

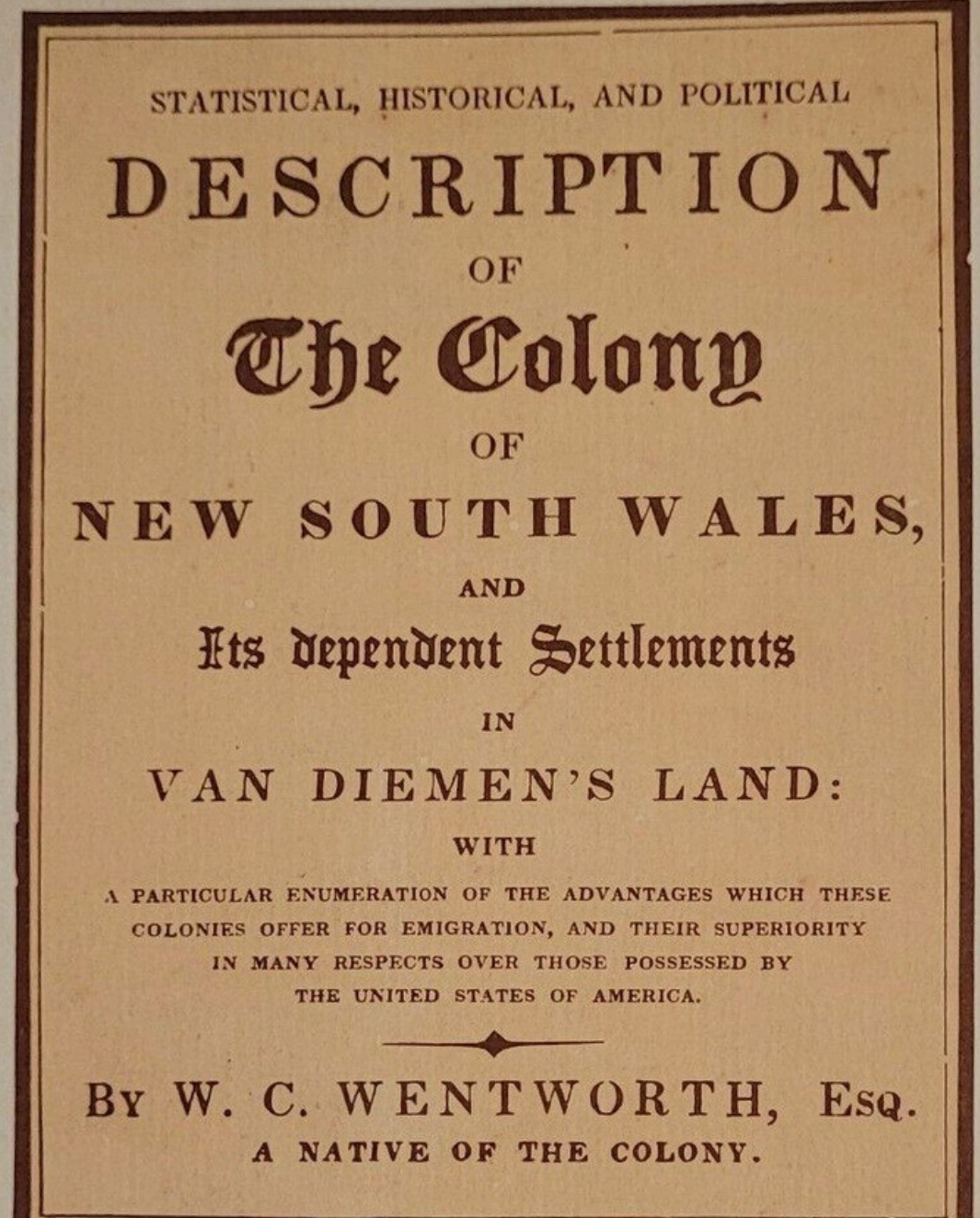
To Discriminate or
to Populate?
Dismantling White
Australia

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19th Century Roots

- First book ever published by an Australian born author sell migrant destination
- Defensive of the high wages enjoyed in the 'working man's paradise'
- Campaign against Convict Transportation encapsulate anti-immigrant themes: undercutting jobs & wages, social cohesion, functioning of democracy
- Racial outbursts on the goldfields
- Pluralist approach to religious diversity



Origins of White Australia

- Justifications: Tyranny of distance, prevent ethnic conflict, protect the working man
- Federation campaign simultaneous with 1890s depression, heighten sense of economic insecurity
- Deportation of Pacific Island Labourers
- Irony that dictation test implemented to avoid embarrassing the British
- Australian Natives' Association give special place to those who were born here
- Insular society seen not only in immigration policy but also adoption of Protectionist Tariffs



Imperative to Populate

- Federation's goals on defence and migration were contradictory
- Russo-Japanese war of 1904-5 prove that Asian nations could beat Western nations, lead to first explicit calls that 'we must have population or perish as a race'
- By 1913 Opposition Leader Joseph Cook coin the exact phrase 'populate or perish'
- 1920s = Bruce's 'Men, Money, Markets', 340,000 new migrants

NOVEMBER 10, 1927.

