# 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) | 1945  1946  1947  1948  1949 | Australia's first Department of Immigration, Calwell as Minister 'Populate or Perish'  UN forms the International Refugee Organisation  Free and assisted passages begin for British immigrants  Calwell's 'Two Wongs don't make a White' speech  Over 180 000 displaced persons arrive from Europe  Immigration agreement with Malta  O'Keefe v Calwell  Aliens Deportation Act  War-time Refugees Removal Act  Lau v Calwell  Australian Citizenship begins | Towards  n/a  Away  Away  Towards  Towards  ?  Away  Away  Away  Towards |
| Menzies-Gorton (Lib) | 1951  1952  1956  1958  1965  1966  1967  1969 | Colombo Plan Begins  International Convention on Refugees is signed/ratified by Australia  Immigration agreements with Italy and the Netherlands  SCAP Japan brides allowed entry on five-year visas  Immigration agreements with Austria, Belgium, Greece, West Germany and Spain  Ban on Nationalisation of Asians lifted (War Brides reaching end of five years)  Dictation Test abolished, new Migration Act  Vernon Report supports high immigration for economic reasons  Restrictions on the immigration of non-Europeans are eased  Immigration agreement with Turkey (1st Asian country, by definition)  International Convention on Racial Discrimination | Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  n/a |
| Whitlam (ALP) | 1973  1974  1975 | Official announcement of the end of the White Australia Policy: citizenship open to all after 3 years residency  Al Grassby introduces the concept of 'multiculturalism'  Refugees from Chile arrive (Allende/Pinochet)  Refugees arrive from Cyprus (Turks invade)  Racial Discrimination Act  Immigration lowest since WW2 (rises in inflation and unemployment)  Refugees arrive from Lebanon (civil war) | Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards  Away  Towards |
| Fraser (Lib) | 1976  1977  1978  1982 | 1st Vietnamese 'boat people' arrive  Galbally Report supports multicultural position regarding provision of services to migrants  Fraser establishes the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs  Over 60 000 Vietnamese settled in Australia | Towards  Towards  Towards  Towards |
| Hawke/Keating (ALP) | 1984  1986  1987  1988  1989  1991  1992 | Blainey speech (Historian) opposing multiculturalism and Asian immigration on basis of intolerance in Australia  AIMA replaced by Office of Multicultural Affairs  Immigration divided into three streams – Family, Economic (skilled) and Humanitarian  Fitzgerald 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, Lebanon  First mandatory detention of asylum seekers | Away  n/a  n/a  Away  Away  Towards  Towards  ? |
| Howard (Lib) | 1996  1999  Beyond | Howard abolishes OMA  Hanson maiden speech (Swamped by Asians, into home-into country)  'New Agenda for Multicultural Australia' – Harmony Day  Tampa, Pacific Solution, Children Overboard, Offshore detention etc.  "we will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come" (2001) | Away  Away  Towards  Away |