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Level 3 History, 2017

91439 Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it

9.30 a.m. Friday 24 November 2017
Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.	Analyse, in depth, a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.	Comprehensively analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Write ONE essay in this booklet.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL

06

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Begin your essay here:

Racism towards the Aboriginal people of Australia is a significant trend throughout history beginning in the late 1700's, of which traces can still be found today. It ^{had} ~~has~~ many social, political and economic forces which impacted it, the most influential of those being the colonisation of Australia, the settlement of white people in Australia, and the assimilation policies created by the Australian government. The extent to which this trend created change in peoples lives can be analysed through examining the psychological impact on those affected by the assimilation policies, the immense loss of culture experienced by the Aborigines, and the Bringing Them Home report and successive governmental responses to its findings.

A vital long term political and social force on the trend of racism against Aboriginal Australians was the colonisation of Australia. During the late 1700's ~~Before~~ the British Empire was looking for more land to claim as their own. The increasing overpopulation of its cities meant that they needed more space, and the more land held under their control, the more power they had on the political world stage. When Captain Cook landed in Botany Bay on the east coast of Australia in 1788

he claimed that the land of Australia was 'Terra Nullius' meaning 'land belonging to ~~no one~~ none' in Latin. This was a gross disregard of the facts. At the time of his arrival, the Aboriginal people of Australia had been living there for over 50 000 years and historians estimate that there were roughly 600 tribes in 1788. This declaration by Captain Cook, however, meant two things. The first was that the British government were now under no obligation to create treaties over land with the Aboriginal as they officially and legally did not exist, having no claim over the land. Secondly it sent the message that Cook and the British government did not view the Aboriginal people of Australia as people. A racist political statement. Dr Melissa Nursey-Bray, currently teaching at the University of Adelaide says that 'the declaration of Australia as 'Terra Nullius' or 'land belonging to no people' by Captain Cook in 1788 gave a mandate for white Australians to ignore indigenous rights'. This ~~proves~~ proves that right from the first interactions between the British and Aborigines, the British saw the Aborigines ~~as~~ as lesser and racially discriminated (against) them. This is a social and political force on the trend of racism ^{against Aboriginal Australians} as it essentially started this racist attitude.

Another significant long term social ^{and economic} force that influenced the significant trend of racism towards the Indigenous people of Australia was the settlement of white people in Australia. Britain initially colonised Australia as a penal colony to which they could send their convicts to prevent overcrowding in Britain's prisons. However, once the prisoners had finished their time in jail it was often too expensive to travel back to Britain. This meant that the ex-convicts began to set up farms and colonies to progress forward economically. The different attitudes on land held by the Aboriginal Australians and British inevitably led to conflicts. The Aboriginal people believed that the land had been gifted for them to cultivate by ancient god-like beings. No one owned land, instead the land owned them, and they were simply 'guardians of the land'. The British felt that land was theirs to own, buy, and sell. A name on a piece of paper dictated who held the right and authority over a section of land, and whoever owned the land could do whatever they wanted with it. When the British colonised Australia they set up a legal and governmental system modelling their own. The white settlers took advantage of this and the language barrier between them and the Indigenous Australians to legally steal the land from the Aborigines who had taken care

of it for centuries. The Aboriginal Australians did not accept this leading to what is now called the Frontier Conflict. This was a series of battles in which the Aboriginal Australians used guerrilla warfare techniques to try and take back their land. Roughly 2 000 white lives were lost, and over 18 000 Aborigines were killed. This led to an immense unbalance in the population ratio, granting the white settlers even more power. The idea that they could simply take Aboriginal land came from the idea of white supremacy. The settlers felt that ~~any~~ anyone with darker skin was inferior and ~~the~~ the earlier 'Terra Nullius' claims of the government supported this idea. By treating the Aboriginal Australians as not 'human enough' to own their own land, the white settlers also became a significant social influence on the trend of racism towards Aboriginal Australians.

The most important long term political force that imparted the trend of racism within Australia, was the paternalistic view of the Australian government and the assimilation policies they instituted due to this view. Paternalism was the excuse used by the Australian government to justify their treatment of Aboriginal Australians. This was the idea that the indigenous people were 'half-demon, half-child' and had to be

guided away from their 'heathenistic' traditions and ~~brought~~ brought into the light of white society and Christianity. To do this, the government in Australia set up many missions, reserves and protectorates to where Aboriginal children were taken to assimilate them into white society. The government justified taking the children from their family, community and culture by stating that their caregivers were not financially or mentally capable of raising them. However, the very slightest of misdemeanours was enough to warrant this label. Within these institutions, the children were taught that their Aboriginal roots were extremely wrong and that the true path was that constructed by white people. Girls were taught to be domestic servants and boys farm labourers, enforcing the idea that even at their 'best', Aboriginal Australians would only ever be able to serve beneath whites. A ~~the~~ Commonwealth Government pamphlet issued in 1958 states that 'in its simplest terms assimilation means that to survive and prosper, aborigines must live and ~~the~~ work and ~~behave~~ think as white Australians do'. The idea was that the Aboriginal children would be 'into the light' and the elders would be left to die off. Those children who appeared 'white enough' were often also adopted out into white families, masquerading as a white child. These policies of the Australian government were a huge influence on the trend

of racism as they showed that the government themselves believed that the Aboriginal way of life was wrong and should be ~~extra~~ eliminated as a choice. This not only institutionalised racist behaviour but also encouraged the society of Australia to also act in this way, influencing the trend of racism against Aboriginal Australians.

