The True History of the Founding of Australia
Researched and written by Allen Douglas, Gabrielle Peut and Robert Butler

Introduction

Under the sobriquet, the “Australian History Project”, for much of the past two years the CEC has been conducting an intensive historical research effort to extend the discovery and understanding of Australia. In the December 1999 pamphlet, “The fight for an Australian Republic: From the First Fleet to the Year 2000” further uncover the actual history of our country, aside from the usual sort of pro-British nonsense drummed into all of us in school, whether bluntly or merely by implication. Just consider, for instance, the circumstances of Australia’s founding in the first place. Obviously, the mighty British Empire had decided to establish a settlement in New South Wales almost immediately after they were defeated by the Americans in their revolutionary war. There would be further details of this in the pamphlet, “The True History of the Australian Republic”, which appears in this issue. At this point, we shall be interested in the political reality of the American Revolution—a reality, in the midst of an unprecedented, revolutionary period of worldwide genocide—and the political realities which have from 1802 to 1823, which grow almost daily, that we know who we are as Australians, and are enabled to understand our struggles as they can only be understood—in the context of World History.

Imperial Chess-Moves

To understand the British imperial policies leading to the founding of Australia, let us return to the Pacific theatre in the wake of the British victory in the Seven Years’ War of 1756-63.

In that momentous conflict, often called the “First World War”, Britain had defeated its main rival France in a North America and to conquer the lands of the Atlantic. Then the British turned their attention to the Pacific, via Cape Horn, Byron visited and claimed the Falkland Islands for Britain, under the sobriquet, the “Venetian Party”. Disraeli was well informed: his grandfather was a Venetian Jewish merchant who had informed: his grandfather was a Venetian Jewish merchant who had immigrated to Amsterdam (1669). He became a Jew in 1731 and was a great-grandson of the Bank of Amsterdam as the “Venice of the North”. Beginning in 1696, the British Royal Navy was the first in a series of calamitous wars against France, culminating in the Seven Years War. On the battle of the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to overthrow the Stuart monarchs, it is said that the “Great Whig families” of today, typified by the British Prince Philip and the Duke of Edinburgh, which co-founded the World Wildlife Fund in 1961— the first principle of the conservation movement— and in the numerous Anglo-Dutch financier and raw material schemes, such as the Dutch East India Company, which swallowed up the VOC. Meanwhile, William III protest- ed that the “great Whig families” intended to turn him into a “mere doge”, a figurehead. Following his death, Queen Anne (daughter of the ousted James II), ruled from 1702-14. Upon her death, the Venetian orchestra performed at another foreign takeover of England via the ruling family of Hanover, then known as the “Vence of the North”. Beginning with George I, who could not speak a word of English, they initi- ated the dynasty which still rules the British empire today.

The “Glorious Revolution” of 1688

Today’s British oligarchy proudly dates the founding of their “Westminster System” of parliamentarian government from the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688. This was no revolution, but a foreign invasion led by the Dutch Prince William of Orange in command of 40,000 men and an armada of 463 ships, who seized the English throne on behalf of Venice and its allies among a small group of powerful English titled families, a cabal which the British Prime Minister Ben- jamin Disraeli (1804-81) called the “Venetian Party”. Disraeli was well informed: his grandfather was a Ve- netian Jewish merchant who had migrated to London after the Seven Years War and was put in charge of a British trading company in 1766, which had been a successful bank, which is to- day the apex of monetarist imperialism, 4) it founded the “New” East India Com- pany, which swallowed up the VOC. Meanwhile, William III protest- ed that the “great Whig families” intended to turn him into a “mere doge”, a figurehead. Following his death, Queen Anne (daughter of the ousted James II), ruled from 1702-14. Upon her death, the Venetian orchestra performed at another foreign takeover of England via the ruling family of Hanover, then known as the “Vence of the North”. Beginning with George I, who could not speak a word of English, they initi- ated the dynasty which still rules the British empire today.

