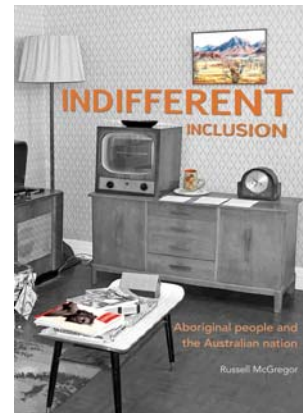


September 2011

Title	Indifferent Inclusion
Subtitle	Aboriginal people and the Australian nation
Author	Russell McGregor
Format	230x152mm, paperback
Extent	288pp, b/w illus
RRP	\$39.95
ISBN	9780855757793
Bookshelf categories	Australian history, Indigenous studies



Endorsement

Russell McGregor is one of the foremost scholars in the field of Aboriginal history. The very title of the book breaks new ground because of the questions implicit in its approach...his perspective is genuinely fresh and insightful. Historian Mark McKenna

McGregor offers a holistic interpretation of the complex relationship between Indigenous and settler Australians during the middle four decades of the twentieth century. Combining the perspectives of political, social and cultural history in a coherent narrative, he provides a cogent analysis of how the relationship changed, and the impediments to change.

McGregor's focus is on the quest for Aboriginal inclusion in the Australia nation; a task which dominated the Aboriginal agenda at the time. McGregor challenges existing scholarship and assumptions, particularly around assimilation. In doing so he provides an understanding of why assimilation once held the approval of many reformers, including Indigenous activists.

He reveals that the inclusion of Aboriginal people in the Australian nation was not a function of political lobbying and parliamentary decision making. Rather, it depended at least as much on Aboriginal people's public profile, and the way their demonstrated abilities partially wore down the apathy and indifference of settler Australians.

Russell McGregor is Associate Professor of history at James Cook University in Townsville. He has published extensively on the history of settler Australian attitudes toward Aboriginal people, including the award-winning book *Imagined Destinies*. His other research interests are in Australian nationalism and environmental history.

Selling points

- Author is one of Australia's leading historians; previous best-selling book, *Imagined Destinies* (1997).
- New, more holistic interpretation of Aboriginal-settler relations.
- Controversial: author's views may create controversy, but will probably change the landscape of attitudes towards assimilation. His critique is well-considered, well-written, and collegial.
- Coherent narrative that explores the cultural as well as the political sphere.
- Unique angle: emphasises apathy and indifference of settler Australians to Indigenous people, rather than hostility.
- Past to present: reveals that ideas like mutual obligation were present (under different names) in the Indigenous citizenship advocacy of 70 and 80 years ago.