

Why Blainey is Wrong

Collins, Jock “Why Blainey is wrong” Australian Society, September 1984, p 13.

Do Professor Blainey’s views on Asian migration have a basis in fact?

by Jock Collins

Excerpt

Professor Blainey seems to have left behind his historian's eye for evidence in his new role as widely publicised critic of the Hawke Government's immigration policy. His new enthusiasm comes at a time when, pushed and pulled, the Federal Opposition has shifted rightward (and transformed Malcolm Fraser into a sadly missed liberal figure). Evicted from the middle ground by Hawke, the coalition has abandoned the land rights and immigration policies of the Fraser years. The immediate sufferers in the Asian immigration debate are obviously Asians - Australia's newest have-nots and the new scapegoats of the ills of Australian society. But there is always a danger that inflamed racial attitudes will come to encompass other non-English speaking migrants and Australia's Aboriginals.