

Abstracts

Interests, Allies and Identity: Australia in Regional and Global Perspective

Stephen Wood

Abstract: This paper examines aspects of Australia's international affairs, including relations with the US, Europe and Asia, and new security challenges. Important economic connections with Asia do not extend to the close political and cultural ties that geographic proximity might suggest. In defence and security affairs, and its political, institutional, social and cultural identity, Australia is (still) closer to the US and Europe.

A Warrior Nation

Stephen Alomes

Abstract: Under Prime Minister John Howard, Australia today appears to have turned away from Asia, returning to a Western orientation. Has racial invasion fear, once expressed in the 'White Australia' policy, been the sole determinant of relations with Asia? I argue, in contrast, first, that invasion fear preceded race fear and, second, that Australia was unlucky, in coming to nationhood during the eras of Social Darwinism and New Imperialism, sealing ideas of race citizenship into its national formation. It was unlucky to associate national 'manhood' with Gallipoli and war, making the national tradition expeditionary nationalism, or ANZAC. War is central in national memory and public patriotism, primarily because war has been carried out overseas rather than through fighting on Australian soil, and the devastation of Australian cities. Even after the retreat of Western empires in Asia, and of racial ideology, why has this romantic and foolish view of war as an expression of the nation persisted? Paradoxically, Australians romanticise war even though, after 1788, there has been no other invasion of a continent which is harder to invade than it is to defend.

Advancing the Australian Frontier? Australiens Standortbestimmung im Südpazifik (1901–1975): Papua New Guinea – Ein historischer Parameter

Henriette v. Holleuffer

Abstract: Australians have never seen themselves as imperialists or colonialists. However, Australia's 'interconnected history' with Papua New Guinea displays all the characteristics of a colonial concept. It was the strategic concern for Australia's territorial security which motivated Queensland's Premier Thomas McIlwraith to annex the southeastern part of New Guinea for the British Crown in April 1883. Britain refused to ratify this attempt by a colony to, itself, annex a colony.

Queensland's strategic initiative created a political tradition which meant that New Guinea became part of the Australian sphere of influence. This was confirmed in the informal proclamation of an Australian version of the famous Monroe Doctrine which culminated in the categorical slogan: "Hands off the Pacific!" The political struggle for the acquisition of eastern New Guinea led to the administration of both colonies, of British New Guinea (Papua) since 1902/1906, and of the former German New Guinea on behalf of the League of Nations, since 1921. Australia's engagement in New Guinea not only forced the emergence of a national concept of foreign policy, it was also responsible for a consensus on strategic concerns which dominated Australia's role as a regional power in the 20th century. As a result, the 'colonial pattern Papua New Guinea' represented both a progressive and a conservative element in the process of decolonization in Australia herself. All this contrasted sharply with the general indifference to the territory which developed after Papua New Guinea had been acquired, and which only changed after World War II when New Guinea's defence and 'modernization' became a national task. Australia's colonial experiment, which had moved the 'Australian Frontier' half way north to the edge of the Asian hemisphere was guided by geo-strategic and economic guidelines, ideological principles and the tendencies of modernization. In this sense, the 'Australian Frontier' in New Guinea did not move along the settlers' path, but followed the officially decreed concepts of national defence, social development and native protection. The 'interconnected history' of both countries is indicative of Australia's self-defined roles as a British outpost in the Pacific, as a strong member of the international community, as well as a 'modernizing' power of the hemisphere.

Australiens wirtschaftliche Beziehungen mit Asien

Boris Braun und Reinhold Grotz

Abstract: Today, Australia's economy is related more closely than ever to the world market. The rapid dismantling of tariffs and trade barriers, as well as other economic and financial reforms, has enabled Australian industry to become more competitive. Manufactured goods, international tourism and students from Asian countries are increasingly contributing to Australia's export earnings, which were traditionally almost completely dominated by farming and mining products. This paper analyses the structural and spatial trends of Australia's foreign economic exchange, with special reference to East and South-East Asia. It discusses the opportunities and problems of changing trade and investment patterns, as well as Australia's chances of becoming an integral part of the Asian-Pacific growth region. During the second half of the 1990s Australia was remarkably successful in escaping the Asian financial crisis and the downturn in the Japanese economy, partly by redirecting its trade relations back to the US and Europe. However, Asian markets are, and will remain, important for Australia.

Language and Educational Policies in Australia: The Promotion of Asia Languages

Gerhard Leitner

Abstract: Australia, a classic case of an Anglophone nation, is caught in the web of global English. Its policies on languages in the 1980s, balanced out community and the broader language needs of the nation. In the 1990s they gave way to economic benefit arguments in, and for, Australia's location in the Asia-Pacific region. In a climate of ever stronger economic rationalism, globalization, and shrinking resources, even these arguments have come under attack. Should Asian (and other) languages continue to be promoted for community and/or national needs, at all? Should there be a greater emphasis on English, the national language, and pressure on migrants to shift? Given the growth of the demand for English in the Asia-Pacific region, is not English the natural choice anyway, and is not Australia's competence in English language service delivery an export asset? Will Australia maintain a multicultural outlook, or shift to merely rhetorical policies on multiculturalism?

