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Australia’s Asia
From Yellow Peril to Asian Century
Edited by David Walker and Agnieszka Sobocinska

Calls for Australia to become ‘Asia-literate’ are not new – they are as Australian as Vegemite, only older. Indeed, claims from politicians and authors that we are in new territory with the rise of Asia have been a feature of Australian public life for 150 years.

In this original, compelling and often surprising account of Australia’s multiple responses to Asia, the authors argue that Asia has long been at or near the centre of Australian thinking.

Proximity to Asia has appeared in extremes: both as a lurking threat, and an offering of new opportunities for trade, travel and cultural exchange.

*Australia’s Asia* corrects the balance of history, reminding us that whether it is a fear of immigrants, a fascination with the exotic, or anything in between, Australia has had a long and deeply complex relationship with Asia.

- The Asian Century White Paper has just been released – this book fits right into the debate.
- Engages with highly relevant topics including the rise of China, Australians in Bali, the ‘boat people’ debate, and teaching Asian history in Australian schools.
- 40th anniversary of Australia-China diplomatic relations on 21 December 2012.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

David Walker is Alfred Deakin Professor of Australian Studies at Deakin University, and is recognised as an outstanding cultural historian whose work has redrawn the boundaries of scholarship, moving ‘Asia’ into the mainstream of Australian historical writing. His prize-winning book, *Anxious Nation: Australia and the rise of Asia, 1850–1939*, has been translated into Chinese and Hindi. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences and the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Prof. Walker will take up the inaugural position of BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University in 2013.

Agnieszka Sobocinska is Lecturer at the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. Her research interests lie in the intersection of popular attitudes and international affairs, particularly in Australian relations with Asia and in the foreign aid system. Her recent publications in the *Journal of Australian Studies* and *History Australia* have been awarded prizes by the Australian Historical Association, the History Council of New South Wales and the International Australian Studies Association.

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