On 15 May, 1787, the 11 stops of the First Fleet sail out on a 13,000-mile voyage to establish a British strategic outpost on the Australian continent.
it in the mid-1600s. Next, and most famously, came the three voyages of Captain James Cook in 1768–71; 1772–75; and 1776–80. His initial voyage was still another “scientific expedition”, ostensibly initiated by the Royal Society to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the Sun. Later in life, he personally presented the request to fund it to King George III. Cook’s own sponsor was the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Sandwich, the number two man in a religiously neutral state. At the end of the war, a French military figure, such as Poland’s Bar- ron Koscuiuszko, Germany’s Baron von Steuben, and, most famously, France’s Marquis de Lafayette came to train and assist the Americans. Lafayette personally led the French troops who aided the Americans at the Battle of Yorktown, New York in October 1781, which finally forced the British to surrender.

Following the 1783 Treaty of Paris which formally concluded peace between the British and the new American republic, America’s former backers in France, Holland and Spain continued a worldwide struggle against the British. France’s population alone was three times that of Britain, while these three powers combined possessed a greater maritime power than even Britain itself, a power which challenged Britain’s hold on India and its trade to China. With America now gone, Britain’s Pacific possessions were more strategically viable than ever. Therefore, look now at the map of the Pacific through the eyes of Shelburne and his strategic planners. British ships typically sailed with the currents down to the southeast Atlantic off the coast of Brazil, and then across below southern Africa to India. There, they picked up the opium which the British East India Company forced the Indian farmers to grow, and sailed to China to exchange it for tea. On this 11,000-mile voyage the ships had to refit and resupply at the Cape of Good Hope. In 1784–85, this base was held by the Dutch, who were allied with the French. The Dutch also held the crucial part of Trincomalee in Ceylon (today’s Sri Lanka), from which they—or their French allies—could attack British shipping on this India-China route.

An alternative, more difficult British route to India went down along the Spanish possessions in South America, farther through the Straits of Magellan or around Cape Horn. Spain, however, claimed exclusive rights in the “Spanish Main” and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean, as well as the entire Pacific, based upon Papania del Vaticano’s in 1493, and the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Recent research has shown that the British navy also needed an endless supply of timber (mostly pine) for her ships. British forest resources, allowing the United States to gain its independence and gain its foundation.

The British colonised Australia to pre-empt the French, and to establish a strategic base in the Pacific. It took 6-8 months to sail from Britain to Australia. But from Australia, the British could easily challenge the French, Dutch, and Spanish possessions. It was the Pacific, not the Americas, of the 18th century. The Pacific was more vital than ever, centering on the British East India Company’s Calcutta-to-Camranh diplomats. The British still run the world’s mails today.

Britain’s rivals

From 1784 to 1786, British diplomats and spies reported that the French were building up their fleet and constructing major harbours and other naval preparations. Forging relations into Admiralcy Headquarters in London and plans for a castles in South America, but had plans against the Spanish colonies. The British navy also needed an endless supply of timber (mostly pine) for her ships. British forest resources, allowing the United States to gain its independence and gain its foundation.

She negotiated a treaty with Egypt, which also allowed her fleet to carry goods from her remaining outposts in India via Egypt.

She sponsored a group of French merchants to trade with India, another way of intentionally “decommissioning” 64-gun warships of the French navy.

The British (and loyalist Australians) called longtime Royal Society president and famed Joseph Banks, the “bountiful father of Australia”.

Cape of Good Hope and in the Pacific. Its included purpose, in the words of one French official, was “to prepare the way for decisive blows in concert with Holland about the coast of India”. In fact, war plans for a combined French/Dutch assault to drive the British from India had been drafted both in France and in Holland.

In early 1785, the British Admiralty’s spies reported that the French captain La Perouse had set sail on a supposedly “scientific expedition” with 60 convicts, but with the secret intention to establish a naval base on the eastern coast of New Holland, as eastern Australia was then known. Armed, Shelburne and his Board of Control, which oversaw the British East India Company rushed through plans for a British fleet to honor New Holland before the French could get there. One of the chief proponents of the effort was Joseph Banks, the president of the Royal Society. Banks had accompanied Cook on his first voyage, and had achieved a reputation as the foremost authority on Australia. But whereas he had earlier pronounced the continent unfit for settlement, he now changed his mind and led the lobbying effort in parliament and elsewhere to establish a colony there.

