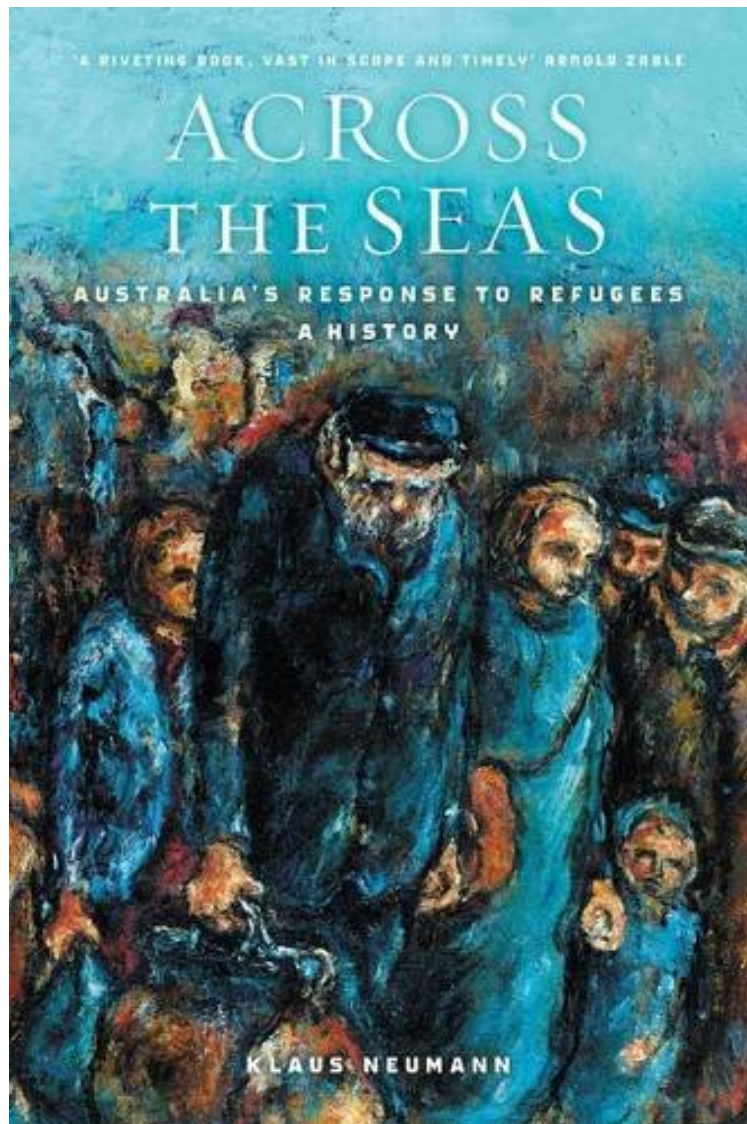


(Read now) Across the Seas: Australia's Response to Refugees: A History

Across the Seas: Australia's Response to Refugees: A History

Klaus Neumann

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Klaus Neumann : Across the Seas: Australia's Response to Refugees: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Across the Seas: Australia's Response to Refugees: A History:

Today, Australia's response to asylum-seeking 'boat people' is a hot-button issue that feeds the political news cycle. But the daily reports and political promises lack the historical context that would allow for informed debate. Have we

ever taken our fair share of refugees? Have our past responses been motivated by humanitarian concerns or economic self-interest? Is the influx of 'boat people' over the last fifteen years really unprecedented? In this eloquent and informative book, historian Klaus Neumann examines both government policy and public attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers since Federation. He places the Australian story in the context of global refugee movements, and international responses to them. Neumann examines many case studies, including the resettlement of displaced persons from European refugee camps in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and the panic generated by the arrival of Vietnamese asylum seekers during the 1977 federal election campaign. By exploring the ways in which politicians have approached asylum-seeker issues in the past, Neumann aims to inspire more creative thinking about current refugee and asylum-seeker policy. Klaus Neumann is a historian based at Swinburne University's Institute for Social Research. His 2006 book *In the Interest of National Security* won the John and Patricia Ward History Prize, while his *Refugee Australia: Australia's Humanitarian Record* (2004) won the Australian Human Rights Commission's 2004 Human Rights Award for Non-Fiction.

Klaus Neumann has written a humane, engrossing book imbued with the awareness that in telling the history of Australia, one tells the story of immigration. Immigrants always resisted, always blasted by invective and ever essential to our society and polity show us ourselves through the heroic journeys of ancestors, the recurrent frenzies of resistance, right up to our present parlous state as the most supposedly tolerant intolerant society on earth. But if you think you've read all this before, you should know Neumann has brought to this book a novelty of approach, a freshness of perception, that means all the others have been mere preparation. Tom Keneally... I worked my way through Neumann's wealth of archival research, watching as he placed piece together with piece, teased out the hidden innuendo and the often unhidden prejudice that has formed a symmetry of hope and shame for a hundred years. Sydney of Books Neumann avoids the constantly changing arguments of the modern debate and, instead, offers a well-informed and insightful history of Australia's immigration policies during the 20th century. An important book. Herald Sun Across the Seas is an impressive and insightful work. Its fastidious research and calmly crafted scholarship makes it an important contribution to a crucial contemporary debate. Ames News A riveting book, vast in scope and timely. Arnold Zable Across the Seas strongest point is a lack of dudgeon. Rather than condemn or mock historical players with thunderous prose and stylistic eye-rolling, Neumann plays it cool. Neumann gives us a mature and measured consideration of an issue that will never cease to be complex. Saturday Paper Across the Seas is a call to remember, to rethink, and regenerate. And to overcome our culture of forgetting it's a fine and vital book, a work of highly accessible and gripping historical scholarship, which must be read by as many people in this country, and abroad, as possible. David Manne Across the Seas is most impressive: judicious, sane, insightful and well researched. It is also an extremely important contribution to an understanding of the contemporary debate over what is to my mind the disgraceful treatment of asylum seekers. Andrew Riemer Across the Seas is essential reading at a time when poisonous rhetoric in the asylum-seeker debate, on the margins of Australia's generous orderly intake of refugees, is muddying our past. Weekend Australian Across the Seas is a useful addition to the [refugee] movements armoury. We need to use it to make a very different kind of history. Solidarity This book gives us a sturdy historical context for a debate that continues to engulf Australia. Neumann demolishes old misconceptions and shows us there's nothing new when it comes to the refugee debate. He's sharp, brilliant, well informed. the Age Neumann crafts a complex history of discontinuities and congruities between the past and present. Across the Seas manages to tie together many threads in what is a complicated and fraught history. Labour History About the Author Authors Bio, not available