



Australian History in 7 Questions

John Hirst

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If there are genuine questions about Australian history, there is something to puzzle over. The history ceases to be predictable—and dull.

From the author of *The Shortest History of Europe*, acclaimed historian John Hirst, comes this fresh and stimulating approach to understanding Australia's past and present.

Hirst asks and answers questions that get to the heart of Australia's history:

- Why did Aborigines not become farmers?
- How did a penal colony change peacefully to a democracy?
- Why was Australia so prosperous so early?
- Why did the Australian colonies federate?
- What effect did convict origins have on national character?
- Why was the postwar migration programme a success?
- Why is Australia not a republic?

Engaging and enjoyable, and written for the novice and the expert alike, *Australian History in 7 Questions* explains how we became the nation we are today.

'If you don't always agree with the answers, you will certainly acquire a renewed interest in the questions. This, surely, is the highest hope of good history.' —*Saturday Paper*

'An excellent tool for provoking debate' —*Age*

'An intriguing approach' —*West Weekend Magazine*

'With trademark clarity and insight, Hirst manages to touch every cornerstone of Australia's past ... every Australian should read this book.' —*Monthly*

'Thought provoking' —*Daily Telegraph*

'Instructively provocative' —*Burnie Advocate*

'*Australian History in 7 Questions* is a lively and exciting book, showing the skills of a professional historian and social commentator ... Anyone would benefit from reading this erudite short book.' —*Australian Journal of Politics and History*

John Hirst was a member of the History Department at La Trobe University from 1968 to 2007. He has written many books on Australian history, including *Convict Society and Its Enemies*, *The Strange Birth of Colonial Democracy*, *The Sentimental Nation*, *Sense and Nonsense in Australian History* and *The Shortest History of Europe*.

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