Australian Jo-Boy
Special Number of "THE AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLER"

AUSTRALIA

The LAND of the BETTER CHANCE

OFFERS INFINITE OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTRACTIONS
TO MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE KEEN TO MAKE
THEIR WAY IN THE WORLD.



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRYSIDE

STEAMSHIP fares at **GREATLY REDUCED RATES** are provided for FARMERS and FARM WORKERS approved by the Director of Migration and Settlement.

FREE PASSAGES are granted to approved DOMESTIC HELPS.

Assistance is also extended to persons who are nominated by their relatives and friends already resident in Australia.

INQUIRIES ADDRESSED TO:

The DIRECTOR of MIGRATION and SETTLEMENT
AUSTRALIA HOUSE, THE STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2

will obtain full information about passage money rates, conditions of travel, and possibilities of your absorption into the industrial and social life of this rich and generous young country.

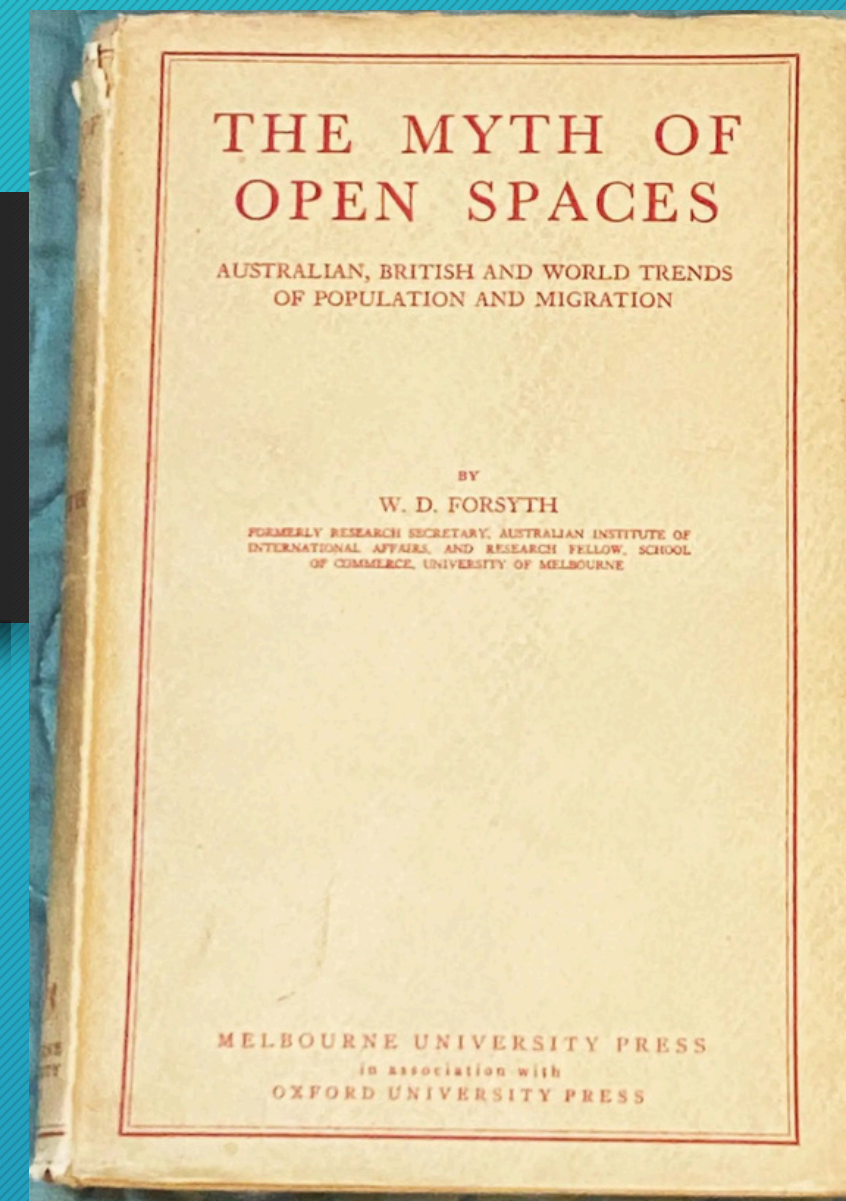
Great Depression

- 1930s see expansionist dreams turn into nightmare, Australia could barely pay its debts let alone borrow more
- Acute unemployment led to widespread anti-immigration feeling
- Dictation Test used for censorship in the barring of Egon Kisch
- Lyons accept 15,000 refugees in wake of Czechoslovakia - 'ill wind of Nazi tyranny blow this country good' *Sydney Morning Herald*
- 'absorbed into the Australian community without affecting living standards & without detrimental effect to Australian workers' Minister for the Interior John McEwen's Cabinet submission



