, the Nazi Party was voted into power and Hitler became the German leader. Within a year, Hitler had got rid of democratic government and installed himself as a dictator. He built up Germany's army and navy and began plans to expand Germany's boundaries. Italy too was governed by fascists under the leadership of Mussolini who wanted to

strengthen Italy's power and take over more territories. In Japan, Emperor Hirohito was the head of a military government. Like Germany and Italy, Japan wanted to expand its territories. In 1937, Germany, Italy and Japan signed a treaty to support each other. Once again, as happened before World War I, countries grouped together building armies and navies to wage war.

Hitler sought to expand Germany's boundaries to include German-speaking communities in Austria, Czechoslovakia and East Prussia (Poland). Britain and France were concerned about this, but as they did not want to start a war, they adopted a strategy of appeasement. In early 1939, Germany had invaded Austria and a portion of Czechoslovakia. Britain and France had allowed Hitler to do so if he stopped there. Hitler didn't and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Realising that war was imminent, Britain and France warned Germany that if Poland was invaded a state of war would exist. In September 1939, Germany attacked Poland. Britain and France were now at war with Germany. Although Australia was an independent Commonwealth nation and didn't have to declare war on Germany, a strong sense of duty to Britain and its people prevailed and Australia declared war immediately. Throughout 1940 a kind of 'phony war' existed. While Australia set about conscripting and training troops, most people had lost interest in the war.

This all changed on 7 December 1941 when Japan attacked the United States Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. On the day after the attack, the United States and Britain were at war with Japan. Australia too declared war with Japan. This was a very serious step for Australia. For the first time in its history, it was in danger of invasion by a country in the Asia Pacific area.

During World War II the Australian Government passed laws that gave it much greater control over the lives of people:

- Germans and Italians were interned in concentration camps
- communist and fascist organisations were banned
- media was censored
- profiteering by factory and shop owners was banned
- the government controlled transport, banking and the docks
- conscription was introduced.
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An internment camp for German and Italian people was established at Holsworthy and a prisoner of war camp for Japanese people was established at Cowra. An Italian prisoner of war camp was also established at Leeton. Australian interests and traditional loyalties begin to shift from Britain to the United States - especially after the surrender of the British Garrison to the Japanese at Singapore in 1942 when 13,000 Australian troops were taken prisoner. Australia also saw the influx of over 120,000 United States troops during the war. Both before and after the war, Hollywood films introduced American culture to Australian audiences. During the war, American troops introduced Australians to Coca Cola, hotdogs and more American popular culture. This was a cultural turning point for Australia, resulting in the youth

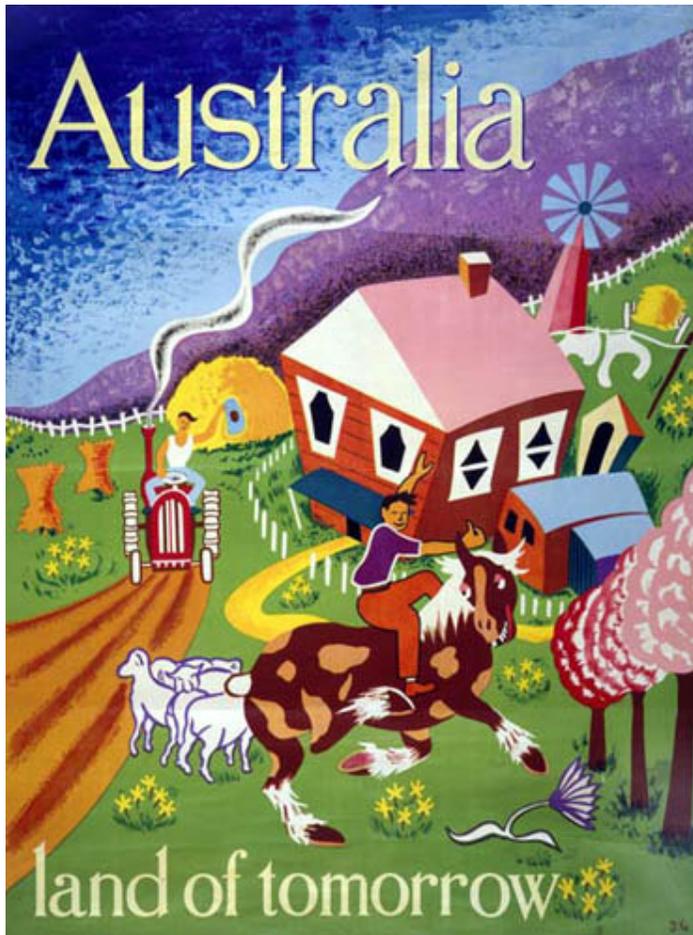
culture revolution of the 1950s and 1960s. After the war, many Italians and Americans returned to Australia to resume relationships and to seek a better life as many migrants before them had done.

After six years of World War, Germany and Japan were defeated in 1945.

1945-1951

Post-World War II migration and 'New Australians'

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Emigration poster 1948: 'Australia, land of tomorrow', Joe Greenberg. Courtesy Museum Victoria

*'Australia wants, and will welcome, new healthy citizens who are determined to become good Australians'. Arthur Caldwell, Australian Minister for Immigration, 1945*

After World War II, Europe was in chaos, Germany was crushed and the map of Europe was being carved up by the United States and the Soviet Union. Western Europe was supported by the United States while Eastern Europe was invaded by the Soviet Union. Migrants began streaming out of Eastern Europe to places like Australia and the United States to get away from the oppression in their homelands by the Soviet Union. The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union meant that nuclear war was a real threat and some people saw Australia as a safe place to live.

