

Чет тиллар кафедраси инглиз тили ўқитувчиси
Д.Алихонованинг инглиз тили фанидан “Australia”
мавзуси юзасидан тайёрлаган

РЕФЕРАТИ

Early History and Colonization

The groups comprising the aborigines are thought to have migrated from Southeast Asia. Skeletal remains indicate that aborigines arrived in Australia more than 40,000 years ago, and some evidence suggests that they were active there about 100,000 years ago. The aborigines spread throughout Australia and remained isolated from outside influences until the arrival of the Europeans. Australia was probably first sighted by a Portuguese, Manuel Godhino de Eredia, in 1601 and may have been sighted by a Spaniard, Luis Vaez de Torres, around 1605–6. It was later visited by the Dutch, who named it New Holland. In 1688 the Englishman William Dampier landed at King Sound on the northwest coast. Little interest was aroused, however, until the fertile east coast was observed when Capt. James Cook reached Botany Bay in 1770 and sailed N to Cape York, claiming the coast for Great Britain.

In 1788 the first British settlement was made—a penal colony on the shores of Port Jackson, where Sydney now stands. By 1829 the whole continent was a British dependency. Exploration, begun before the first settlement was founded, was continued by such men as Matthew Flinders (1798), Count Paul Strzelecki (1839), Ludwig Leichhardt (1848), and John McDouall Stuart (first to cross the continent, 1862). Australia was long used as a dumping ground for criminals, bankrupts, and other undesirables from the British Isles. Sheep raising was introduced early, and before the middle of the 19th cent. wheat was being exported in large quantities to England. A gold strike in Victoria in 1851 brought a rush to that region. Other strikes were made later in the century in Western Australia. With minerals, sheep, and grain forming the base of the economy, Australia developed rapidly. By the mid-19th cent. systematic, permanent colonization had completely replaced the old penal settlements.

Modern Australia

Confederation of the separate Australian colonies did not come until a constitution, drafted in 1897–98, was approved by the British parliament in 1900. It was put into operation in 1901; under its terms, the colonies of New South

Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, all of which had by then been granted self-government, were federated in the Commonwealth of Australia. The Northern Territory was added to the Commonwealth in 1911. The new federal government moved quickly to institute high protective tariffs (to restrain competition to Australian industry) and to initiate a strict anti-Asian “White Australia” immigration policy, which was not lifted until 1956.

Australia fought alongside Great Britain in both world wars. During World War I, the nation was part of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac), which fought bravely in many battles, notably in the [Gallipoli campaign](#) of 1915. During World War II, Darwin, Port Jackson, and Newcastle were bombed or shelled by the Japanese. The Allied victory in the battle of the Coral Sea (1942) probably averted a full-scale attack on Australia. After the war Australia became increasingly active in world affairs, particularly in defense and development projects with its Asian neighbors; it furnished troops to aid the U.S. war effort in South Vietnam. At home, from 1949 to 1972 the government was controlled by a Liberal-Country party coalition with, until 1966, Robert [Menzies](#) as prime minister.

In 1983, Bob [Hawke](#) won his first of four terms as prime minister against a coalition of the Liberal and National parties. In 1991, as Australia foundered in a deep recession, Hawke lost the prime ministership to fellow Laborite Paul [Keating](#). Keating led Labor to its fifth consecutive electoral victory in 1993. In the Mar., 1996, elections, however, 13 years of Labor rule were ended by a Liberal-National party coalition led by John [Howard](#), who promised deregulation, smaller government, and other conservative economic reforms. Howard's coalition was reelected, although by a smaller margin, in 1998. In a 1999 referendum, voters rejected a plan to replace the British monarch as head of state with a president elected by the parliament. In Nov., 2001, after a campaign dominated by issues of nonwhite immigration and national security, Howard's government was returned to office for a third term. In 2002–3, Australia experienced its worst drought in 100 years, and brush fires scorched some 7.4 million acres (3 million hectares).

After Great Britain, Australia was the most prominent supporter militarily of the United States' invasion of Iraq in 2003, sending a force of about 2,000 to the Persian Gulf, and has taken an increasingly interventionist role in surrounding region, sending forces to the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea to restore law and order. Benefiting from a prosperous economy, Howard led his coalition to a fourth consecutive term and won a strong mandate in the Oct., 2004, national elections.

AUSTRALIA

Australia may well be called the island continent because of its isolation from the other great landmasses of the globe and because it is the smallest of the populated continents, having an area of about 3 million square miles. “Down-under” Australia and Antarctica are the only continents wholly south of the equator. The similarity of conditions and problems in some parts of Australia to those of the United State-and Canada and their common language mak-North Americans feel at home in the Australia: milieu and among Australians.

The Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1901 by the union of six British colonies. The former colonies, now called states, are New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, an: Tasmania. In addition, there are two significant internal territories: the vast Northern Teriritory, which is twice the size of Texas, and the Australian Capital Territory, which includes the federal capital of Canberra. Australia governs several external territories, by far the most significant of which is the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, encompassing the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the northernmost islands of the Solomon group.

Climate

The climate of Australia is affected by its location between 100 and 40° south latitude, the generally low elevation of the land, and the position of the Eastern Highlands, lying across the path of winds from the Pacific. The dry interior and western regions are bordered by wetter areas to the north, east, and south; the seasonal pattern of the rains, however, differs from one area to another.

In summer, heavy rains brought by persistent northerly winds from moist seas drench Australia. Winter is the dry season, when the tropical rainy belt shifts equatorward. Throughout the year the temperatures remain generally high. Northern Australia, then, has a wet-and-dry tropical or savanna climate, except for the east coast of Cape York in the northeast, where rain falls throughout the year and the climate becomes rainy tropical. Rainfall diminishes toward the interior. From central Australia to the west coast is a warm trade-wind desert, dry in all seasons. Not only is the rainfall scant, but it is also extremely unreliable. The desert touches the south coast in the Nullarbor Plain, but north and east of the arid interior is a transitional zone of semiarid country.

