100 Years: The Australian Story

Price: $195.00

Short Description
Production Date: 1999 - ABC
Duration: 5 x 55 mins

This program traces the big themes in 20th-century political history, from 1901 to 2001. Interviews with Prime Ministers, past and present, and unique archival material reveal how Australians redefined their grand experiment in nation building. Episode 1 - Child of the Empire - This episode looks at Australia's reluctant march to full independence. In 1901 at Federation, Australians created a nation within the British Empire. Our independence came slowly, often reluctantly and the 1999 rejection of the republic is consistent with this story. Episode 2 - The Rise and Fall of White Australia This episode explores Australia's most startling transformation from a racially exclusive identity to a belief in cultural diversity. Episode 3 - The Land of the Fair Go - This episode traces the founding belief of egalitarianism and the 'fair go'. The people of Australia looked to government to safeguard their lot. But when the world changed in the 1980s, Australia had to embrace a pro-market economy and reinvent itself. Episode 4 - Unfinished Business - This episode focuses on the moral vacuum at the heart of Australia's nationhood - the denial of any place or purpose for Aborigines. It was assumed that Australia was unoccupied at European settlement. After the 1967 referendum, Aboriginal and non-indigenous Australians have faced a new challenge - the need to find justice, reconciliation and a way of living together. Episode 5 - Farewell Great and Powerful Friends The final episode details how Australia initially related to the world through its 'great and powerful friends'. Britain was the first such friend - a family bond based on the Empire. The US was the second such friend with the ANZUS alliance negotiated as a result of the Cold War. But the era of great and powerful friends is over. Australia now accepts responsibility for its own fate and negotiates its own way.

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