

YEAR 9 HISTORY - FINAL EXAM

EXAM DOT POINTS:

- *The purpose of the United Nations, including Australia's involvement & the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
 - The United Nations (U.N.) is an intergovernmental organisation who maintains **international peace and security, develops friendly relations among nations, achieves international cooperation**, and serves as a centre for harmonising the actions of nations
 - It was **formed/established in 1945** (post WWI and WWII as a way to guarantee that no such atrocity would occur again)
 - The UN has been key in **developing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, as formed by the General Assembly
 - The UN's 5 permanent members include; China, France, Russian Federation (Russia), the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US)
- *The purpose and significance of early twentieth-century Aboriginal activism + the rights and freedoms denied to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples before 1965 + the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families (Stolen Generations)*
 - **1938 Day of Mourning:** In 1938, just 37 years after Australia became a Federation (1901), an important day was about to be marked. It had been 150 years since the first British colonists had settled in Australia. A 150 year anniversary of a moment that had brought the British Empire, and Indigenous Australians together - this was marked differently
 - For colonial descendants, **this was a day of celebration** (separation from the old European antics, privileged, separate from the British but still proudly of British stock)
 - For the indigenous, **this 150 year anniversary was a day of mourning and protest for what they had suffered.** They had suffered dispossession, suffered massacres, and had suffered the indignity of not being counted as people in their own land.
 - **Indigenous voting rights:** Before Australia became a Federation, the various colonies (states) had different laws regarding the right to vote. NSW, Victoria, and SA had enfranchised Indigenous men in the 1850's, and when SA enfranchised women in 1895, one of the first places in the world to do so, this included Indigenous women. Other parts of Australia deliberately excluded Indigenous people from the

voting rolls.

- Shortly after Federation the Federal Government passed the Commonwealth Franchise Act in 1902. This law allowed suffrage to only those Indigenous People who could vote prior to 1901. It would be almost another 50 years before more Indigenous People gained the right to vote.
 - During World War Two many Indigenous men fought in the armed forces. It was decided by the government in 1949 that these men should be allowed to vote, although as the freedom riders saw in 1965, returned servicemen were not always treated as equals, even by the RSL, and this right was not extended in Queensland, Northern Territory, or Western Australia.
 - **Stolen Generations:** Refers to Indigenous young people who were forcibly removed from their parents. This lead to children losing parts of their identity; language, culture and for generations to come, their native title
 - **Native Title:** The right to carry on their traditional stewardship and customs on the land. This stems from the period of colonisation in which the British maintained that Australia was '**terra nullius**' (**No man's land; Land belonging to nobody**) despite the Indigenous already living there and taking them over
 - **Commonwealth Electoral Act 1962** - All adult Indigenous People who wished to, could become enrolled to vote.
- *The effects of the assimilation policy for rights and freedoms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*

- The Indigenous People of Australia were ATSI (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander) -
Protection Policy: Linked to the belief that the Indigenous population was going to die out due to massacres, being killed by European disease, being dispossessed, and losing culture. **The Protection Policy therefore was a set of regulations imposed upon Indigenous people to 'protect' them, until they eventually died out. They denied their basic rights. Examples include:**

- **People were forced off their traditional land and moved to reserves and missions**
 - **At these reserves and missions, they were taught English, made to convert to Christianity and learn the customs of the white majority - Wages were set at 1/5 the white wage rate**
 - **Wages were routinely stolen by Protectors**
 - **Rations were set at 75% the white ration**
 - **The right to marry was controlled**
 - **Assimilation Policy: Indigenous people taking on the attitudes, customs and beliefs of the white majority, and abandoning their own cultural heritage. This aims to homogenise (streamline) the population and to reduce cultural diversity. Taking on**

the attitudes, customs and beliefs of the white majority

- The Assimilation Era forced people off the reserves and into towns. The racism faced by these people in the towns was oppressive. Denied access to employment, schools, even services such as shops and swimming pools, Aboriginal People remained on the fringes of towns, often in substandard accommodation.
- Example: "Generally by the fifth and invariably by the sixth generation, all native characteristics of the Australian aborigine are eradicated. The problem of our half-castes will quickly be eliminated by the complete disappearance of the black race, and the swift submergence of their progeny in the white ... The Australian native is the most easily assimilated race on earth, physically and mentally" - Dr Cecil Cook, 1930s
- **White Australia Policy:** Linked to the Immigration Restriction Act 1901. During the White Australia Policy of Australia's twentieth century past, the government wanted to keep out undesirable immigrants. The immigrants who were undesirable were anyone who was not white. In 1901 Indigenous People were expected to die out, Pacific Islander forced labourers were repatriated, and an attempt was made to keep out all non white people by the passing of the Immigration Restriction Act. Among the attempts to keep out non-whites was the use of a dictation test, which was impossible to pass, before entry was allowed. In the USA something similar was happening.
- **Self-Determination:** The right of all people to pursue their own political, economic and cultural status. In simple terms, this means the ability of any individual to choose their own beliefs and actions.

SHORT ANSWER

- **Reconciliation:** Refers to the practice of saying 'sorry' for previous harmful actions and offering a way of repairing broken relationships. This is particularly prevalent in the relationship between modern Australians as descendants of the British colonists and the modern Indigenous Peoples.
 - Reconciliation is often marked during **National Reconciliation Week**, where Australians focus on learning about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements with the Indigenous, and explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia (usually through financial reparations or increasing employment opportunities)
- **Stolen Generations and the 'Protection Policy':** Over one hundred years of massacres, being killed by European disease, being dispossessed, and losing culture, had left Australia's Indigenous people in a precarious state. Decisions were made by

State Governments to take over the lives of Aboriginal People, in order to “protect” them, until they eventually died out.