Southwestern Australia and much of the coast of South Australia have a mediterranean type of climate, with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. In winter the prevailing westerly winds shift north, and the accompanying cyclonic storms furnish the rains. Cyclones “down under” whirl opposite to

those in the Northern Hemisphere, with the winds rotating about a low-pressure area clockwise instead of counterclockwise. Inland, the steppe climate begins at about the 10-inch annual rainfall line, in contrast to northern Australia, where the savanna is replaced by steppe at about the 20-inch rainfall line. The difference is accounted for by the higher rate of evaporation toward the equator.

Southeastern Australia has a humid subtropical climate, with rainfall well distributed throughout the year, mild winters, and warm summers. The winter rains

are cyclonic; the' summer rains are associated with easterly winds from the Pacific or with convective thunderstorms.

MINERALS

The extraction and processing of minerals has been a major factor in the economic development of Australia, almost from the earliest days of European settlement. Probably only two other countries in the world, the United States and the Soviet Union, have a greater variety and quantity of ores and other economically significant mineral deposits. Coal, the first mineral to be mined and the first to be exported, has long been the keystone of the continent's mineral economy, and coal mining still employs about one third of the nation's miners. Good bituminous coal is mined in a number of localities, but especially in deposits to the north, west, and south of Sydney.

Australia is easily self-sufficient in bituminous coal and exports an increasing amount of its production, especially from deposits in Queensland. Lower grades of coal (subbituminous and lignite) are also present in large quantities and are used substantially for electricity generation, especially in the Latrobe Valley of Victoria and at Port Augusta in South Australia. Gold has also been a significant mineral resource of Australia exploited for a long time. Early gold rushes in Victoria and New South Wales and later ones in Western Australia had pervasive influences on the economy and settlement patterns of those three colonies, (now states). Australia is still the fifth-ranking gold producer of the world, and gold mining occupies nearly 10 percent of the nation's miners. Australia is also a major producer of several nonferrous metals, ranking among the half-dozen leading producers of lead, zinc, and silver and possessing some of the world's largest deposits of bauxite, manganese, and nickel. Broken Hill in western New South Wales and Mt. Isa in western Queensland, both yielding a variety of nonferrous ores, are the largest mining towns in the country. Although Australia has been self-sufficient in the output of iron ore for several decades, discoveries of

tremendous iron reserves in the northern sector of Western Australia since 1965 have made the nation one of the world's leading exporters of iron ore, especially to Japan. Major lacks among Australian mineral resources in the past have been petroleum and natural gas. Discoveries of commercial fields at Moonie (Queensland), Barrow Island (Western Australia), and Bass Strait (offshore Victoria), however, promise to make Australia self-sufficient in these fuel sources in the foreseeable future.

POPULATION

Of Australia's nearly 12.5 million people, more than 80 percent are native-born, and the large majority are of British ancestry. Since 1945, over 2.5 million immigrants have moved to Australia; about one-half of them have been British, but this figure also includes sizable contingents of Italians, Dutch, Poles, Greeks, Germans, Yugoslavs, and several other European groups. Chinese, altogether about 5,000 immigrants since 1945, comprise the only significant non-Caucasian arrivals. Some 150,000 Aborigines and half-castes live mostly in the interior dry lands and in the tropical north, where their numbers are again increasing. For a country only partially developed, Australia has a surprisingly large urban population. The six state capitals—Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney—contain more than one-half of the population of the Commonwealth; Sydney and Melbourne together have two-fifths of the continent's people. Except for Port Adelaide, outside the city limits of Adelaide, and Fremantle, a few miles from Perth, the state capitals are also the chief ports, handle most of the exports and imports of their respective states, are the principal railroad centers, lead in the manufacture and distribution of goods, and are paramount in business management, education, Government, and cultural life. Important for central governmental activities is Canberra, the capital of the Commonwealth. In addition

to the six state capitals, there are about 400 smaller cities. Less than 2 million people, hardly 16 percent of the population, are classified as rural dwellers, and even some of these live in villages rather than on farms or back-country stations. In each state, the capital city has the major population concentration and, in most, is decidedly the “primate” city. For example, two-thirds of the population of South Australia and Victoria live in Adelaide and Melbourne, respectively. Similar proportions are found in the other states: Perth, 60 percent of Western Australians; Sydney, 58 percent of New South Welchmen; Brisbane, 43percent of Queenslanders; and Hobart, 32 percent of Tasmanians. The dominance of Australian capital cities, which has been pronounced since the earliest days of settlement, persisted through colonial times to the formation of the six-state federation. In each colony an early coastal settlement, designated as the seat of government, had the dual advantage of being both administrative center and principal port in the formative days. This led to their development as major commercial centers for the respective colonies, and land transportation routes developed in a more or less radial pattern outward from them. With all these initial advantages, the capital cities have continued to attract the major share of the population, secondary industry, and the full range of urban economic activities. Sydney and Melbourne, which are clear the dominant metropolises on the Australian scene, rank among the fifty largest cities in the world, having more than 2.7 million and 2.4 million inhabitants, respectively. Each is a modern, sprawling metropolis with substantial public buildings, high-rise office and other business structures, big warehouses on the waterfront, extensive industrial areas, expansive residential districts, and attractive parks. Sydney ranks with San Francisco for its fine well-protected, landlocked harbor, which, like its American counterpart, is crossed by a huge bridge at the narrows. In truth, then, most Australians are urbanites. They have a high standard of living, a highly industrialized economy, an affluent and sophisticated way of life, and an urban orientation in most of their activities.