

- "The settlement of Australia was designed to solve a problem at home - primarily that of crimes against property." Approx. 25% of those transported were Irish. Transportation of convicts; informally happening since the 1600s, but formally enshrined in the penal system in 1717. 1777 = 40,000 British subjects sent to America under this system. War of Independence meant that this was no longer possible. 13th May 1787; 11 ships sail from Portsmouth with 548 male and 188 female convicts. Land at Botany Bay (just beyond Sydney harbour) on 19th January 1788. 1787-1853 = 123,000 men & 25,000 women were transported. 50-66% of those transported were repeat offenders for petty thefts; "Australia literally started out as a nation of shoplifters." "It's commander and the first Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip, found the harbour (Botany Bay) unsatisfactory and shifted his ships to a better one nearby, which was named Sydney in honour of the Colonial Secretary."
- Convicts = "They were to provide the sinews of a new colony that, in time, would profit Britain, which would be preferable to having them idling in prison cells or the hulks."
- "... some British politicians saw it as imperative that New South Wales be settled, if only to assert British ownership. But getting rid of convicts was the prime objective."
- "... from the very outset the British were intent on reproducing themselves in their new colony. Indeed, sexual licence, fuelled by imported rum, would be one of Sydney's defining traits."
- "Although the system of transportation made a mockery of the British claim that theirs was an empire of liberty, in practice the effect of the policy was liberating for many of those sent to Australia." At the end of the sentence, those who had been transported could stay or return to Britain. Most stayed on; "In effect, those who survived transportation and served their sentences were given the chance to start a new life - even if it was life on Mars." "... the men who ruled Britain in the late eighteenth century believed it was both an effective check on crime and a device by which criminals could be reformed."
- "The making of early Australia was an extremely complex process. It had been officially assumed that convict muscle would carve out an agrarian colony which would be self-supporting and possibly profitable. Australian society would be pyramidal and paternalist. Executive and judicial power would be in the hands of former officers ..."

- "From the beginning there would be three types of Australians: officials and guards, free settlers and convicts. The last made up the bulk of the population and were there unwillingly."
- "Labour, skilled or unskilled, was undertaken for the Government or the handful of free settlers. Discipline was rigorously enforced; flogging was the common corrective for most offences."
- "Early Australia was a divided society." (Irish nationalists, convicts ...)
- "The 'them' of early Australian society was an open elite into which former convicts who had taken advantage of land grants (44 in 1791) were allowed once they had made their fortunes. Its most powerful members, outside the senior government officials, were the officers of the NSW Corps, which had been formed in 1791 as part garrison and part police force. It was manned by rogues of various sorts ... and was commanded by scoundrels."
- "The Corp's officers were a flock of raptors who used their privileges to fill their pockets through the accumulation of land grants and liquor licences. Captain Bligh, who became Governor in 1806, attempted to challenge the vested interests of the Corps ... by authorising the distribution of government stores to poor settlers, many of them former convicts. This enlightened systems of state investment was overthrown by private enterprise when Macarthur (officer in NSW Corps), fearing the loss of his profits, engineered a Corps mutiny against Bligh. Bligh ... was unseated by the plotters and recalled in 1810."



- "Without inspired leadership, Australia might never have been much more than a vast Devil's Island." Enter Lachlan Macquarie, the governor between 1809-1821. "In its transformation from dumping ground into reformatory (he played a) a crucial role ..." By the end of his tenure, "In London he was regarded as a profligate, while there were some in Australia who regarded him as over-lenient."
- "Macquarie was every bit as much of a despot as his naval predecessors ... But unlike them, Macquarie was an enlightened despot. To him, NSW was not just a land of punishment, but also a land of redemption. Under his benign rule, he believed, convicts could be transformed into citizens." He improved conditions on board penal ships and allowed convicts with legal experience to represent men at trials. "... Macquarie, a strong-willed army officer, presided over the disbandment of the NSW Corps and, up to a point, continued Bligh's policy of assistance to former settlers."
- Macquarie Towns or the Five Macquarie Towns is the collective term for the towns of **Castlereagh, Pitt Town, Richmond, Wilberforce and Windsor**, all located on and around the **Hawkesbury River** in **New South Wales, Australia**.
- London = converting to laissez-faire economics under the tutelage of Adam Smith; "Macquarie became an unabashed planner ... Macquarie's most visible and enduring contribution was to turn Sydney into a model colonial city." Macquarie used convicts with skills and trades to implement his vision and building programmes. Once the building work was complete, he strove to end dependence on imported food; he built 'Macquarie Towns' on the fertile banks of the Hawkesbury River up towards the Blue Mountains; suited to sheep farming and growing grain. Macquarie offered 30 acre land grants to those who completed their sentences. "He left office in 1821 by when it was clear that the colony was flourishing; its population had risen to 38,000 and its economy sound. Burgeoning prosperity owed much to Macarthur's entrepreneurial shrewdness for he had been among the first to recognise that sheep would thrive in NSW. By 1821 there were 290,000 sheep in Australia and within 20 years raw wool exports topped 10 million pounds annually. Sheep had been to the colony what tobacco had been to Virginia and sugar to the West Indies."



Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney.

- **Convicts complete / earned remission of sentences, character / composition of colony begins to change. 1/14 transportees elected to return to Britain; NSW = more free people than convicts by 1828. Some ex-convicts became wealthy as they established businesses. "The success of Macquarie's policies meant that NSW was fast becoming a prosperous colony. It also meant that transportation there was no longer a deterrent to crime, but rather a free passage to a new life, with the prospect of a golden handshake in the form of a land grant at the end of one's sentence."**
- **Not every convict was reformed; thus the need for "prisons within the prison". Norfolk Island & Van Diemen's Land & Moreton Bay.**
- **Aborigines = approx. 300,000 in 1788. "Victims of the white plague." "The colonists brought with them contamination in the form of infectious diseases to which the Aborigines had no resistance, and cultivation which implied the exclusion of the nomadic tribes from their ancestral hunting grounds ... By 1821 there were already 290,000 sheep in Australia, overrunning the bush where the Aborigines had hunted kangaroo for millennia."**

- **Van Diemen's Land: "In one of the most shocking of all the chapters in the history of the British Empire, the Aborigines in Van Diemen's Land were hunted down, confined and ultimately exterminated: an event which truly merits the now overused term 'genocide'." "Concern in Parliament about the mistreatment of indigenous peoples led to the appointment of Aboriginal Protectors in NSW and Western Australia in 1838-1839."**