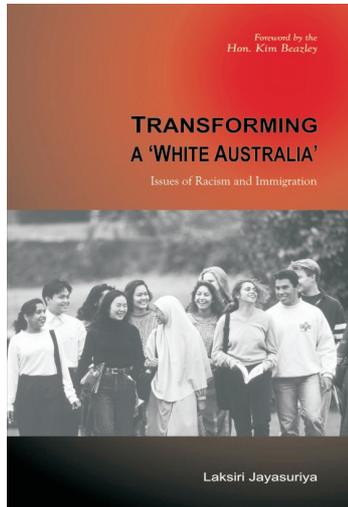


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Transforming a 'White Australia' Issues of Racism and Immigration

Laksiri Jayasuriya

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Mass immigration post World War II has transformed Australian society and politics. This is indeed a far cry from the vision of the architects of the 'White Australia' policy over a hundred years ago. This volume explores this dramatic change by examining the politics of the peopling of Australia dating from the Immigration Restriction Act 1901, the so-called 'White Australia' policy which sought to forge the Australian nation as a 'citadel of the British speaking race' (Prime Minister Curtin). The book examines how critical issues of race and immigration still haunt the political landscape even as we find an increasingly cosmopolitan Australia becoming more Asian oriented. As a study of this unique and successful experiment in creating a diverse and multicultural society, this book will be essential to anyone interested in what drives and sustains a diverse and pluralistic society.

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Laksiri Jayasuriya AM, is an Emeritus Professor and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences, as well as the recipient of a Hon D Litt. from the University of Colombo, and the University of Western Australia. In addition to his research and writings on multiculturalism and ethnic affairs policy, he has been involved in public affairs, serving on several government bodies and Committees of Inquiry, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of his community services.

Key titles among his list of publications include: *Taking Social Development Seriously: The Experience of Sri Lanka*; *The Asianization of Australia? Some Facts about the Myths* (with Kee Poo Kong), and *Legacies of White Australia* (Co-Editor).

Laki has combined great scholarship with courageous advocacy. The essays demonstrate all of that with a comprehensive analysis of the nuances, twists, and turns in one aspect of the race issue in Australia. It is essential reading for those who want to understand Australian society. **The Hon, Kim Beazley (in the Foreword), Australian Ambassador to the USA, and former Leader of the Australian Labor Party**

This concise but excellent study examines the old direct linkages between nationalism and race, as well as institutional forms of discrimination embodied in the old "White Australia" policy. By using the tools of social analysis this work deepens our understating of race and "racism" in Australian history and contemporary society. **Deryck M. Schreuder, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Education and Social Work, and previously 4th Challis Professor of History, The University of Sydney**

In a subject bestrewn with emotional debate, Professor Jayasuriya's latest scholarly contribution to multicultural studies is refreshing. His outstanding ability to bring calm reason to analysis is infused with deep historical knowledge and mastery of the large contemporary international literature. This is a balanced, erudite work which inspires confidence: the reader is in safe and authoritative hands, at a time of turbulence and dispute as the diversity of cultures in a growing number of nations intensifies, and sensitive issues such as racial vilification laws are ever more in the public domain. **John Nieuwenhuysen, Emeritus Professor, Monash University, and Hon. Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne**

Professor Jayasuriya is a respected scholar in the field of Australian ethnic relations and racism. This book advances our knowledge of contemporary Australia by addressing the phenomenon of "new racism" and discussing the questions of exclusion and the denial of "difference." It will be widely read in Asia Pacific and it is a must for students of multiculturalism. **Sev Ozdowski, OAM, Australian Human Rights Commissioner (2000-05)**

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