The 11-ship fleet, known to Australian history as the “First Fleet”, set sail on 13th May, 1787 under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. Phillip had crucial qualifications for the job. On secondment from the British Navy, he had served in the Portuguese navy in Portugal’s colony of Brazil, he had been one of the Admiralty’s top spies deployed against France and Spain; and, together with Shelburne’s personal agent Captain John Blakett, he had not only drafted detailed invasion plans against the Spanish colonies in South America, but had actually led such an invasion in 1783, which was only thwarted by stormy weather. Among other personal ties between Philipp and Shelburne, they were both members of a group promoting the then-controversial doctrine of “free trade”, whose most famous proponent was Adam Smith, the tabor of Shelburne’s own brother (who lived in Smith’s home). In a famous carriage ride in 1761, Shelburne had instructed Smith to write The Wealth of Nations as an economic warfare manual, in particular against the increasingly independent American colonies.
Another America?

Now notwithstanding the new colony’s clear strategic importance, the East India Company “commercial” interest, along with many even in Shelleburne’s own, Venetian Party camp, argued that such a new colony so far from London would inevitably “go the Venetian way,” and establish itself as a new, independent nation. Typical were the warnings of leading British East India Company official Alexander Dalrymple, the company’s expert on the Pacific since the 1760s, who admonished: “If an European Colony be established, on that extensive Country, it is obvious it must become very independent, and, I will add, very dangerous to England. Even Shelleburne allying Sir Francis Bar- ring, the East India Company chairman and head of Barings Bank, warned already in 1793 of “the serpent we are nourishing in Botany Bay.”

From the very outset, this concern that the new colony might become “another America,” was to shape almost every aspect of the British governing of New South Wales, beginning with their barbaric treatment of those unfortunate human beings shipped out to this no-man’s land for the rest of their lives. The British had good reason to be afraid of a new America in the Pacific: In both America itself, and throughout Europe, those who had organised and supported the American Revolution, conceived the United States to be a “Temple of Hope” and “Beacon of Liberty” for the entire world, which would inspire and aid American-style revolutions back in Europe. It unleashed enormous hope and optimism in the looted, desperately poor subject nations of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and even in England itself, whose affectivity in the late 18th Century surpassed even that portrayed by Charles Dickens decades later. Thus, the English-born American revolutionary Thomas Paine’s Rights of Man sold an astonishing one million copies among the 14 million population of the British Isles. When General Washington-Pacific trade, as it soon did. Some months after arrival, Governor Phillip, a long-time subordinate of Shelleburne, whom he had met immediately before parting in command of the First Fleet, wrote to Shelleburne that “it will be four years at least, before this Colony will be able to support itself.” Notwithstanding that expense, and alluding to strategic matters well beyond the dumping of convicts, Philip continued, “still, My Lord, I think that perseverance will answer every purpose proposed by Government, and that this Country will hereafter be a most valuable acquisition to Great Britain from its situation.” In gratitude for the sponsorship of Shelleburne, another of whose titles was the 1st Marquis of Lansdowne, Philip named the southern part of the Blue Mountains, the “Lansdowne Hills.”
Irish passion for independence

B
out of all nations in the world,...

Scottish Martyrs

Meanwhile, the British looted Scotland almost as savagely as they had Ireland, reducing through the notorious “enclosures”; in which the Scots were evicted wholesale from their land and made to toil in sheep runs for British landlords. Those who resisted, or who espoused the ideals of the American Revolution, were, like the Irish, also shipped to Australia. The most famous of these were the “Scottish Martyrs”: Thomas Muir, Maurice Margarot, Joseph Gerrald, Thomas Fyshe Palmer, William Skiving, and John Home Todd. The Scottish riot was led by the national poet and republicain, Robert Burns, penned his poem, Scots Wha Hae, in honour of their leader, Thomas Muir.
“By Oppression’s woes and pains. By your sons in service chains, We shall drain our dearest veins. But they shall be free! Lay the proud tyrant low! Tyrants fall in every foe! Liberty’s in every blow!—Let us do or die!”

