

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69791-0 - A Military History of Australia, Third Edition

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

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A MILITARY HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

THIRD EDITION

This book represents a new, expanded and updated edition of one of the most acclaimed overviews of Australian military history available. As well as providing a detailed chronological narrative of the wars in which Australia has been involved, it discusses the evolution of defence policy in peace and war, and the impact of war and military service on civilian society. It maps the development of the Australian armed forces as institutions and the relationship of military policy to government. It covers the major theatres of war in which Australia has engaged – from Gallipoli to Afghanistan and Iraq. The author also examines armed conflict that has taken place on Australian soil between indigenous Australians and European settlers. In addition, the book considers how national security and defence policy is being shaped at the beginning of the 21st century in a rapidly changing world.

JEFFREY GREY is Professor of History at the University College, Australian Defence Force Academy. He is the co-author of *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History* (1995) and *Emergency and Confrontation: Australian Military Operations in Malaya and Borneo 1950–1966* (1996); co-editor of *Vietnam Days: Australia and the Impact of Vietnam* (1991) and author of *Australian Brass: The Career of Lieutenant General Sir Horace Robertson* (Cambridge University Press, 1992); *Up Top: The Royal Australian Navy and Southeast Asian Conflicts 1955–72* (1998) and *The Australian Army* (2001, 2006). In 2000–02 he held the Major General Matthew C. Horner Chair of Military Theory at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia.

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War is not a polite recreation, but the vilest thing in life, and we ought to understand that and not play at war. We ought to accept it sternly and solemnly as a fearful necessity.

Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*

The military system of a nation is not an independent section of the social system but an aspect of it in its entirety.

Michael Howard, *The Franco-Prussian War*

This is a people that has been tempered by war, and for whom the memories of war have permeated the years of peace.

T. B. Millar, *Australia's Defence*

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For Victoria and Duncan

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NOTE ON MONEY AND MEASUREMENT

Money

Australia used pounds, shillings and pence for much of the period covered by this book. There were 12 pennies (d.) in one shilling (s.), and 20 shillings in one pound (£). A guinea was £1 1s. When Australia changed to decimal currency in 1966, \$2 was equal to £1.

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Measurement

Metric equivalents to imperial measures are as follows:

1 inch = 2.54 cm 1 acre = 0.405 ha

1 yard = 0.914 m 1 ton = 1.02 t

1 mile = 1.61 km 1 bushel = 35.2 L

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I want to thank the staff at Cambridge University Press, especially Kim Armitage and Susan Hanley, who have been very patient with a more than usually distracted author. I hope that I have justified their confidence in a new edition of this book.

Some of the maps included in the earlier editions have been deleted from this one, to save space. In any case readers wanting more detail in this regard should consult John Coates, *An Atlas of Australia's Wars* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2nd revised edition, 2006). Not only is the mapping extensive and of superb quality, but the tactical and operational narratives that accompany it will provide the additional level of detail that is beyond the means of a single-volume survey like this one.