

The 1967 Referendum

Race, power and the Australian Constitution

Bain Attwood and Andrew Markus

DESCRIPTION

On 27 May 1967 a remarkable event occurred: an overwhelming majority of electors voted in a national referendum to amend clauses of the Australian Constitution concerning Aboriginal people. 27 May 2007 is the 40th anniversary of this landmark event.

Nowadays, a younger generation have never heard of this landmark event; an older generation remain unclear about its significance.

The referendum is commonly considered the turning point in Australian historical and cultural life. The historic moment when citizenship rights were granted – including the vote – and the Commonwealth finally assumed responsibility for Aboriginal affairs. However, the outcomes for Indigenous Australians haven't improved significantly. So what is the referendum's value now?

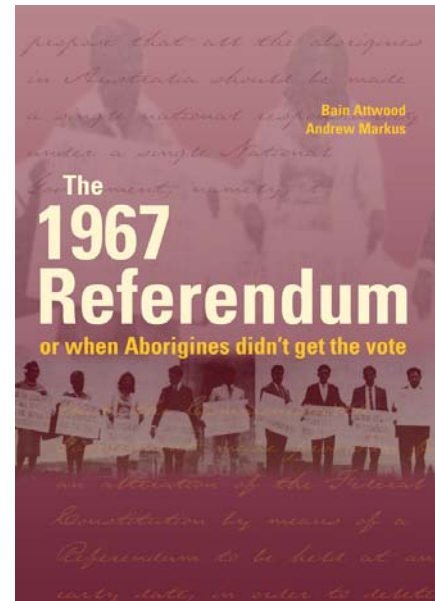
This book explores the legal and political significance of the referendum and the long struggle by Australians for constitutional change. It traces the emergence of a series of powerful narratives about the Australian Constitution and the status of Aborigines. It reveals how and why the referendum acquired significance and has since become the subject of highly charged myth in contemporary Australia.

AUTHOR(S)

Bain Attwood is Associate Professor of History, Monash University. Andrew Markus is Professor of Jewish Civilisation and Director of the Australian Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilisation, Monash University. They collaborated on *The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights* and *Thinking Black*. Attwood is author of best-selling *Rights for Aborigines* and the recent *Telling the Truth about Aboriginal History*.

SELLING POINTS

- 40 year anniversary in May 2007 with lots of media attention: a cause for celebration and reflection
- fully revised and updated second edition to this widely read book
- includes current reflections from activists for the YES vote
- strong media and marketing push with organisations like Reconciliation Australia and ANTaR; widely published authors
- hoping to tie in to SBS doco on the Referendum, screening in May 2007
- teacher's notes will be produced, widely marketed and made available online



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May 2007

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b/w images throughout

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- Australian Politics
- Aboriginal Studies

BIC CATEGORIES

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