

# ASEAN - Australian immigration and the demise of White Australia

## ASEAN - Australia Joint Research Project - iview



Description: -

- Southeast Asia -- Emigration and immigration.
- Australia -- Emigration and immigration.
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### **Immigration and the White Australia Policy by R. Dixon**

This was enhanced further by the Fraser government also, and entailed a broader approach to immigration, allowing people of all races into the country. By mid-year, the government had introduced legislation significantly increasing the number of non-Europeans who could settle in Australia and lowering the barriers they faced in seeking citizenship. The Immigration Restriction Act 1901, also known as the White Australia policy, affected migrants who came to Australia between 1901 and 1958.

### **The Immigration Restriction Act 1901**

Unaccustomed to the climatic and living conditions of Queensland, sickness took a terrible toll of them. They were angered particularly by a perceived failure or unwillingness of some Asian groups to learn English or 'mix', and thus by their perceived lack of commitment to Australia. The dictation test could be in any European language.

### **Immigration and the White Australia Policy by R. Dixon**

This was used mainly before the war and for a short time afterwards to bring in British immigrants that could help with labour to advance the economy. In 1967, Billy Snedden — the new Minister for Immigration — decided that it would be more beneficial to the nation to begin allowing more people into the country based on expertise rather than compassionate grounds, as this would help the national economy build. Because a lot of these convicts were males, Britain then sent an influx of females convicts and single women to create a gender balance.

### **End of the White Australia policy**

As indicated, Megalogenis argues that there should have been adaptation but this has been slow to occur, with some decisions actually being contrary to what one would expect from more Asia-sensitive governments. While the intake numbers per capita have been somewhat smaller than in comparable countries of migration in recent years, the impact on the population of continuing large scale migration has been considerably greater.

### **'Bringing people together': identity, racism and an Asian**

Despite the apparently increasing level of public opposition, immigration has not become the salient political issue in Australia that it has in many European countries or the USA. Obviously, measures are necessary to help stimulate the natural increase of population, but, in addition, immigration on a large scale is necessary.

### **The Immigration Restriction Act 1901**

However, various other commercial, strategic, and naval reasons have since been put forward by historians.

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