So terrified were the British of repugnance in Scotland, that Henry Dundas, a腐 Moorehead, who had replaced Lord Sydney as head of the BEIC’s Board of Control, and who as Lord Advocate for Scotland was its top legal official, personally prosecuted Muir for sedition. The notorious “hanging judge” of Edin-

Vicious British law

A s for the “thieves” and other non-political prisoners, many of them were just hapless victims of the grinding poverty in London and elsewhere in England, and of Britain’s in-
nost, of course, the well publicized “Bloody Code,” 160 offenses carried the punishment of death, public execu-
tions and torture were commonplace, and you could be sentenced to “transportation” for stealing a loaf of bread to feed your starving family, or for a host of other minor crimes. Amidst this desperate poverty, ri-

Transportation horror

S o, with fewer African slaves to keep them occupied, some of their previously constructed, specially-bred slave ships to trans-

The infamous John Fitzpatrick was trans-

Transported for ten years for stealing two cows during the great 1840-45 potato famine.

Under Britain’s “Bloody Code,” 160 offenses—many of them minor—carried a penalty of mur-

Any mention of transportation would offend the sensitivities of the African continent. Many of the convicts were flogged en route, some of them to death. Thoms-

Who can begin to comprehend the horrors of transportation!
the hatches [to the convicts’ hole] were taken off, the stench was so powerful that it was scarcely possible to stand over them.

When the Second Fleet arrived, the colony’s Anglican chaplain, Reverend Richard Johnson reported that although he “braved the two-deckers and scuttle of the,” he could not face going below in the Neptune. When the convicts were finally landed, Johnson estimated that one man had at least ten thousand lice swarming on his body. And it was just thrown ashore, Johnson said, “as they would sling a cask, a box, or anything of that nature. Upon that being brought up to the open air some tainted, some died upon the deck, and others in the boat before they reached the shore. When we come on shore, many were not able to walk, to stand or to stir themselves in the least, hence they were led by others. Some creeped upon their hands and knees, and some were carried on the backs of others.”

In the First Fleet, only one third of the 717 prisoners arrived fit to work. But, when the Second Fleet, “the Death Fleet”, run mostly by Camden, Calvert and King, reached Sydney, and scraped its cargo of the dead, the dying and the sick off the boats, the first thing that they did was to open a market on the shore, selling the left-over provisions to the half-starved convicts of the First Fleet. Of the 499 prisoners that embarked off the Neptune, on that journey only .72 landed in fair health, 269 were incapacitated, and 158 died. Most of the dead were the Irish. The ships of Scarborough and Surprise fared only marginally better. Of the 1071 able-bodied convicts despatched from Portsmouth, only 739 survived, with more than 500 of even the survivors dead from starvation and abuse. The mortality rate on this fleet was to be the highest in transporation history to Australia.

White slavery

Unlike African slaves, who were regarded as valuable human cargo, there was no limit as to how these white convicts could be starved, tortured or simply murdered on board. This unspeakable suffering and death provoked many in Britain and in New South Wales to plead with the great anti-slavery leader William Wilberforce to speak out against it. He said nary a word.

Despite the wholesale slaughter conducted on the Second Fleet, in which 30 per cent of all convicts died, Camden, Calvert and King were given a slap on the wrist by the British gov- ernment, which contracted them once again for the Third Fleet in 1791!

If the prisoners survived, and if they were not executed in NSW, for some possible real or just imagined crime, they were almost continually flogged at the slightest excuse. Shebbeare et al. issued secret “special instructions” on the treatment of the political prisoners, in particular, in order to beat and terrify their ideals out of them. And many of these political prisoners, including entire ship loads, had been just rounded up and shipped off from Ireland with no record of their trials or their sentences. Sentences were typically seven years, 14 years or life; but, surprisingly, and in particular, in order to beat and terrify their ideals out of them. And many of these political prisoners, including entire ship loads, had been just rounded up and shipped off from Ireland with no record of their trials or their sentences. Sentences were typically seven years, 14 years or life; but, surprisingly, and in particular, in order to beat and terrify their ideals out of them.

But, uniquely for convicts being trans- ported to Australia, those nine lengths were also knot ted at the end to inflict harsher foggings. For those transport- ed to Norfolk Island, a lead weight was inserted into each of those knot ten ends, so as to cut even deeper.