The largest change wrecked within peoples lives due to the trend of racism can be analysed through examining the various psychological scars left on those part of the Stolen Generation. 'Stolen Generation' is ~~thats~~ the name given to those children who were ripped away from their families due to ~~to~~ the assimilation policies of the Australian government. This name itself implies that ~~an~~ entire generations of children were taken from the Aboriginal way of living with no way of regaining it, a huge change. Yet the psychological changes left behind on those children tell an even larger story. Nellie Egan was taken from her family at a young age and says that 'I buried my feelings (of anger and sadness) and became withdrawn, untrusting, an afraid to form any relationships' not only because of her separation from her family but because of the treatment that she suffered from at the hands of her 'caregivers' while at a reserve. Netta, another member of the Stolen Generation says that their treatment on

the missions, reserves and protectorates was akin to 'inmates or bullock in a paddock'. Horrific changes were also dealt to the families of those children part of the Stolen Generation, many of which would never see their children again. Bill Simon remember 'we looked back as the car drove on to see my mother screaming, hammering her fists into the bitumen, tears streaming down her face'. Nellie Egan's grandmother died from grief shortly after she was taken. Her 'older brother still suffers from the feelings of helplessness he had from not being able to help her through her grief'. Nellie goes on to say 'the assimilation policies were the stones cast by the governments of its day. Its ripples are being felt now by our children, families and community'. Through those, the extent of change in peoples lives ^{created} ~~created~~ by the racist trend within the Australian government against Aboriginal people of Australia can be seen as ~~very~~ large and destructive.

Another significant change within peoples lives because of the trend of racism can be seen through analysing the cultural genocide suffered by the Aboriginal people. To fully understand this, the ~~Abor~~ Indigenous way of living prior to the arrival of the British settlers must first be examined. The entire purpose of Aboriginal

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life, they believed, was to care for the land that had been created for them. The arrival of the British who stole their land, wrenched this purpose away from them as well. Aboriginal culture, traditions, beliefs, and language was also passed down orally from generation to generation. Nothing was written down. The Frontier Conflict and the deaths it caused, as well as the many Aborigines who died due to the diseases brought over by the different immune systems of the British foreigners, meant that many of those who held the knowledge on the Aboriginal way of life were killed before they could pass it on. This forever changed the culture of the Aboriginal people, as whole sections of it were lost. The younger generations of children who were to inherit this knowledge were also stolen away from their communities because of the assimilation policies and so the elders who were left had no one to teach their knowledge to, taking it with them when they passed on. Even now, the Aboriginal language is being lost with no way to regain it, as less and less people know how to speak it. These losses were a huge change to ~~the~~ the oldest ancient

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civilization still present on earth, who had followed their way of living for thousands of centuries, created by the trend of racism.

The ~~large number~~^{extent} of various changes can also be analysed through the 'Bringing Them Home' report and governmental responses to it. In Darwin 1994, 600 members of Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islander communities met together to discuss the events which had led to them ~~being~~ becoming members of the Stolen Generation. This was called the 'Going Home' conference and they called for an inquiry to be undertaken. Federal Attorney-General Michael Lavarch issued the terms of this to be 'to inquire into the ~~various~~ past laws, practices, and policies of the Australian government that led to the removal of Aboriginal children from their homes and the impacts of these past laws, practices, and policies.' On the 26th of May 1997, the 'Bringing Them Home' report was tabled in the Australian government. It found that between 1910 and 1970, 10 - 33% of all Aboriginal children had been taken from their families as a result of the assimilation

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policies. Various human rights had also been breached, including the parental rights and right to freedom. This report was proof that huge changes had been created within many Aboriginal lives due to the trend of racism against them. The response of governments to the report furthers this. The Howard government in power at the time would not apologise but agreed to financially support counselling sessions for those impacted by the Stolen Generation, and set up organisations to help the stolen children re-connect with their families. In 2008, the Rudd government issued an official apology but stated that no compensation would be paid. However, this was still a win for the Aboriginal people as it told the world that they had been racially discriminated by the Australian government, and that they had suffered irrevocable changes. However, the trend of racism against Aboriginal Australians is still present within the Australian government. In ^{June 16} 2007 a 'national emergency response' was created to protect children from sexual abuse and family violence in the Northern Territory. An independent expert sent by the UN found that various parts of the policy racially discriminated against Aboriginal Australians, and breached human rights. There are still negative changes occurring in Aboriginal lives because of the still present trend of racism towards them.

in the Australian government. Through analysing this, it is blatant that the ^{trend of} racism against Aborigines in Australia has created a large extent of change in peoples lives.

political, and economic

To conclude, social forces that influenced the significant historical trend of racism toward the Indigenous people of Australia include the colonisation of Australia by the British in 1788, the settlement of white people in Australia, and the assimilation policies of the Australian government. Huge amounts of change was created in Aboriginal lives because of this trend of racism, mainly in the psychological scars members of the Stolen Generation and their families carry, the loss of ~~culture~~ Aboriginal culture, and the changes detailed in the 'Bringing Them Home' report. The extent of those changes can be seen by the a response of governments to the findings of the 'Bringing Them Home' report, and the official apology issued in 2008 to members of the Aboriginal ^{families and} communities in Australia.

AS 91439 Guinea Pig Scripts 2017

Merit Exemplar

Topic	Grade	Comment
Racism toward Aboriginal People	M6	Analysis in depth. Explains and evaluates social and political forces (colonisation period, settlement of whites, assimilation policies), but not convincingly. Changes (psychological impact, loss of culture, government responses) are evaluated and explained with detailed evidence regarding the degree of psychological impact and extent of changes wrought on their culture and government responses over time. Consistent relevant and detailed supporting evidence. Nonetheless, while the changes are dealt with well, the forces are much less so, lacking the comprehensiveness required to take it to Excellence.