



Inside Australian Culture

Legacies of Enlightenment Values

Baden Offord, Erika Kerruish, Rob Garbutt, Adele Wessell and Kirsten Pavlovic, with a Foreword by Ashis Nandy and Afterword by Vinay Lal

Pub Date: 15 March 2015

Binding: Paperback

Price: £25.00 /

ISBN: 9781783084319

Extent: 164 pages

Size: 152 x 229 mm /
6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: HISTORY / Australia & New Zealand;

POLITICAL SCIENCE / World / Australian & Oceanian

BISAC CODE: HIS004000

BIC CODE: HPCD1

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A critical intervention into the effects of colonialism in Australia through the lens of Indian cultural theorist Ashis Nandy.

'This book is a bold statement on issues of deep importance in Australian life: our cultural history, our racial politics, and the shape of our public culture. The authors have produced a highly readable and also disturbing book, most relevant to our disturbing times.' —Raewyn Connell, University of Sydney

'Inside Australian Culture digs into Australia's past to provide an open scrutiny of the values that shape a culture and a nation. I commend this book for encouraging lively debates on how to foster an inclusive, equal Australia.' —Elisabeth Porter, University of South Australia

'Through powerful analysis, the five voices in this book propose a new normative rationale to counteract the modern fundamentalisation of Enlightenment underpinning Australian public culture.' —Susan Ballyn, University of Barcelona

"Inside Australian Culture: Legacies of Enlightenment Values" offers a critical intervention in the continuing effects of colonization in Australia and the structures it brought, which still inform and dominate its public culture. Through a careful analysis of three disparate but significant moments in Australian history, the authors investigate the way the British Enlightenment continues to dominate contemporary Australian thinking and values. Employing the lens of Indian cultural theorist Ashis Nandy, the authors argue for an Australian public culture that is profoundly conscious of its assumptions, history and limitations.

Readership

This book will be of interest to students and researchers looking at colonialism and its legacy, contemporary Australian culture and society, and the application of cultural theory developed in the (non-Western) South.

Contents

Foreword by Ashis Nandy; Preface; Part One: Getting Inside Australian Public Culture; Chapter One: The Enlightenment and Tradition in Early Colonial Society; Chapter Two: Australian Values and Their Public Culture(s); Part Two: Three Moments of the Enlightenment; Chapter Three: Moment One – An Act to Regulate Chinese Immigration, 1858; Chapter Four: Moment Two – Cubillo v. the Commonwealth, 2000; Chapter Five: Moment Three – Australian Localism and the Cronulla Riot, 2005; Part Three: Working with the Necessary Other; Chapter Six: The Closing of Public Culture to Communal Difference; Afterword by Vinay Lal

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Baden Offord is a professor of cultural studies and human rights. Erika Kerruish teaches cultural studies and philosophy. Rob Garbutt is a lecturer in cultural studies and written communication. Adele Wessell is a senior lecturer in history. Kirsten Pavlovic is a researcher in law and justice. All the authors are at Southern Cross University, Australia.

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