Between 1945 and 1965 more than two million migrants came to Australia. Most were assisted: the government paid most of their fare to get to

Australia. In return they had to stay in Australia for at least two years and work in whatever jobs the government gave them. A number of migrants spent their first months in Australia living in migrant hostels while they tried to find themselves a home. Some found work in factories; others did the hard and dirty jobs in heavy industry. Skilled migrants found it hard to find work to suit their training and qualifications and had to accept what work was available. All migrants, especially those who did not speak English well, had to put up with prejudice. Thousands worked on the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme that was commenced in 1949. Dams, power stations and tunnels were built so that the water from the Snowy River could be used to provide power and irrigation. Workers lived in camps and in newly built towns like Cabramurra doing hard and dangerous work.

## 1951-1965

### Colombo Plan

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*Text books from Thailand. Photograph Ed Giles*

The Colombo Plan was started in 1951 by the Commonwealth of Nations so that developed countries of the Commonwealth could help the less developed ones. The Australian Government also promoted the Plan to improve its relationships with Asian countries and dispel negative impressions caused by the White Australia Policy. Later, many non-Commonwealth countries joined the Plan. The six countries supplying aid to 20 developing countries were Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Britain, Japan and the United States. The countries that received aid included Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. The rich countries provided grants and loans to help the other countries develop their industry and agriculture. In 1983 Australia gave \$59 million in aid to support the Colombo Plan. Students from developing countries were brought to Australia to study. When they had finished their studies they returned to use the skills and knowledge they had acquired to help their own people. In 1986 there were 3500 foreign students and trainees whose studies and living costs were paid for by the Australian government.

## 1965-1990

### Migrants, refugees, boat people and asylum seekers

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*The Lu family on the deck of 'Tu Do', Darwin, November 1977. NLA*

Refugees are people who leave their own country because of hardship or persecution. Since World War II many refugees have come to Australia. The first refugees came from countries in Eastern Europe which had been taken over by the Soviet Union after World War II. Later refugees came from countries such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Greece and Chile, fleeing civil wars and persecution. In the 1970s and 1980s refugees came from Asian countries like Vietnam and Kampuchea to escape revolution and persecution. Between 1945 and 1970 the Australian Government's Immigration Policy sought migrants from Europe. In the 1970s, this policy changed and people from other countries were encouraged to come to Australia. Migrants have come from Asia, the Middle East and South America as well as Europe. Unlike migrants who choose to leave their own country to move to another country, refugees flee their homeland because they are afraid to stay there. Refugees were allowed to come to Australia because Australia had signed a United Nations agreement to accept refugees. Australia wanted to help people in Asia and other parts of the world who had been made homeless by war, revolutions or persecution by governments.

In the late 1970s when communists gained control of Vietnam, thousands of people who were afraid of the government left in small boats. In 1978, the first boats reached Australia at Darwin. Suddenly Australians were made aware of the problems of refugees. By the end of 1979, 2011 Vietnamese 'boat people' (as they had been dubbed by the media), had survived the dangerous journey from Vietnam. Many more died trying. In 1979 Australian immigration officers selected most refugees from refugee camps in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Those with relatives in Australia, useful skills and who could speak English were selected, as well as a small number of students and diplomats.

In 1982, the Vietnamese Government agreed to let refugees leave Vietnam without persecution, freeing people to come to Australia to be with their families who had fled earlier. By 1985, 70,000 refugees from South East Asia, mostly Vietnam, had settled in Australia. The arrival of Vietnamese refugees forced changes in migration policy around the world, especially in Australia, which was pressured by ASEAN to accept more refugees after 1978. Very few refugees were accepted by Australia at first. The arrival of Vietnamese refugees signalled the end of the infamous White Australia Policy in 1978, and was accompanied by much argument and debate. By the late 1980s there were fewer arrivals, as it became more difficult to leave Vietnam and several countries reduced the numbers of people allowed to stay. As camps closed from 1996 onwards, forced repatriations to Vietnam have occurred. In Australia, most people arriving from Vietnam have been accepted through family reunion programs. Others have migrated from the north - again a difficult decision - often for education and work prospects.

## 1990 and beyond

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*The Shopfront streetscape, Wing Hing Long & Co store Museum, circa 2006.  
Photograph by Stephen Thompson*

After more than 200 years of migration, Australia has become a multicultural society. By 1990, 40% of people in Australia were born overseas and over 100 languages were spoken. Australian culture has transformed from the stiff Britishness of the early 20th century to the multiplicity of influences we have seen around us in the last 15 years. From a struggling British outpost isolated from the world, Australia has become a vibrant and diverse place where tolerance and equality are both accepted and expected by its citizens as part of a normal and decent way of life.

As Australia's population nears 22 million in 2009 further growth will place stress on Australia's fragile environment through damage to soil, waterways, coastal zones and natural habitats through intensive agriculture, urban

expansion, industrial development and the ever-increasing demand for food and resources. There is the danger that the current Australian population cannot indefinitely consume the renewable and non-renewable resources of the continent. This will present challenges to urban planners and government policy makers into the future.



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