LEGACIES OF WHITE AUSTRALIA
RACE, CULTURE & NATION

Edited by Laksiri Jayasuriya, David Walker & Jan Gothard
Foreword by Professor Wang Gungwu, Director, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

More than one hundred years after it first appeared in the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 and thirty years after it was reportedly put to rest, the so-called White Australia policy continues to haunt the Australian political landscape. In the new millennium the Tampa incident and controversy surrounding asylum seekers have fuelled renewed speculation about the enduring legacies of White Australia.

In this volume leading Australian scholars critically re-examine a hundred years of White Australia to provide a foundational contribution to an informed debate on the essential issues of race, identity and nation that will determine our attitudes to immigration, multiculturalism and Australian-Asian engagement in the twenty-first century.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Nehru once remarked that ‘History is always written
by the victors and conquerors, and gives their
viewpoint’. But who wrote the history of White
Australia, what is its legacy, and is it wholly dead?
In this brilliant volume, eminent authors review the
record and contemporary history of White Australia.
They show disturbingly that achievement of the
harmonious ideal that ‘we are one, but we are many’
cannot be taken for granted. This is a landmark
work, deserving wide attention if the ghost of White
Australia is to be finally exorcised.

John Nieuwenhuysen, Director, Institute for the
Study of Global Movements, Monash University

It is important that this valuable collection of papers
be brought to the attention of as many influential
people in this country as possible. If some find it
challenging, that is a vindication of the volume.
This book is a major contribution to a national
debate which is far from resolution.

Rawdon Dalrymple AO, former Visiting Professor,
University of Sydney; former Deputy Secretary,
Foreign Affairs

From the lucid Introduction to the constructive
Conclusion, Legacies of White Australia is rich with
insights, information and thought-provoking
scholarship.

Gill Bottomley, Emeritus Professor, Macquarie
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