# Modern History, Unit Four

Australia's Engagement with Asia

## Theme: Immigration, the White Australia Policy and Asia

**Timeline**

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| **Federal Leadership** | **Year** | **Event/development** | **Towards, or away from multiculturalism?** |
| Curtin/Calwell (ALP) | 19451946194719481949 | Australia's first Department of Immigration, Calwell as Minister 'Populate or Perish'UN forms the International Refugee OrganisationFree and assisted passages begin for British immigrantsCalwell's 'Two Wongs don't make a White' speechOver 180 000 displaced persons arrive from EuropeImmigration agreement with MaltaO'Keefe v CalwellAliens Deportation ActWar-time Refugees Removal ActLau v CalwellAustralian Citizenship begins | Towardsn/aAwayAwayTowardsTowards?AwayAwayAwayTowards |
| Menzies-Gorton (Lib) | 19511952195619581965196619671969 | Colombo Plan BeginsInternational Convention on Refugees is signed/ratified by AustraliaImmigration agreements with Italy and the NetherlandsSCAP Japan brides allowed entry on five-year visasImmigration agreements with Austria, Belgium, Greece, West Germany and SpainBan on Nationalisation of Asians lifted (War Brides reaching end of five years)Dictation Test abolished, new Migration ActVernon Report supports high immigration for economic reasonsRestrictions on the immigration of non-Europeans are easedImmigration agreement with Turkey (1st Asian country, by definition)International Convention on Racial Discrimination | TowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsn/a |
| Whitlam (ALP) | 197319741975 | Official announcement of the end of the White Australia Policy: citizenship open to all after 3 years residencyAl Grassby introduces the concept of 'multiculturalism'Refugees from Chile arrive (Allende/Pinochet)Refugees arrive from Cyprus (Turks invade)Racial Discrimination ActImmigration lowest since WW2 (rises in inflation and unemployment)Refugees arrive from Lebanon (civil war) | TowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsTowardsAwayTowards |
| Fraser (Lib) | 1976197719781982 | 1st Vietnamese 'boat people' arriveGalbally Report supports multicultural position regarding provision of services to migrantsFraser establishes the Australian Institute of Multicultural AffairsOver 60 000 Vietnamese settled in Australia | TowardsTowardsTowardsTowards |
| Hawke/Keating (ALP) | 1984198619871988198919911992 | Blainey speech (Historian) opposing multiculturalism and Asian immigration on basis of intolerance in AustraliaAIMA replaced by Office of Multicultural AffairsImmigration divided into three streams – Family, Economic (skilled) and HumanitarianFitzgerald Report – greater focus needed on economic immigration (not adopted)Howard (Opp leader) calls for end to Asian Immigration to help 'Social cohesion'National Agenda for Multicultural Australia'Special Assistance' category introduced in Humanitarian programme egs Croatia, East Timor, LebanonFirst mandatory detention of asylum seekers | Awayn/an/aAwayAwayTowardsTowards? |
| Howard (Lib) | 19961999Beyond | Howard abolishes OMAHanson maiden speech (Swamped by Asians, into home-into country)'New Agenda for Multicultural Australia' – Harmony DayTampa, Pacific Solution, Children Overboard, Offshore detention etc. "we will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come" (2001) | AwayAwayTowardsAway |