The War prompts a 'Top Down' Revolution

‘The greatest guarantee, not only of the safety of Australia but of its future material prosperity, would be a population of at least twenty million. If we are to rely on natural increase, this goal cannot be achieved for a century or two – and with our present population we may not hope to last so long as an independent people. The inevitable deduction from this is that we must have a positive, active and vigorous encouragement of migration. Yet, if you turn your minds back you will recall that for fifteen years before this war there was an attitude of mild hostility on migration into Australia. Are we proposing to resume this outlook when the war is over? Are we going to be timid about the temporary effect, social and industrial, of large migration, or are we to see in it a real source of strength? It is curious that a race so mixed as our own, which derives its strength and resilience from its mixture of English, Irish, Scots, Welsh, Cornish and, going back further, the Celt, the Angle, the Saxon, the Norman, should have become recently so sensitive about the purity of its blood. Migration into Australia, particularly from Northern European countries, will in the long run bring to us nothing but vigour and advantage.’ Robert Menzies 1943



The image is a radio broadcast advertisement. At the top, it asks "WHAT DOES Mr. MENZIES THINK?". Below this is a black and white portrait of a man in a suit, identified as Mr. Menzies, speaking into a vintage microphone. The text below the portrait reads: "The Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C., M.P., known and respected throughout the English-speaking world, in view of his close association with Australia's war effort and his visits to Libya, England and the U.S.A., must view the world stage with an understanding exceeding that of the average man. You and your next-door neighbours may think so-and-so, but what does Mr. Menzies think?". At the bottom, it says "HEAR MR. MENZIES' NEWS COMMENTARY EACH FRIDAY, 9.15 p.m. COMMENCING JAN. 9." and features a large, bold "2UE" logo.

The 'Beautiful Balts' & Calwell's strict application

- 'We would bring one shipload with nobody under fifteen and nobody over thirty-five, all of whom had to be single ... Many were red-headed and blue-eyed. There was also a number of natural platinum blondes of both sexes. The men were handsome and the women beautiful. It was not hard to sell immigration to the Australian people once the press published photographs of that group.' Arthur Calwell
- Deportation of non-white refugees, barring of servicemen's brides
- Iconic cases of Lorenzo Gamboa & Frank Yang; later overturned



Still British?

- 'For every foreign migrant there will be ten from the United Kingdom' Calwell
- Nationality and Citizenship Bill 1948 - explicitly not end British migrant privilege, just follow a Canadian precedent which had undermined the universality of being a 'British subject'
- '10 Pound Poms'
- 'Bring out a Briton'
- 'Empire Youth Booklet' teach newly arrived children to adore the Royal Family



***YOU* CAN BUILD AUSTRALIA**

BRING OUT A BRITON

CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE A BRITISH FAMILY? IF SO, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL "BRING OUT A BRITON" COMMITTEE, OR

WRITE TO THE COMMONWEALTH MIGRATION OFFICER, 18-20 YORK STREET, SYDNEY, OR STATE IMMIGRATION OFFICE, G.P.O. BOX 11, SYDNEY

Australian Citizenship Conventions

- Assimilation aimed at reassuring Australian public
- Paired with Good Neighbour Movement
- 'Still too much anti-immigration and anti-alien sentiment to abandon the best weapon we have yet found to combat it' Harold Holt
- Economic prosperity crucial to success
- Shift from Assimilation to Integration as climate of fear & resentment dissipated



Step by Step liberalisation through 1950s

- 'the flow of good people, with a variety of cultures & experiences & backgrounds into this country is giving to us a strength, a vigour, a variety of minds which we would never otherwise have acquired' Menzies 1961
- Deportations wound up
- Partners of Armed Forces allowed in
- 'Naturalisation' made easier
- From 1957 non-Europeans could become citizens but face longer eligibility requirement
- 1958 Nationality and Citizenship Act abolish the 'archaic' Dictation Test



The Colombo Plan

- Brainchild of External Affairs Minister Percy Spender
- Anti-Communism as the new populate or perish
- Deliberate attempt to engage with Asia, spread prosperity & improve Australia's flawed reputation
- Almost 6000 Colombo students during the Menzies era & far more private international students
- 'break down prejudices and misunderstandings on both sides' Richard Casey



Abolition & Conclusion

- Generational change as Menzies & Calwell succeeded by Holt & Whitlam
- Australian public carried over on a long journey
- 1966 Migration Review abolish the core of the White Australia policy, as migrants accepted on basis of 'suitability to settle, ability to integrate & professional qualifications' regardless of race or nationality
- 1973 see Whitlam remove last remnants & replace with an official policy of multiculturalism
- Endurance of imperatives to hoard & to grow

