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978-0-521-13472-9 - Reclaiming Patriotism Nation-Building for Australian Progressives

Tim Soutphommasane

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Reclaiming Patriotism Nation-building for Australian progressives



Tim Soutphommasane is a doctoral researcher in political theory at the University of Oxford. A 26-year-old first-generation Australian, he has worked as a freelance journalist and has written extensively for the British and Australian press, including the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Spectator*, the *Australian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. A member of the Australian Labor Party, Tim worked on the speechwriting staff of former New South Wales premier Bob Carr and on the staff of Kevin Rudd during the 2007 federal election campaign. Of Chinese and Lao extraction, Tim was raised in the southwest suburbs of Sydney, and holds degrees from Sydney and Oxford universities.

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For my parents, Chanthavone and Think

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The savage who loves himself, his wife and his child, and works for the good of his tribe as for his own, is in my view more genuine than that cultivated ghost, the citizen of the world, who, burning with love for all his fellow ghosts, loves a chimera. The savage in his hut has room for any stranger; the saturated heart of the superfluous cosmopolitan is a home for no one.

Johann Gottfried von Herder

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Acknowledgements

This book in one sense originated from my doctoral research in political theory at Balliol College, Oxford. In another sense it arose from my own process of reflecting on Australian patriotism and national identity – as a first-generation Australian, as someone active in the Australian Labor Party and as an expat living in England between 2004 and 2009 watching a revival of national pride take place back home. Along the way, I have discussed and debated patriotism with Australians and non-Australians alike, learning something new from each conversation. I have no doubt that this dialogue is far from over. Much like a national project itself, you could say that my understanding of patriotism is something that could never come to completion but is rather always becoming.

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I dedicate this book to my parents, who taught me very early the value of citizenship and the meaning of calling a country your home.

Tim Soutphommasane

Oxford

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