The Great World and the Home Front: Contemporary Literary Accounts of the Impact of the War in the Pacific (1942–45) on Australia

Geoffrey Davis

Abstract: One of the most striking features of the Australian literature written during the last decades of the 20th century is the preponderance of writing which concerns itself with the country's participation in overseas wars. Much of this focuses on the experience of the First World War and particularly on Gallipoli, but there is also a substantial body of work which seeks to come to terms with Australia's participation in the Second World War, largely in the Pacific and in Asia. It was the latter struggle, fought – particularly after the fall of Singapore – in the face of the threat of a possible Japanese invasion which might have brought war to Australian soil for the first time. This was to exercise a determining influence on Australia's post-war redefinition not only of its primary defence requirements but also of its very national identity. In this process the country gradually emerged from its traditional dependence on Britain to become a Pacific-Rim state and one seeking status as an 'Asian' nation. Australian writers have been much preoccupied both with the Australian experience of war and of the long-term effects such experience has had on Australian society. Numerous writers – among them George Johnston, Thomas Keneally, David Malouf, John Romeril, Randolph Stow and Gerard Windsor (significantly, those who had not themselves participated in war as combatants) – have addressed such varied aspects of the Second World War as the jungle war in the Pacific, the war at sea, life as a prisoner of war, and the experience of the home front. Their works have been influential in forming the attitudes of a new, post-war generation of Australians to their country's recent history. The theme of the present conference volume provides an opportunity to consider both how Asia was viewed during the war, and how the experience of war in the Pacific and

against an Asian nation, conditioned post-war Australian thinking on its future world role.

What Attracts Australia Culturally to Asia? Metaphors of History, Time, Place and Identity in Christopher J Koch's Highways to a War

David S. La Breche

Abstract: Asia was always a necessary evil for Australia, yet it was always defined in terms of Empire and the Western cultural attitudes of Orientalism. With the advent of the postcolonial period, Australia found it must redefine Asia and itself too. It wished to develop ties with Europe, America and Asia, but the nagging reminders of colonialism and Orientalism rendered it a cultural Other from both Western and Eastern points of view, leaving Australians without a clear sense of their orientation, either outwards into the world, or inwards into Australia itself. Writer Christopher J. Koch has looked to the spiritually and mythically regenerative materials of South and Southeast Asian culture for a solution. In his 1969 *Highways to a War* he plunges his hero into Southeast Asian culture, including concepts of the identity of Self and Other; the constant, balanced cosmic struggle between order and disorder; and, particularly, the relentless wheel of time and fortune, in order to resolve traditional Australian longing for a sense of identity and place.

Resisting Cultural Resistance: Contemporary Australian Fiction and the 'Asianisation' of Australia

Andreas Gaile

Abstract: Repeated mantra-like throughout the nineteen eighties and early nineteen nineties, the 'Asianisation' of Australia has been a major issue on the cultural and political agenda down under. Immigration from Asian countries is polarizing Australian society; and Paul Keating's designation of Australia as an Asian country has offended many Anglo-Celtic Australians. Literary responses have accordingly been profuse. The following essay assesses Australian responses to 'Asianisation.' Close readings of three exemplary novels by white Australian writers (Christopher Koch's *The Year of Living Dangerously* [1978] and *Highways to a War* [1995] as well as Robert Drewe's *A Cry in the Jungle Bar* [1979]) help to identify and understand white Australia's resistance to the 'Asianisation' of their continent. The fears and anxieties displayed by a number of the characters in the novels under scrutiny help explain the motivation behind the political changeover from Labor to Liberal in the midnineties, which has steered Australia onto a less direct course to Asia, one which acknowledges to a greater extent white Australians' sensibilities.

William Lane's *The Workingman's Paradise* (1892) als Indikator der kulturellen Orientierung Australiens im späten 19. Jahrhundert

Horst Prießnitz

Abstract: Generically and ideologically what can be termed a 'hybrid,' Lane's *The Workingman's Paradise* occupies a unique place in Australian literary history. Its hybrid status poses questions about the literary quality of, and intentions behind, crossovers in nineteenth century Australian fiction, a problem which will be discussed in the context of other colonial departures from the norms and conventions of the 'parent novel.' At the same time Lane's novel offers itself as an indicator of Australia's cultural orientation in the Janusfaced 1890s.

"Anxiety of Influence": Englische Prätexte in postmodernen Romanen Australiens

Annegret Maack

Abstract: One characteristic of postmodern literature is its high degree of intertextuality. This paper tries to show the presence of two authors from the English literary canon – Shakespeare and Dickens – in present-day Australian novels. Examples will be taken from novels by such diverse writers as Carmel Bird, Peter Carey, Kate Grenville and Damien Broderick. With reference to Harold Bloom, who understands literary influence as a conflict between precursor and latecomer, it is questionable whether Australian authors flout the literary authority of the great models. It will be shown how they are able to achieve with their texts what Bloom calls "the latecomer's usurpation of his precursor's cultural aura".

Sozialpolitische Magerkost als Zukunftsmodell? Australiens Wohlfahrtsstaat im Zeitalter permanenter Austerität

Nico A. Siegel

Abstract: Australia has often been labelled a rich welfare-state laggard. In particular, during the second half of the 20th century, the mainly needs-based social security system attracted much criticism from the advocates of strong welfare states which offered a high degree of social protection and social expenditure as a result of compulsory social insurance systems or universal benefits. However, during the last two decades, in the wake of the so-called 'crisis of the welfare state' the political discourse has dramatically changed in regard to welfare state policies and problems, as has the agenda of social policy making. Meanwhile, Australia's 'lean welfare state' may offer a blueprint for liberal and conservative democratic governments, whose primary goal is to contain social expenditure increases by targeting benefits. As the core pillars of the "wage earners' welfare state" have been abolished or eroded, in terms of Gosta

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Esping-Andersen's welfare regime typology, Australia nowadays is a paradigmatic case of a liberal welfare-state regime.