The records are replete with ac- counts of prisoners receiving 500 or even 1000 lashes with the cat, such as the case of the Irishman Maurice Fitzgerald and Paddy Galvin, as re- counted in Robert Hughes’ The Fai- tal Shore and in The Battle of Vinegar Hill: Australia’s Irish Rebellion 1804, by Lynette Ramsay Silver, among oth- er sources:

“Marsden and King applied the idea that beating some to near death would give them information about any im- pending rebellion. Marsden who was also suffering from paranoia, decid- ed that this Irishman who only spoke Gaelic was speaking in code and that he was hiding something. He decid- ed that he and his friend would be the ones to break the first. The first one up was Maurice Fitzgerald who was given 300 lashes and here’s the account from his friend.

“The place they flogged them their arms pulled around a large tree and their breasts squeezed against the trunk so the men had no power to cringe … There was two floggers, Richard Rice and John Johnson the Hangman from Sydney. Rice was a left handed man and Johnson was right handed, so they stood at each side, and I never saw two threshers in a barn move their strokes more handier than those two man killers did.

“The moment they began I turned my face round towards the other side and one of the constables came and desir’d me to turn and look on. I put my right hand in my pocket and pulled out my pen-knife, and swore I [would] nip him from the navel to the chin. They all gathered round me and would have ill used me … [but] they were obliged to walk off. I could com- pare them to a pack of hounds at the death of a hare, all yelping.

“I was toeward of the foggings … I was two perches from them. The flesh and skin blew in my face as it shook off the cats. Fitzgerald rec- eived his 300 lashes. Doctor Mason – I will never forget him – he used to go feel his pulse, and he smiled, and said: “This man will tire you be- fore he will yield. Give him a good hard crop.” At the time [Fitzgerald] was getting his punishment never gave so much as a word—only one, and that was saying, “Don’t strike me on the neck, flog me fair.”

“When he was let loose, two of the constables went and took hold of him by the arms to keep him in the cart. I was standing by [Hie] said to them, “Let me go.” He struck both of them with his elbows in the pit of the stom- ach and knocked them both down, and then stepped in the cart. I heard Dr. Mason say that man had strength enough to bear 200 more.

“Next was tied up Paddy Galvin, a young boy about 20 years of age. He was ordered to get 300 lashes. He got one hundred on the back; and you could see his backbone between his shoulder blades. Then the Doctor ordered him to get another hundred on his bottom. He got it and then his haunches were in such a jely that the Doctor ordered him to be flogged on the calves of his legs. He got one hun- dred there and as much as a whisper he never gave. They asked him if he would tell where the pikes were hid. He said he did not know, and would not tell. “You may as well hang me now,” he said, “for you never will get any music from me so.” They put him in a cart and sent him to hospital.”

“Marsden complained bitterly to King that these Irish would die before they would divulge anything, so they rounded up as many as they could, flogged them and sent them to Nor- folk Island for life.”

“Together with the Neptune”, the Third Fleet, it contained 1,000 convicts, 400 naval personnel, 42 African slaves, and 59 convicts who had already served in New South Wales. Also aboard were 280 Irish servants, including the future prime minister of Ireland, Daniel O’Connell.

The cats’ nine tails (the cat). It was spe- cially made for transportees, to inflict fur- ther suffering. The cat of nine tails was called “the cat.”

The specially-made leg irons which transportees were for the entire eight-month journey to NSW, were more cruel than those of the African slave trade.

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The specially-made leg irons which transportees were for the entire eight-month journey to NSW, were more cruel than those of the African slave trade.
their bodies, and liable to suffer flagellation for even a trifling offence.” Many prisoners in Port Arthur went insane from being kept in total isolation; records show that many cut their ears, fingers, and even legs and arms off, or banged their heads against the walls until covered in blood. The worst offenders, however, were locked in what was called the “Separate Prison” in Port Arthur, where they were forced to wear a mask with only slits for the eyes, so they could not recognise each other, and where they sat day and night until covered in blood. The pork was so soft that it was possible to eat it with a fork, and the vict workforce.

The commandant there, Major Foveaux, who headed the New South Wales Corps for three years from 1794 to 1797, 1798

The Gate to the Galleons Norlisk Island. The galleons were in constant use.


Shelburne bore the nicknames, “Malagris”, after the address of his Berks home, and “The Younger” into politics in 1782 in order to dissuade the Grenville faction (which he described as a “doge”), Shelburne had consolidated the vital position of Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1782, as planned by the American ally, the

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