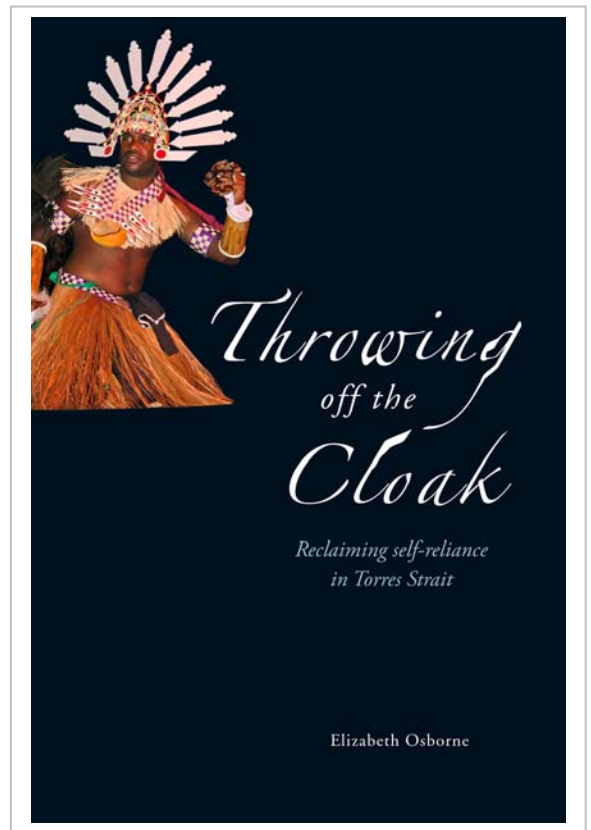


AUGUST 2009 NEW RELEASE

Title	Throwing Off the Cloak
Subtitle	Reclaiming self-reliance in Torres Strait
Author(s)	Elizabeth Osborne
Format	230x152mm
Extent	256pp
RRP	\$39.95
ISBN	978 0 85575 662 8
Market	Academic/Trade
Bookshelf categories	Australian History, Politics
BIC categories	GTX01, JBHG, JBHGF, JBKC



This is a passionately-written and valuable chronicle of events of great significance to the recent history of Torres Strait and has broader resonances for the future of remote Aboriginal mainland communities.

Dr Anna Shnukal, Queensland Museum

For two decades the people of Torres Strait struggled with governments and those who take mercilessly from their seabed resources. Perhaps the most articulate expression of what this means to a Torres Strait Islander was delivered by an island leader when he was asked, 'What are you claiming, are you claiming the sea, the beach or the resources?' He replied, 'If an oil tanker ran aground it kills the bed, kills the fish and it kills me'.

Osborne focuses on the Torres Strait Islander peoples' evolving struggles for recognition of their unique Indigenous island identities. She foregrounds the voices of the Torres Strait Islanders themselves as views were rarely sought or recorded from the arrival of outside intervention in the 1840s up to the 1970s.

As governmental policies became less dismissive of Indigenous aspirations and concern for Indigenous welfare increased, Osborne explores the debates centring on the Islanders' struggle to recover their rights to their land, sea, fish resources, and decision making for their own wellbeing. The successful Border No Change protest, is an example of the peoples' collective resistance and the Islanders skills in dealing with political leaders.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in indigenous responses to colonisation. It deals with Torres Strait Islanders' 160-year continuing struggle against outsider intervention.

Author

Elizabeth Osborne's association with Torres Strait began in 1967. For five years she and her husband lived on Thursday Island, and their relationship with Torres Strait continues today Her first book, *Torres Strait Islander Women and the Pacific War*, was published in 1997.

SELLING POINTS

- Author has been associated with TSI for over forty years and is a fully accepted representative of the community
- The only resource available detailing TSI political struggles, with Indigenous voices