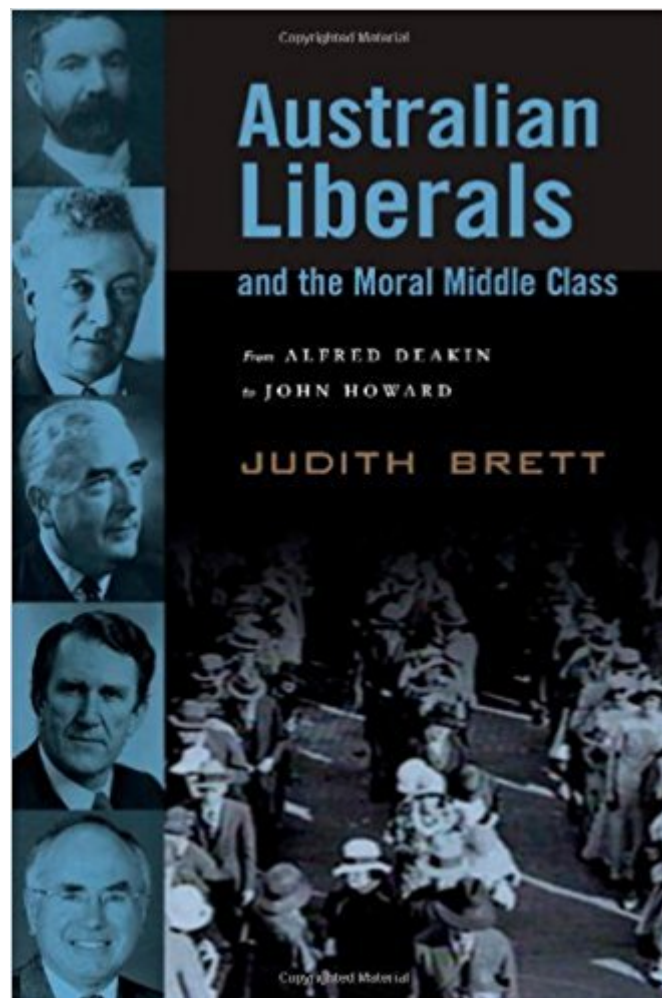




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Australian Liberals And The Moral Middle Class: From Alfred Deakin To John Howard



Synopsis

The Liberal Party of Australia was late to form in 1945, but the traditions and ideals upon which it is founded have been central to Australian politics since Federation. This 2003 book, by award-winning author and leading Australian political scientist Judith Brett, provides the very first complete history of the Australian liberal tradition, and then of the Liberal Party from the second half of the twentieth century. The book sparkles with insight, particularly in its sustained analysis of the shifting relationships between the experiences of the moral middle class and Australian liberals' own self understandings. It begins with Alfred Deakin facing the organised working class in parliament and ends with John Howard, electorally triumphant but alienated from key sections of middle class opinion. This book is destined to become the definitive account of Australian liberalism, and of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an incredibly revisionist approach to the Australian Liberal tradition that bears little to no similarity to the Australia I know. She quotes heavily from American leftists and caters to the book to

Smug Champagne Sydney liberals. It's a shame that one of the books on the topic is so far off base as not to be recognisable to those who lived there. She makes the Liberal reaction to WWII sound meek and quietist; it was not. She discusses little of Bob Hawke and Paul Keating's change from Union Labour leaders to true statesman (now that would be a story but yes they are not part of the Liberal Party) but she does not talk about Malcom Fraser who won with an incredible mandate and did spit. Instead she acts like all of Oz is like Sydney -- again wrong and worse she does not properly show how Sydney is so far out of line with the rest of Oz, that true blue Ozzies, like myself, have left for either the hinterlands of Adelaide or the US. I think it would be great for a real book on the topic to be written, but this alas, is not it.

Little scholarship exists on Australia. Even smaller are the books on Australian Politics. Here is a short history of the Liberal party of Australia, created in the 1940s by Mr. Menzies as a conservative party in opposition to Labour this is the party of the current PM Mr. Howard. This fascinating look explains Australia and its issues including its foreign policy, its role in Vietnam and the struggle for morality among other things. From Menzies, the anti-communist, to Holt who disappeared this is an amazing account. A very interesting story and a necessary read where so little exists on modern Australian politics. Seth J. Frantzman

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